



JIM HOLM PARK **REDESIGN** **2025**

| Presented By
**University of
Washington**



This report was written by Simbi Ntahobari, Maxwell Brooke, and Kanon Morikawa for the Neighborhood Planning class in the Department of Urban Design and Planning, edited by Richard Conlin, instructor. The class worked with the City of Granite Falls through the Livable City Year program.

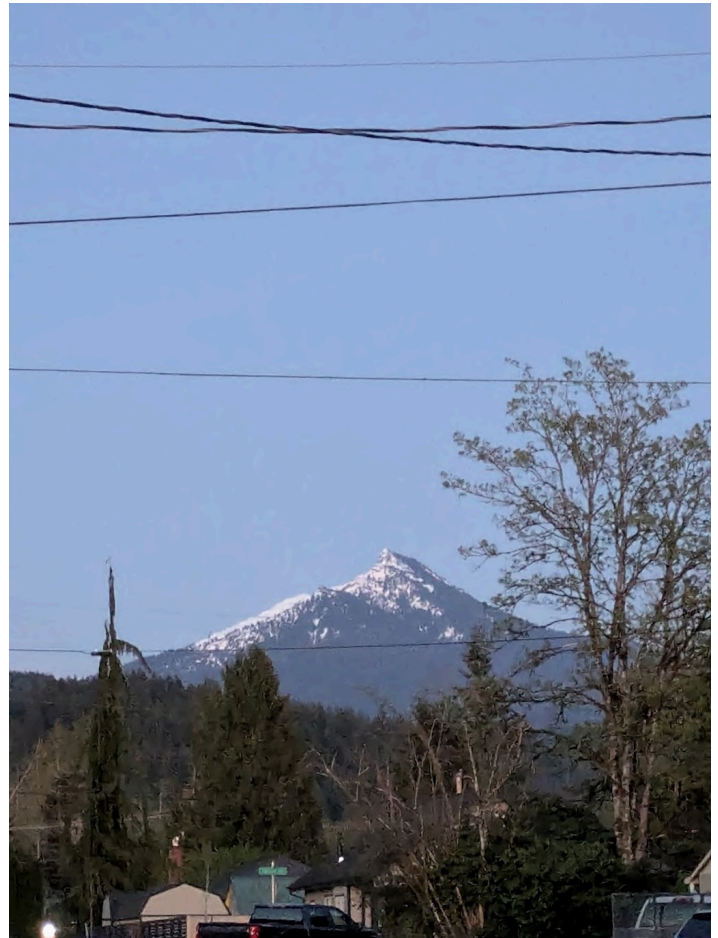
Granite Falls Background

Community Characteristics & Context

Granite Falls is located in the eastern part of Snohomish County, one of the last urban areas west of the Cascades (going east). The City has a population of 4,916 in 2024 and is expanding at a rate of about 100 persons (2%) per year. The population is predominantly white (76%) and includes a large number of working age adults (25-54). Incomes are relatively modest for the Puget Sound area, with 30% of its residents earning below \$50K, 50% between \$50K and \$100K, and 20% above \$100K (Granite Falls, Washington Population 2024, 2024).

This paper focuses on developing a plan for remodeling Jim Holm Park, located in the center of Granite Falls, and of encouraging connectivity between this park, other elements of the civic campus, and residential communities. Over time, the renovation of Jim Holm Park has risen in priority to help address the many needs of various age and recreational interest groups. The City wishes to be quite intentional in how it determines these needs on this signature park property, and this effort includes evaluation of recreational uses, facilities, green space, security/visibility, flow of pedestrian and other non-motorized access, and multi-age recreational and social benefits.

Granite Falls' central business district is composed of one and two story buildings surrounded by a grid of single-family homes. It includes several spaces owned or potentially to be acquired by the city government, which collectively comprise a civic campus and which



Transportation in Granite Falls is dominated by the use of private cars. There is limited bicycle infrastructure and pedestrian traffic, particularly between residential communities and other areas of the city, especially downtown. The City has expressed a commitment to increasing the amount of walking and cycling activity and has asked for recommendations as to how to do that, particularly in relation to Jim Holm Park. Public transit within Granite Falls is limited to a commuter bus line, and this report will also suggest stimulating the development of a more robust transportation network; specifically, the





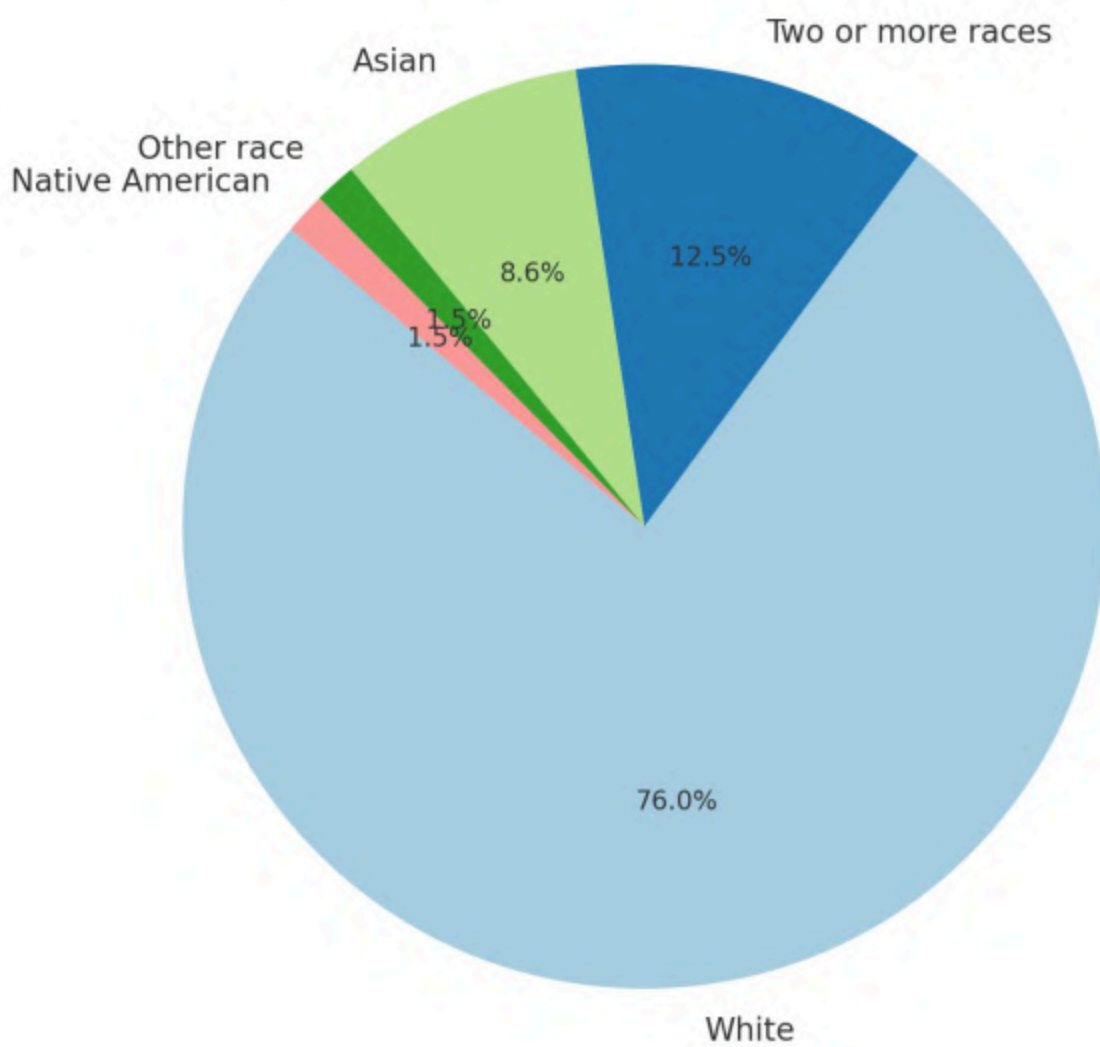
As noted, City Hall is on the east side of South Granite Avenue. The Granite Falls Senior Center is located next to the park on the west side of South Granite Avenue. To the west of Cascade Avenue are a few homes, and to the north there is an alley along with several buildings and open spaces, as well as the former City Hall. Located just beyond the next street is the Fire Station with its publicly accessible parking lot, which is presently under consideration for acquisition by the City. Across South Granite Avenue from the Fire Station is another city owned space which includes publicly accessible restrooms.

While this paper focuses on potential changes to Jim Holm Park itself, it will also include some suggestions about the other contiguous or nearby properties, whose redevelopment could contribute to the future healthy operation of Jim Holm Park and supplement the recreational opportunities that the Park can provide.

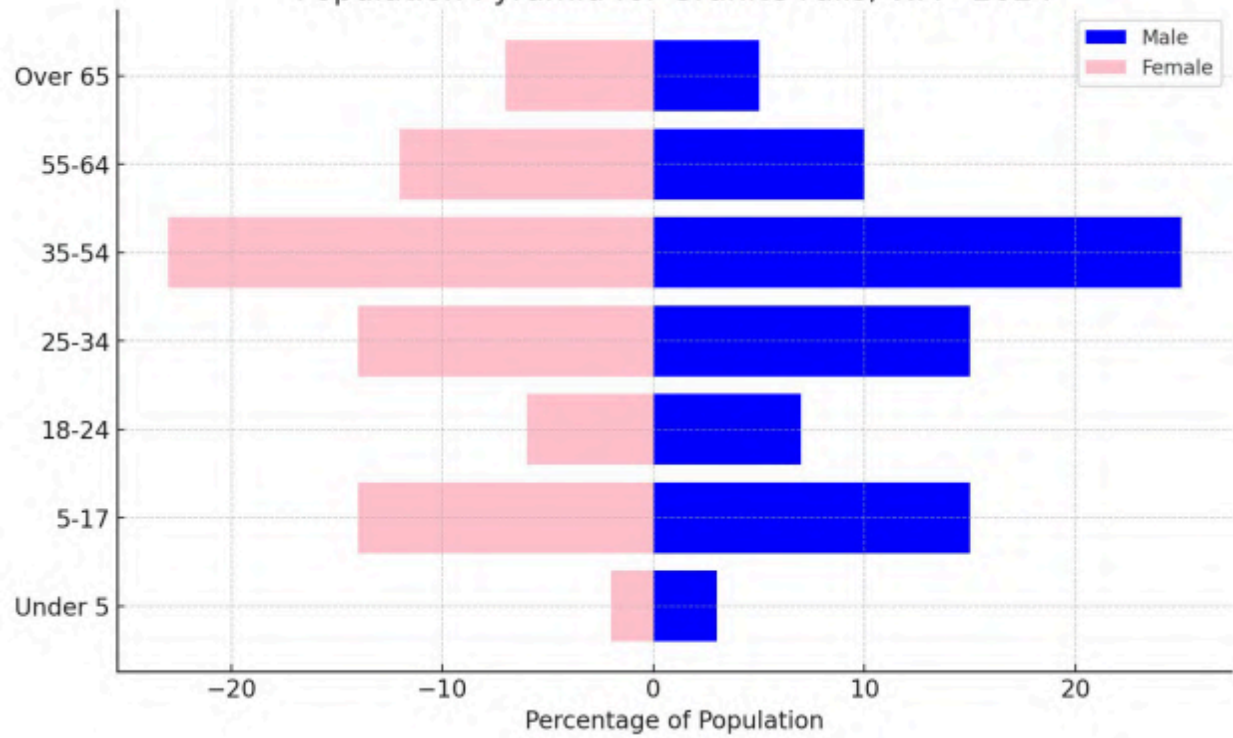
As Granite Falls develops its plans for the potential park areas in its center, it is important that these are designed to serve both current users and the substantial number of Granite Falls residents who may not use Jim Holm Park frequently at present but who could do so with the right design and approach. It is also important to consider the growth of Granite Falls and those future residents. Particular attention should be given to residents of color, who comprise almost a quarter of the population and whose percentage is likely to rise in the future, particularly as more modest multifamily developments are constructed and as housing in Granite Falls remains relatively affordable for the region.

The following charts illustrate the demographic composition of current populations, which provide the basis for recommendations that will expand and diversify the usage of the park:

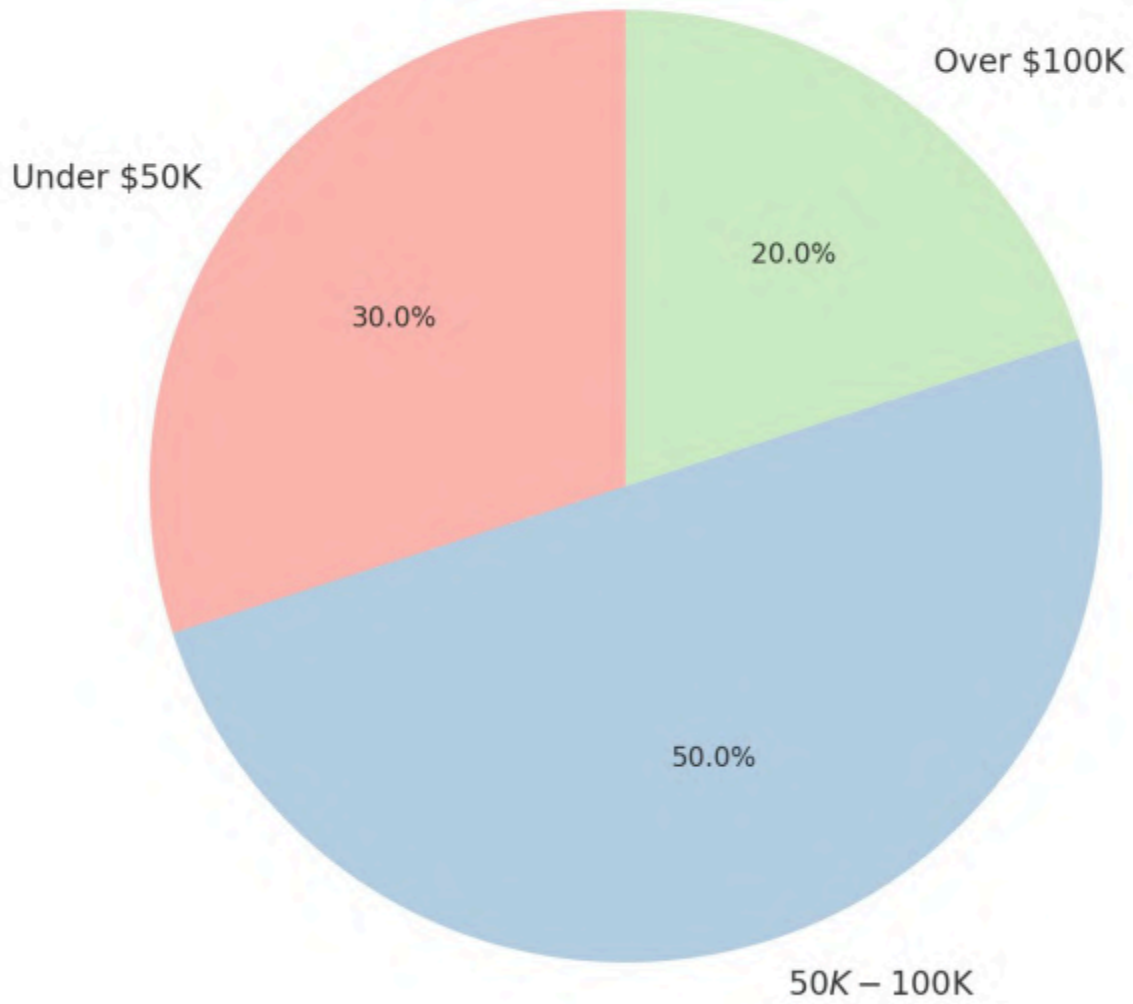
Racial Composition of Granite Falls, WA



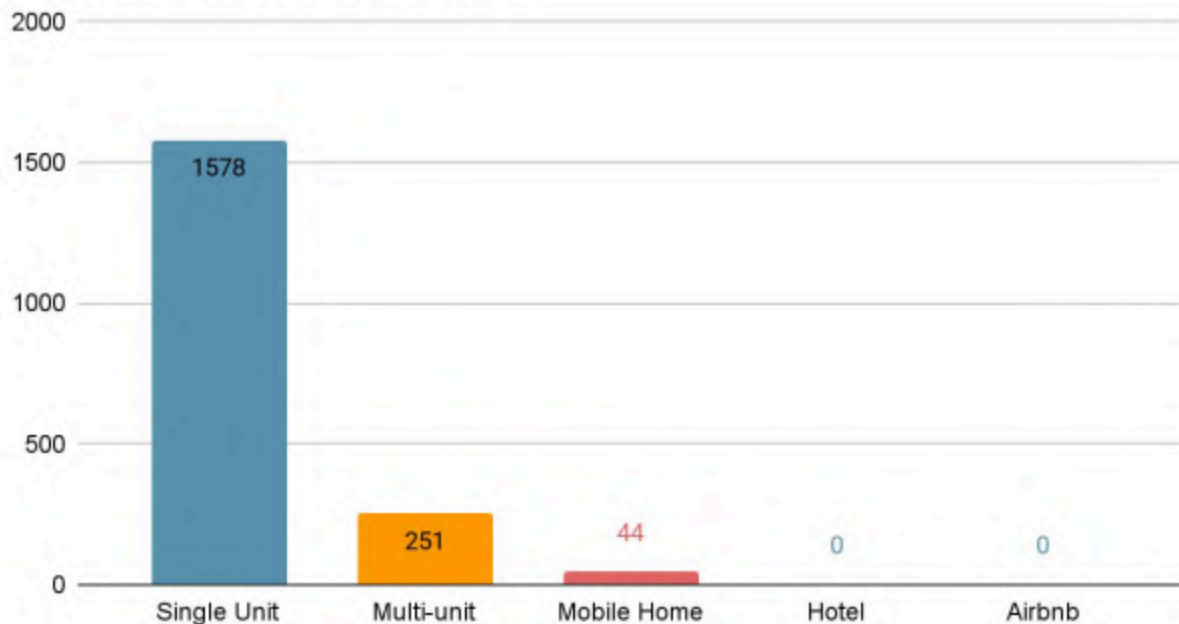
Population Pyramid for Granite Falls, WA - 2024



Income Distribution in Granite Falls, WA



Homes & Accommodations



Note: This introduction includes data from an Initial Conditions Report prepared by students under the direction of Keith Harris and Aaron Lecciones, University of Washington, with consultation from Katie Cote, AICP, BHC Consultants. The students preparing this report were Edward Kazuki Engel, Oliver Qian, Kai McGovern, Stephen Siciliano, Sarah Mills, William Harris, Matthew Slaughter, Erik Byron, Xuan Li, Florencia Gonzalez-Martinez, Darik Koch. We gratefully acknowledge the work they have done to develop this background information and encourage referencing their report for more detailed information.

Granite Falls Comprehensive Plan

Granite Falls is in the process of completing the adoption of its updated Comprehensive Plan, as required under the Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMA requires designated urban growth areas such as Granite Falls to provide enough appropriately zoned land to ensure that it can meet its growth targets within its Urban Growth Area (UGA) for the next twenty years, and to provide an “urban level of service” within the UGA.

Granite Falls has a range of objectives in its Comprehensive Plan, which include:

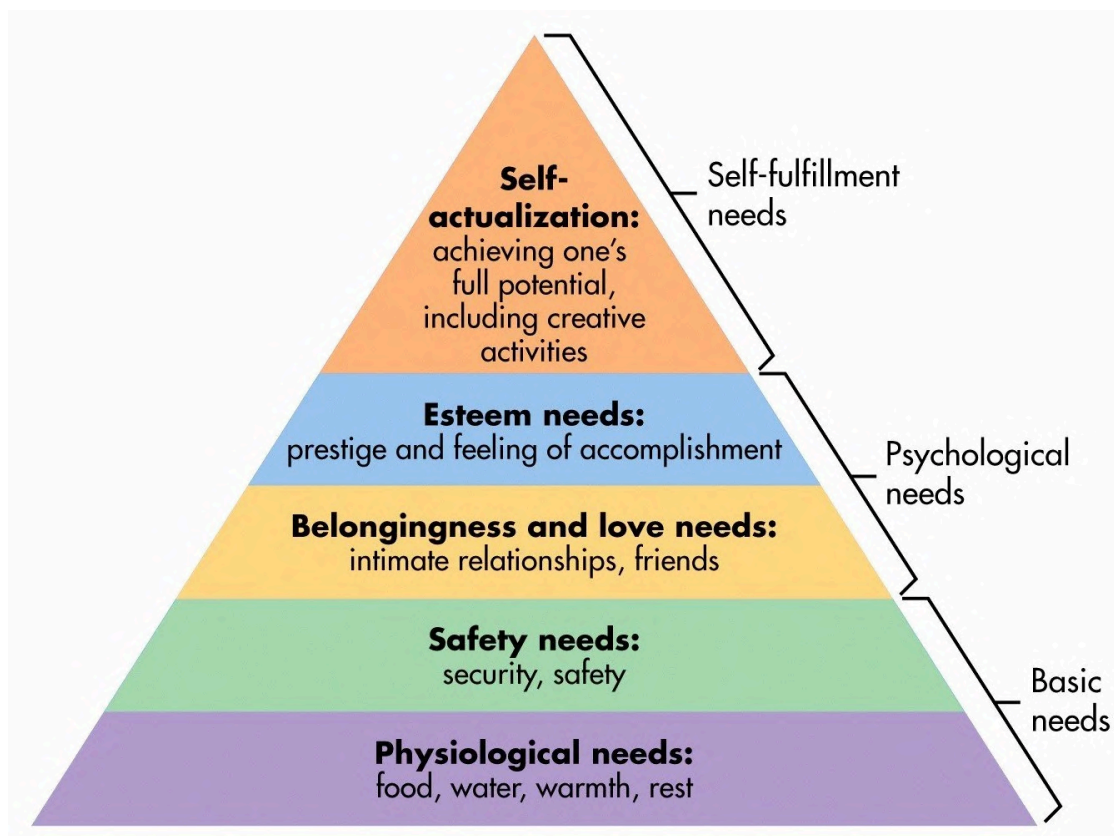
Maintaining a “small-town Americana” feel.



Bringing in companies that provide living wage jobs.



Ensuring that all essential needs for goods, service, health, and wellness are available within the city (except emergency/hospital care).



Fostering an economy based on a balance of tourism, commerce, and industry.



The Plan characterizes Granite Falls as “a nice place to live nestled in the foothills of the Cascades.”

The Comprehensive Plan envisions a population that will come close to doubling over the next twenty years but notes that there is ample buildable land capacity and zoned property to accommodate this growth. As part of the strategy for a growing Granite Falls, the City proposes higher density residential and neighborhood commercial infill in the Central Business District. This will include developing Galena Street as a “main street,” designed to promote commercial development and get more people out of cars and onto the sidewalks near businesses. Galena Street is an east-west street that runs between the block on which the Fire Station is located and the block that includes Jim Holm Park.

Downtown Granite Falls is envisioned as a locus for specialty retail, restaurants, and services. The Plan aims to “Create a vibrant compact downtown that is an inviting place to work, shop, live, and socialize.”

It is important to note that Granite Falls already has a somewhat surprising number of multifamily dwellings, primarily duplexes and triplexes (15% of dwelling units), and is likely to have more in the future under the new Comprehensive Plan. These new multifamily dwellings will likely include more duplexes and triplexes, and also potentially small apartment buildings. Larger buildings are not part of the vision for the City. Many residents of these kinds of dwellings do not own their dwellings and have limited outdoor space. Residents in this situation will likely use publicly owned park space if it is well designed and provides the kind of safe, welcoming, and usable space that meets their desires and wishes. Because these future residents (as well as those currently occupying multifamily buildings) will likely need and

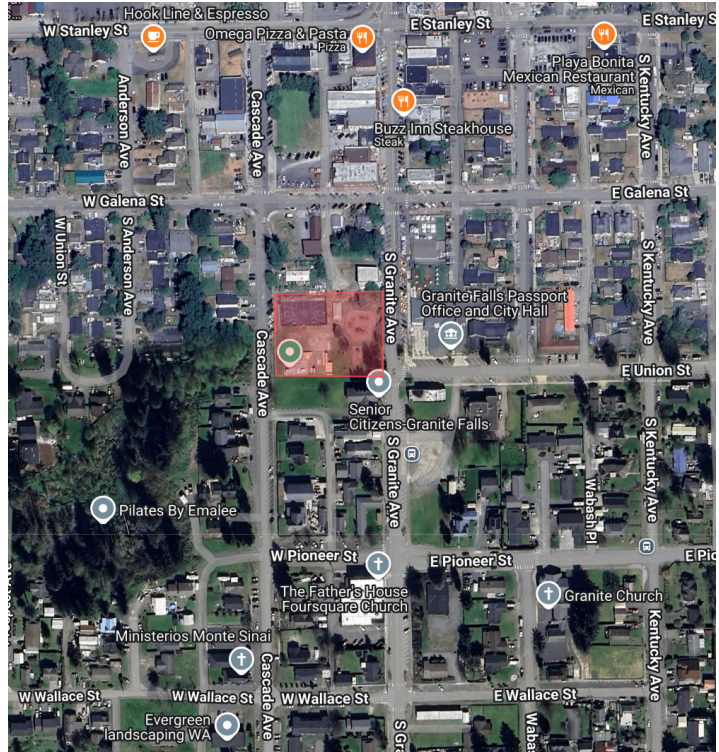


want to use Jim Holm Park, its future design should be developed with careful attention to the interests and desires of this population group.

Role of Jim Holm Park

Redevelopment of Jim Holm Park and the surrounding City-owned land can contribute to the revitalization of downtown by providing an attractive and vibrant central focus for the community. Such redevelopment can bring more people for longer periods of time into downtown as well as providing recreational opportunities that will support residents of the downtown area and improve livability for them.

Improving access to downtown, especially non-motorized access, will be a key component for increasing the vitality of the Park. Creating safe and attractive connections for bicycling and walking to downtown will encourage use of the Park, as well as bringing people to downtown businesses. Ideally, people will see shopping or eating at downtown businesses and enjoying recreational opportunities in the Park as complementary purposes for fostering a habit of coming downtown more often. Access can include well-signed and publicized non-motorized connections as well as providing adequate convenient parking for those who will drive to the area.



In order to increase the use of Jim Holm Park, the redesign should include a range of both active and passive recreational opportunities, good access and convenient parking, appropriate lighting, and amenities such as art work and view corridors to the Cascades that will connect the Park to the larger urban and natural environments.

Careful attention should be paid to safeguarding and incorporating the historic character of Granite Falls and including the heritage of the Indigenous inhabitants as part of the redevelopment of the Park. Linkages to the History Museum, the Stilliguamish, Sauk Suiattle, and Tulalip Tribes, and signage and appropriate art works will help to do this.

Policy Framework for Jim Holm Park

The City of Granite Falls has a set of Comprehensive Plan recommendations that relate to the redesign of Jim Holm Park. These policies include:

Create and promote a wide range of new facilities and opportunities to address the recreational needs of Granite Falls residents.



Identify open space, trail, and park resources and needs



Develop additional sport fields, picnic areas, and children's recreational water park features.



Develop and maintain a comprehensive multi-modal trail/pathway system connecting all parts of Granite Falls; plan bike paths, hiking trails, boardwalks, and non-motorized transportation routes to improve access to parks, recreational facilities, open space, residential neighborhoods, employment centers, downtown, and other local and regional non-motorized routes.



Integrate planning for parks facilities with other capital facility projects such as roads and stormwater projects in order to realize the greatest benefit to the public by leveraging mitigation, grant funds, and cost-effective use of design, acquisition, and construction funds.

(Copenhagen has some answers, like this soccer field that's designed to take water)



Coordinate and cooperate with local, state, and national historical and cultural preservation organizations in order to promote cultural and historic preservation within the city.



Work with the Stillaguamish, Sauk Suiattle, and Tulalip tribes to preserve significant cultural and historic sites.



Provide lighting and security cameras in the park.

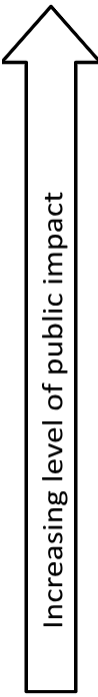


Community Engagement and Intergenerational Design

Why community engagement?

Community engagement is a way to foster inclusivity. When incorporating community engagement techniques and strategies, it is important to consider what level of engagement is most appropriate for each project or project phase. The IAP2 Spectrum demonstrates the different levels.

This is the spectrum of public participation by IAP2 (Twyford et al., 2006).



	Public participation goal	Promise to the public	Example techniques
Empower	Have the public make the final decision	Implement whatever is decided	Citizen juries, ballots, delegated decisions
Collaborate	Develop ideas and identify solutions with the public	Receive direct advice from the public and incorporate recommendations	Citizen advisory committees, consensus building, participatory decision-making
Involve	Understand and consider the public's concerns and aspirations	Directly reflect concerns and aspirations, and report how they affected the decision	Workshops, deliberate polling
Consult	Obtain feedback from the public	Listen to and acknowledge the public's concerns and aspirations, and report how they affected the decision	Public comment, focus groups, surveys, public meetings
Inform	Provide information for the public's understanding	Keep the public informed	Factsheets, websites, open houses

Even though the public receives information one directionally at the inform level, public impact exists because the requirement that the internal stakeholders are aware that they must keep the public updated helps them think about their point of view (Twyford et al., 2006). It becomes two-directional at the consult level because the public can give their input. At the involve level, internal stakeholders acknowledge that residents know things that they do not, so the public's concerns and aspirations are more directly reflected in the decision. The public's responsibility comes in at the collaborate level as the public and internal stakeholders work together to make the decision. Finally, at the empower level, it is up to the public what they decide, and the internal stakeholders implement it. The more complex the problem is, the more important it is to strive to reach the highest level of the spectrum in order to arrive at a solution that satisfies the public.

A public engagement strategy for Jim Holm Park should include at least informing through collaborative elements to design a park that will match not only the interests of current residents, but of those coming to Granite Falls in the future. The current configuration of the park is not succeeding in making it the kind of vibrant and active community asset that the City envisions it should be, and the best way to ensure that people are drawn to the park and engage in activities that keep it lively and safe is to design park facilities that reflect the public's interests and enthusiasm. For those reasons, we have proposed a robust community engagement strategy.

That strategy meshes with the City's plan to have a range of intergenerational activities at the park. Basically, an intergenerational design continues public engagement from the planning time period to the implementation stage. To carry out planning and implementation through community engagement, the following resources can be employed.

People and Partnerships

Ideas for engaging people can include:

- Trained facilitators and outreach staff
 - People who fit these positions can be from the existing staff or recruited from the outside. There can be a trial period to ensure they are capable of their role.
- Cross-sector collaboration
 - While parks may appear primarily as a public recreational spot, they can be utilized in multiple ways, serve different purposes, and affect residents' lives in many aspects. Therefore, possible collaborations include health departments, city planning, nonprofits, and further engagement with the University of Washington.
- Consultants for walkability audits and data analysis (Hooker et al., 2009).



Physical Infrastructure

Core elements of physical infrastructure will bring people into the park and keep them engaged

with it.

Benches along walking paths (Friedman & Pollock, 2022); not only are benches a place to rest, but they also increase the interaction between people.



Visual/auditory street crossing signals (Friedman & Pollock, 2022)



Accessible sidewalks and safe intersections

This image is a “continuous sidewalk,” pioneered in the Netherlands.



Community gardens and recreation zones; green spaces enhance more social activities, visitors, and stronger feelings of belonging and social ties.



Programmatic Support

Engagement can be facilitated through supporting program activities, such as these.

- Funding for community gardening, walking groups, or intergenerational events.
- Environmental walking audit toolkits (Hooker et al., 2009).
- Coordination for transportation or mobility access.

Here's how the City of Granite Falls could begin to implement intergenerational design and programming

- Conduct a walkability audit with older residents
- Map park infrastructure gaps (shade, seating, accessibility)
- Pilot a walking group or intergenerational garden program
- Engage Senior Center leaders as champions
- Integrate age-forward park planning into the Neighborhood Plan



JIM HOLM REDEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

We are recommending a phased approach in implementing some of the programmatic and infrastructure changes.

Phase 1: Conduct comprehensive engagement and environmental and equity audits to understand: what are the needs and priorities of the community for this space? What are the existing accessibility issues? Who does this leave out and how can the City ensure that they are served by the design?

Phase 2: Pilot community programming and infrastructure improvements, focusing on small initial changes in order to gauge community response and collect data.

Phase 3: Make infrastructure changes focusing on the responses to the questions outlined above.

Phase 4: Continuously monitor and evaluate community feedback and use of the park in order to implement iterative improvements.

Based on that phased approach, we propose the following

1. Conduct Broader Engagement

- a. Host visioning sessions
- b. Include diverse voices: seniors, youth, families, and historically excluded

communities (low wealth and communities of color). One way to do this is to organize an event or workshop that is hosted and facilitated by the people in marginalized groups. This helps to minimize anxiety about intergroup interaction because the marginalized are assigned an active role, and also induces empathy because the participants will clearly see the perspective of the marginalized.

- c. This is an opportunity to leverage the community coalition, Boys & Girls Club and the Senior Center to facilitate these convenings
- d. To integrate Indigenous culture and encourage everyone to participate, an option is to use a “talking stick”; these were historically used by Indigenous Coast Salish peoples to show whose turn it is to talk.

2. Host Public Forums and Design Workshops

- a. Use participatory processes to co-create park design and programming; working alongside community to map out their vision for the park
- b. Ensure transparency by publishing progress and lessons learned through a newsletter, using print and digital media

3. Environmental and Accessibility Audit

- a. Identify key barriers and infrastructure gaps using walkability checklists
- b. Work with the Senior Center and Community Coalition to secure resident buy-in and create a sense of ownership to ensure sustained participation

4. Secure Partnerships and Funding

- a. Collaborate with Snohomish county, nonprofits, public health agencies, and businesses.



- b. Create targeted strategies to involve the small business community through the Chamber of Commerce

5. Test Ideas through Pilot Events. Start with small, fast-to-launch efforts, such as:

- a. Weekend music series
- b. Outdoor senior fitness session
- c. Youth engagement mural project
- d. Moveable seating

6. Integrate Feedback into the Granite Falls Neighborhood Plan

- a. Ensure alignment between park design, community and the city's broader community development goals
- b. Consider community engagement in this phase, too. For example, have specific tasks for residents, like collecting data at events, and potentially providing them with incentives such as childcare, food, etc.

Jim Holm Park Existing Conditions and Summary of Proposed Actions

Covered Areas

The north end of the park has a covered area, intended to create a shaded area for parents. However, there is an issue of middle school students dominating and misusing the space, discouraging families. To reclaim this area, the City could consider building another covered area near the skate park. To further activate the covered area at the north end, consider installing fire pits, referencing the design of Stillaguamish houses. This can also allow the seating to be used more comfortably in the winter or at night.



Senior Center Dynamics

While the Senior Center is adjacent to the park, it lacks visibility and connection to the park. To remedy this, the City could work with the Senior Center to remodel the building, introduce diverse activities, and attract more seniors.

Youth Engagement and Facilities

Granite Falls is experiencing changing demographics with a notable increase in the younger population. Previous surveys shaped decisions like the new skate park, but current youth needs remain unclear. Proposed



enhancements include renovating the basketball courts and skate facilities and creating pickleball courts and an off-leash dog area. It is imperative that youth interests in public amenities are surveyed and identified.



Community Integration

There has been a decrease in volunteer activities, such as community cleanup events, and community gardens have failed due to loss of interest and maintenance challenges. Bringing in a range of intergenerational activities and dedicating resources to engaging residents can lead to increased activity and renewed interest.

Cultural and Historical Awareness

The cultural elements and history of Granite Falls need more visibility in public spaces and can be improved through new installations and community events that celebrate local culture and history.



Demographics and Housing Challenges

Granite Falls is experiencing significant population growth leading to concerns that it will lose its small-town charm. There are also economic impacts with new residents seeking high-quality services, and it is challenging to balance services with resources. The City can most effectively respond to such concerns by embracing change and envisioning it as providing opportunities rather than creating problems. That reshaping of thinking does not solve the issues of concern, but it allows them to be approached with a fresh and positive perspective that can engage the community in envisioning its future and bringing in new and positive solutions and resources.

Transportation and Accessibility Issues

Granite Falls has limited public transport options and improvements are required in walkability and community connectivity. While new major transit resources are not a reasonable option, a community transit solution like Zip Shuttle can bring better local mobility, and address issues related to future parking around the more active CBD and civic campus. A Pedestrian Master Plan and signed pedestrian/bike connections linking neighborhoods to each other and the CBD would assist in getting more residents to walk and bike.

Future Vision for Community Engagement

Revitalizing Jim Holm Park will require significant community interest and engagement. Expanded and innovative methods can be used to integrate more activities and gather public input, especially from youth and seniors. The City can explore grant funding opportunities for park and recreational improvements and community revitalization efforts.

Park Features

Specific features of the park should be designed to emphasize inter-generational park use, and to attract seniors, families, and youth. As noted above, this report recommends that the design should also emphasize the interests and needs of future residents, especially those who will be living close to the park and are likely to be occupying multifamily buildings of various kinds.

Seniors

The Granite Falls Senior Center currently lacks visibility and connection to the park. Residents interviewed suggested that there are long-standing trust issues with seniors due to past mayoral actions. The Center has focused on meeting basic needs and providing bingo as a recreational activity. Designing Jim Holm Park with inclusive green spaces for both aging and younger populations would create greater connectivity and social cohesion, while promoting physical activity and environmental stewardship.

Features that should be considered to attract seniors and lead them to use the park more regularly could include:

- Sidewalks that include benches or other public seating platforms for resting that create a site for socialization.
- Lengthier street crossing times to accommodate elderly/seniors, along with audible and visual alerts at intersections to indicate safe crossing times; these are important for folks with limited hearing or vision.
- Fitness equipment specifically designed for older people.
- Creating walking groups for older people.
- Using these walking groups to focus on the park and to explore policy and physical environment changes that would encourage walking among older adults in and around the park. Seniors can identify barriers to walking, including perceptions of safety, and assess features such as sidewalks, curbs, crosswalks, trees, and driver behavior.
- Developing a Pedestrian Master Plan for Granite Falls and engaging seniors in designing it.



Youth

Features or programs that should be considered to attract youth and lead them to use the park more regularly and in an intergenerational mode could include:

- Creating a program in which young people offer digital literacy classes.
- Supporting a community garden program in which young people work in intergenerational teams to build raised beds, cultivate the garden, and organize events. This could include a spring/summer program where participants harvest the outdoor community garden and then make a meal together.
- Installing a water feature to attract children and families; it could also be an intergenerational draw. A dynamic feature could be designed to look like a stream coming from the Cascades, possibly with small plant lining it to mimic forests, and a salmon theme which could be carried into the new art features in the park. A stream could also be a unifying element to connect activity centers and be integrated with green stormwater infrastructure. A spray park or wading pool could be attached to this water feature.
- Redesign the playground, perhaps coordinating this with the new historical/cultural elements by modeling it after railroad infrastructure. The covered area for adults could be reimagined with a design inspired by railroad depots.
- Involve artists from the Stillaguamish and/or other tribal communities in the design of covered areas, designing and placing historical and cultural elements, and imagining the water feature.



Community Gardens

Developing a community garden in the park can be a major step in increasing use, promoting the perception of safety, and bringing generations together. Community gardens are public lands that are used by residents to grow food and flowers, and that activate spaces and foster a sense of community. Traditionally, community gardens are formed of individual plots for which community members may pay an annual fee while shared spaces in the garden are cared for together. In most cities, community gardens are open to the public to enjoy and can be used as gathering spaces or for learning about gardening and food growing.

- Community gardens play a unique role in parks that need activation and where locations are perceived to have public safety concerns. Because the gardeners are present for

significant periods of time (up to several hours several times a week), they get to know the regular users of the park and provide a stabilizing presence as well as eyes on the park that can identify and discourage unwanted uses such as teenagers smoking or engaging in other untoward activities.



- As community gardeners become familiar with these other users, they can also draw them into activities such as joining in garden cultivation or experiencing the pleasure of eating fresh produce right off the plant.
- While many community gardeners will be seniors and/or retired, families with children and younger adults, particularly those living in multi-unit buildings without much access to green space, can also be encouraged to participate. Since garden activity is most prevalent during spring and summer, the same times when weather and longer daylight hours bring out other users of the park, they are likely to be present and serve as eyes at the park during the peak activity periods when older people experience uneasiness from some of the activities of teens and young adults.
- Siting a community garden in the park will contribute to building intergenerational connections, promoting community bonds, and encouraging a sense of safety and congeniality among park users. It will also have the side benefits of providing healthy and nutritious food and promoting healthy lifestyles and environmental ethics.
- Given past concerns about community garden operation and maintenance, a successful community garden will require significantly increased community engagement to develop and maintain and will likely only work in combination with a range of other improvements and activities as suggested in this report.

Active Recreation

Jim Holm Park already has a number of active recreation activity sites, including basketball courts, a skatepark, and a children's play area. These areas could use refreshment and redesign, which could be informed by surveying young people as to what they would be most interested in. Adding pickleball courts would likely increase older adult presence at the park; however, it should be noted that there is increasing interest in pickleball among younger people, and this also offers the opportunity to create a potential site for intergenerational activity. That said, concerns about noise pollution from pickleball courts to the nearby residential homes have been brought up.

Historic and Cultural

Including features commemorating historic features and events has been found to increase community interest in public lands and bring in new constituencies and participants. The

outstanding Granite Falls Museum of History is located very close to the park, and could be engaged in the park to identify and develop permanent markers and displays of Granite Falls history, develop a program of rotating historic exhibits in the park, and create events that will call attention to these features and bring visitors to the park.

New large art features would be an excellent way to bring more cultural interests into the park. One possible element would be taking the wood sculpture currently located near the police station and adding it to the park as a centerpiece.

Community events that celebrate local culture and history can attract many new people as well as bring those already engaged with the museum into connecting with the park. They also provide the opportunity for newcomers to learn about the area and its history and foster their integration into the community fabric.

A key element that will strengthen the community's multicultural heritage and integration of the Stillaguamish Tribe with the Granite Falls community will be to include both pre-colonial and post-colonial history. The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians comprises descendants of the Stoluck-wa-mish Tribe.



The Stoluck-wa-mish Tribe ("The river people") was part of the Treaty of Point Elliot, but initially was mostly absorbed into the Tulalip reservation, with recognition as a separate tribe coming in more recent times. Modern day Granite Falls was used for canoe portage by these people, and this offers some opportunity for commemoration. Cedar trees were particularly important for the Stoluck-wa-mish, and the planting of cedars might be another way of recognizing and acknowledging the human and natural ecological web that tribal history embodies.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Lighting

Green stormwater infrastructure can be an important part of ensuring that public space is attractive and reflects the natural environment, while also managing drainage issues that can

limit use of low-lying spaces in particular. Including green stormwater infrastructure in the redesign of the park can make it more attractive and usable at all seasons.

Ensuring adequate lighting is critical for creating both the reality and perception of public safety, as well as maximizing the opportunity to use park facilities during hours of gray skies and early sunsets. Lighting should be designed to focus downward to avoid light pollution, and to illuminate key areas that will be potentially frequented by the public during the hours of limited natural light.

Trails

Because Jim Holm Park is relatively modest in size and already has a network of activity hubs and connecting paths, improvements within the park itself would be limited in scope and would generally flow from any redesign of the capital facilities. If there are opportunities to create clear sight lines, especially to the Cascades, this would be a great way to make the internal trail system attractive.

Trail connections to Jim Holm Park could be important to bring people into the park, connect them to downtown and the other elements of the civic center, and connect them to neighborhoods and other areas of the city.

Signage and clear paths would be an ideal way to develop this connectivity. Specific actions can include:

- Developing ADA access from South Granite Avenue to the Park;
- Creating a formal entrance off South Granite Avenue that welcomes people into the park and brings it into more prominence from downtown and City Hall.
- Signing a history/art trail that connects the History Museum to the art elements around City Hall and into



new history and art elements in Jim Holm Park.

- A clear connection from Jim Holm Park to the restrooms located on South Granite Avenue, with signage and plans to open and maintain the restrooms during park activity hours. An even better alternative would be to relocate the restrooms farther south, either to the area around City Hall or within the park. Clean, convenient and well-maintained restrooms are critical to making park usage comfortable, especially for seniors and families with young children.
- A signed and clear pathway to Frank Mason Park to the west, which will connect these two facilities and encourage the use of both.
- A Pedestrian Master Plan that will identify, design and mark routes from major residential areas to the CBD and the Park.
- An addition to the trail network that could supplement it would be to develop a rideable miniature railroad to go between the downtown area and West Granite Falls. It will allow both areas to share parking and bring a reminder of the historic train network. This could be extended to an off-site parking lot to assist with parking congestion. The train could be modeled after the Monte Cristo railroad and operated by or connected to the History Museum.



Community Activities

In addition to thinking of investment in new or renovated specific components to support activities in the park, it is also important to imagine activating the park and making it a key element in the civic campus and vital downtown by considering what activities could be hosted. Activities may require ongoing staffing or other expenses and may also inform some of the design choices about the layout and components of the design.

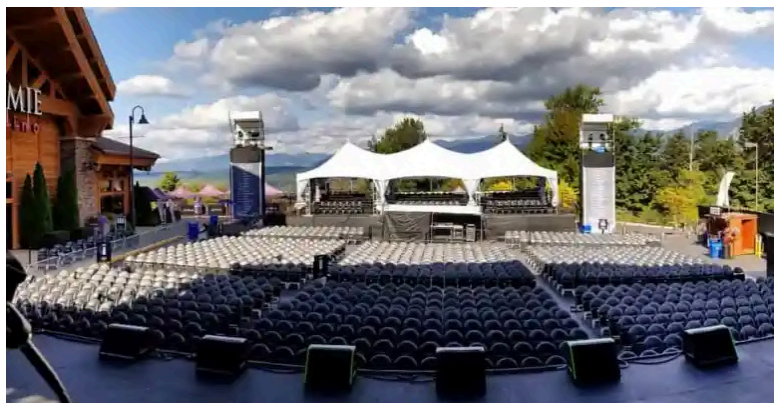
Craft and food markets are one of the most common ways in which park spaces can be activated. Granite Falls, with its surrounding rural area that can easily access the city, could be an attractive location for a Farmers Market. A connection with agrihoods such as Rooted NW could be an interesting way of bringing produce to the market and attracting residents to come to



Granite Falls for the other CBD and park activities.

There are likely to be Granite Falls residents who would like to sell crafts or other items at an organized location, and combining a small Farmers Market with craft stands could generate a lot of activity and connection with the Park. Temporary closure of a block of Galena Street or Cascade Avenue could provide the space for the market without relying on using park space or having to design the park for this specific purpose and would allow other activities at the park to happen while the market was in operation. People visiting the market and people using the park would likely interact with each other and ultimately engage with both the market and the park. These kinds of multiple attractors tend to multiply community interest and make it easy for people to schedule a whole Saturday to shop at the market, lunch downtown, and enjoy sunshine and playing in the park. Hosting buskers or scheduled music events would be a further way to attract people.

Markets and music would be promising ways to activate the park on weekends and perhaps could work on some weekday late afternoon/evenings as well. Organized recreational activities would also be an effective way to bring eyes on the park and activation during those times. Programs such as pickleball tournaments or skateboarding competitions would bring in different audiences and groups. Such activities could be based in the Senior Center or local youth organizations such as the Y, and could be supported through City



Potential conflict of interest transparency: Maxwell Brooke (UW) has worked for Snoqualmie Casino & Hotel at their outdoor summer concert series, which is depicted in the picture above. He is no longer employed with the casino.



resources or, preferably, by mobilizing the energy of nonprofits and participants. Developing partnerships with several nonprofit organizations that could sponsor or support activities would be an excellent way for both the city and the organizations to conduct their missions and activate the park. Ideally, a city staff person or a long-term intern or community service position could coordinate these kinds of partnerships.

Developing a portfolio of potential activities would be an ideal way to engage residents with redesigning the park and carry forward their energy into using the park and keeping it busy and activated after any redevelopment is completed.

Coordinating Activity Development and Community Engagement

This report has developed a portfolio of potential activities and capital improvements that could be part of park redevelopment. However, a final plan should be created in an iterative and interactive process with the community, with specific attention to core constituent groups that could be the basis for fully activating Jim Holm Park.

These core constituent groups would include demographic categories such as seniors, youth, and families. Another set of core constituent groups would be equity priority communities such as renters, BIPOC and immigrant communities, and new residents. Through the process of community engagement, these groups can help shape the park, while the City works to ensure that the interests of all of them are taken into account.

The process of final design would thus focus on filling out tables such as these:

Constituency	Park Elements	Engagement Tactics
Seniors		
Youth		
Families		

Constituency	Park Elements	Engagement Tactics
Renters		
BIPOC/Immigrant		
New Resident		

Community Engagement Summary

This project began the process of seeking community engagement by conducting two initial outreach activities.

First, comments on the park were collected from approximately 25 attendees at the inaugural Granite Falls Motorcycle Fair. The goal of this engagement was to survey a group of people attending a major community event and collect their thoughts about current conditions and future possibilities for the park. People who dropped by the booth were asked to fill out a survey, but most people engaged with preferred to have a dialogue about the park rather than filling out the form.

Additionally, a fourteen-question survey was sent to several community-based organizations in Granite Falls. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain their views on the park, city led community engagement, civic participation and recommendations for improvements.

Summary of feedback and comments from Granite Falls Motorcycle Fair:

What People Currently Appreciate About Granite Falls and Jim Holm Park

I. What People Currently Appreciate About Granite Falls and Jim Holm Park

Community and Town Features:

- Small-town charm and mom & pop feel
- Desire to return to a stronger small-town identity
- Friendly atmosphere and proximity to nature

Park Features:

- Parks viewed as inclusive spaces open to all, regardless of status
 - Parks appreciated for their ability to support rest, relaxation, and community gathering
 - Liked amenities include picnic tables, slides, and the skate park
-



II. Desired Amenities

General Park Amenities:

More benches



Shaded seating



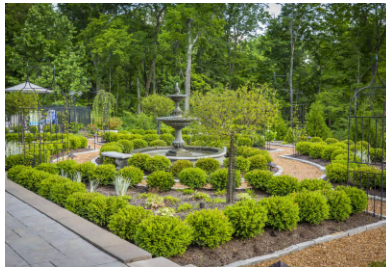
Accessible public restrooms



Drinking fountains



Flower beds and improved landscaping



Improved lighting and outdoor outlets



Recreational Facilities:

Playground upgrades & expansion (longer slides, improved materials)



Dog area



Bike course



Pickleball courts



Basketball court upgrades



Community Amenities:

Ice cream shop or eateries within walking distance



Space for small concerts and public events



Paved, accessible walkways



Parking improvements



III. Suggested Improvements

Infrastructure & Accessibility:

Fill in ground holes and install better surfacing under swings



Improve disability access and install paved walkways from streets and in front of City Hall



Environmental Enhancements:

Install more flowers and enhance curb appeal



Add shaded areas and natural gathering spaces



Safety Enhancements:

- Increase supervision for youth using the park
 - Improve security presence and lighting
 - Make entrances safer by dispersing loitering areas
-

IV. Engagement Activities to Foster Community Use

Art in the park and arts events for seniors



Basketball tournament



Fundraisers and community market days



Tech help sessions for older adults



Family-centered programs and group events



Park youth programs



Youth-led clean-ups and intergenerational gardening



Outdoor concerts and storytelling events



Summary of Feedback and Comments from Community-Based Organizations

Respondents:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Community Coalition

Ideas to Improve Participation:

- Better collaboration between local businesses and city government
- More diverse community activities
- Community newsletter via social media and email

Suggestions for City Engagement:

- Increase transparency
- Regular social media updates and website maintenance
- Publish a recurring newsletter

Perceptions of Jim Holm Park:

- Used for taking children/grandchildren to play
- Grassy space and nice playground equipment appreciated
- General need for updates and cleanliness

Improvement Suggestions:

- Add picnic spaces and shade
- Increase accessibility for people with mobility issues
- Build paved walkways from both streets
- Provide water and power access for events
- Improve ball court, playground, and seating areas

Additional Ideas for Use:

- Host small group meetings and family gatherings
- Create a space for small concerts
- Introduce pickleball facilities

Serving Diverse Users:

- Programs tailored for youth and families
- Arts opportunities for seniors
- Expanded picnic and shaded areas
- Improved playground and court access for all

Organizations to Include in Future Surveys:

- Local businesses
- Senior Center
- Granite Falls Community Coalition
- [Gencare Assisted Living Center](#)
- Churches
- Granite Falls Eagles Club
- Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce
- [Boys & Girls Club](#)
- [Granite Falls School District](#)

Recommended Next Steps for Community and Park Planning

These initial outreach activities suggest that residents and organizations have an interest in the redesign of Jim Holm Park, and that they have a range of ideas and suggestions about what to do to revitalize it. The City can build on this initial outreach in the following ways:

Initiate Broader Engagement

The City can host listening sessions, community forums, and workshops. The design of these should focus on inclusion of diverse voices: seniors, youth, families, and historically excluded communities (renters, BIPOC/immigrant, and new residents).

Host Public Forums and Design Workshops

Participatory processes can be used to co-create park design and programming. Transparency can be ensured by publishing progress and lessons learned through newsletter, print and digital media.

Conduct an Environmental and Accessibility Audit

The City can identify key barriers and infrastructure gaps using walkability checklists. This can include working with the Senior Center and Community Coalition to foster resident buy-in, which will create a sense of ownership to ensure sustained participation.

Secure Partnerships and Funding

Next steps would require collaboration with Snohomish County, nonprofits, public health agencies, and businesses, specifically including the Chamber of Commerce, in order to identify funding resources for implementation.

Test Ideas through Pilot Events

While redevelopment is being planned and funded, the City can launch art programs, concerts, and family events to build momentum.

Integrate Feedback into the Granite Falls Comprehensive Plan

While these activities are taking place, the City can continually monitor and adjust planning to ensure that there is alignment between the park design and the city's broader community development goals.

Evaluation

As the park redevelopment proceeds, and after major elements have been completed, it will be important for the City to evaluate the results. Ideally, evaluation can be considered as an ongoing process, with plans to implement modifications in a continual improvement mode as the evaluations reveal results that do not meet the desired goals.

The first step in evaluation will be for the City to determine metrics for the evaluation. What ways can success of the project(s) be measured? The core element in all of these is to increase the number of visitors, the average time spent by visitors, and the success in attracting diverse populations.

Some suggested metrics and responses could be:

How many people are using the Park or specific elements of the Park? How are these changing over time? (Use these results to reallocate resources and increase or improve components)

What is the 'linger factor'? In other words, how long do people stay in the Park or in different elements of the Park? (Use this result to evaluate overall success, emphasize future components that increase linger factor)

What is the distribution of people over the different elements of the Park? Are some proving to be more popular than others? Are some failing to attract users? (consider modifications that will improve those less popular, increase the investment in those that are popular)

What is the distribution of users over age groups, genders, and other demographic categories? (Survey users and population demographic categories to find out why any disproportionality exists, and design remedies)

What is the distribution of usage of different elements over time? (consider ways to improve usage in underutilized times)

What unplanned activities are occurring in the Park? Are these problematic (in which case try to find ways to discourage) or positive (find ways to encourage and facilitate)

Based on a survey of users and of the general population, why are people using or not using the Park? What do people like or not like? (adjust investments accordingly)

Who are the repeat visitors or frequent visitors? (Enlist in maintaining and improving the Park -- note that security cameras can help count number of visitors and spot certain incidents)

Are there changes in the number of visitors to businesses within a 15-minute walkshed of the park? Is the business district benefitting from the park users? (consider improvements to signage and walking paths)

What is the modal split of visitors: who gets out of their car, who rides a bike to the park, who walks to the park? (consider improvements to transportation facilities that will improve appropriate conditions)

These types of evaluations should be conducted on a regular basis and provide guidance for further actions and investments in the future.

Attachments

Intergenerational Green Space Use – Models, Activities, and Amenities

Model	Key Features	Potential Activities	Required Amenities/ Resources	CBO Partnerships	Source
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)	Aging in place, senior concentration	Walking, sitting/resting, light fitness	Parklets, benches, visual/auditory crossing signals, shaded rest areas	Senior Center and City Hall	Friedman & Pollock (2022)
Intergenerational Green Teams (Yonkers, NY)	Youth + seniors co-manage green spaces	Community gardening, vacant lot transformation, environmental stewardship	Tools, garden beds, signage, programming support	Senior Center and Boys & Girls Club	Steinig & Butts (2009)
Walkable Neighborhoods for Seniors (WN4S – Sacramento)	Community-led walkability and policy advocacy	Walking groups, walk audits, safety assessments	Technical assistance, public health support, pedestrian infrastructure	Senior Center, Community Coalition, and Boys & Girls Club	Hooker et al. (2009)

Garden Mosaics	Science + intergenerational learning	Youth interview seniors, science modules, garden design	Raised garden beds, outdoor classrooms, storytelling spaces	Senior Center, Boys & Girls Club, and School District	Steinig & Butts (2009)
Digital Literacy Programs	Tech training for older adults	Intergenerational tech workshops	Co-located spaces (libraries, rec centers), instructors, laptops	Senior Center, Boys & Girls Club, School District, Chamber of Commerce	Friedman & Pollock (2022)
Parklet Socialization Model	Informal social gathering spaces	Storytelling, casual meetups	Seating areas, greenery, sidewalk bump-outs	Senior Center, City Hall and Community Coalition	Friedman & Pollock (2022)
Intergenerational Fitness Zones (Netherlands)	Age-specific fitness equipment	Stretching, pilates, low-impact workouts	Fitness equipment, flat open space, soft surface	Senior Center, City Hall and Community Coalition	Friedman & Pollock (2022)

Questions asked of Community Organizations:

- Demographic questions (race, age, gender) (multiple choice)
- What do you like best about living in Granite Falls?
- Are you involved in any community organizations or activities? What could improve community participation in community activities?
- How do you think the city could improve how they engage with the community?
- Do you use Jim Holm Park? What for?
- What is attractive about the Jim Holm Park?
- What would you like to see improved?
- What would you like to do there that you currently can't do?

- How could the park and its surrounding area better serve youth?
- Better serve seniors?
- Better serve families?
- What other organizations should we ask?

Questions asked at Motorcycle Fair (Resident)

- Are you a resident of Granite Falls? (Y/N)
- Demographic questions (race, age, gender) (multiple choice)
- What do you like best about living in Granite Falls? Are you involved in any community organizations or activities? What could improve community participation in community activities?
- Do you use Jim Holm Park? What for?
- What is attractive about the park?
- What would you like to see improved?
- What would you like to do there that you currently can't do?
- How could the park and its surrounding area better serve youth? Seniors? Families?
- Better serve seniors?
- Better serve families?
- Anything else you want to tell us?

(Non-Resident)

- What town or city do you live in?
- Demographic questions (race, age, gender)
- What do you like about Granite Falls?
- What's most attractive about the town you live in?
- What makes a park an inviting place to be? What amenities would it have? What activities would you like to do at a park?
- Anything else you want to tell us?

References

- Somers, Ali. "Intergenerational Engagement and Generational Identity." *Studying Generations: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Helen Kingstone and Jennie Bristow, 1st ed., Bristol University Press, 2024, pp. 123–36. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.9827053>.13. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Friedman, Avi, and Alexandra Pollock. "URBAN DESIGN FOR HEALTHY AGING." *Fundamentals of Planning Cities for Healthy Living*, Anthem Press, 2022, pp. 95–108. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv307fh7v>.12. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Steinig, Sheri Y., and Donna M. Butts. "Generations Going Green: Intergenerational Programs Connecting Young and Old to Improve Our Environment." *Generations*:

Journal of the American Society on Aging, vol. 33, no. 4, 2009, pp. 64–69. JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26555702>. Accessed 13 May 2025.

- Resource: Generations United for Environmental Awareness and Action (www.gu.org)
- Hooker, Steven P., et al. "Evaluation of the Walkable Neighborhoods for Seniors Project in Sacramento County." *Health Promotion Practice*, vol. 10, no. 3, 2009, pp. 402–10. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26736925>. Accessed 13 May 2025.

Friedman, Avi, and Alexandra Pollock. "URBAN DESIGN FOR HEALTHY AGING." *Fundamentals of Planning Cities for Healthy Living*, Anthem Press, 2022, pp. 95–108. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv307fh7v.12>. Accessed 13 May 2025.

- Cohen, Deborah A., et al. "New Recreational Facilities for the Young and the Old in Los Angeles: Policy and Programming Implications." *Journal of Public Health Policy*, vol. 30, 2009, pp. S248–63. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40207262>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Carroll, Sidse, et al. "Going along with Older People: Exploring Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Design through Their Lens." *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2020, pp. 555–72. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45285714>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Napawan, N. Claire. "Production Places: Evaluating Communally-Managed Urban Farms as Public Space." *Landscape Journal*, vol. 34, no. 1, 2015, pp. 37–56. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44132739>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Robinson, Erin. "Creating 'People's Park': Toward a Redefinition of Urban Space." *Human Ecology Review*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2019, pp. 87–110. JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26964341>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Butterfield, Katie L. "Neighborhood Composition and Community Garden Locations: The Effect of Ethnicity, Income, and Education." *Sociological Perspectives*, vol. 63, no. 5, 2020, pp. 738–63. JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26968019>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Butterfield, Katie L. "Neighborhood Composition and Community Garden Locations: The Effect of Ethnicity, Income, and Education." *Sociological Perspectives*, vol. 63, no. 5, 2020, pp. 738–63. JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26968019>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Hoffman, August John, and Stephen Doody. "Build a Fruit Tree Orchard and They Will Come: Creating an Eco-Identity via Community Gardening Activities." *Community Development Journal*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2015, pp. 104–20. JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26164967>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- DeKay, Mark. "THE IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNITY GARDENING FOR LAND USE AND DENSITY." *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, vol. 14, no. 2, 1997, pp. 126–49. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43029255>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Heffernan, Maureen. "The Children's Garden Project at River Farm." *Children's Environments*, vol. 11, no. 3, 1994, pp. 221–31. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41515264>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
- Martin, Laurie, et al. "HOW PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY Can Get Involved." *Off to a Good Start: Social and Emotional Development of Memphis' Children*, RAND

Corporation, 2014, pp. 41–46. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/j.ctt1287mcv.8>. Accessed 13 May 2025.

- Twyford, V., Waters, S., Hardy, M., & Dengate, J. (2006). *Beyond Public Meetings: Connecting Community Engagement with Decision-Making*. Vivien Twyford Communication.

Place-making reading:

- Garfinkel, Molly. “Place Matters: Rooting Conservation in Community.” *The Journal of American Folklore*, vol. 132, no. 526, 2019, pp. 412–30. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.5406/jamerfolk.132.526.0412>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
 - Non-accessible
- Cranz, Galen, and Michael Boland. “Defining the Sustainable Park: A Fifth Model for Urban Parks.” *Landscape Journal*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2004, pp. 102–20. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43323666>. Accessed 13 May 2025.
 - Use of native species and removal of non-native species is a major option
 - Consider nature as a partner in managing the park, not the thing that needs to be managed
- Ellis, S. Peyton. “Historic Preservation as a Tool for Sustainable Community Development.” *Consilience*, no. 21, 2019, pp. 1–16. JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26775080>. Accessed 13 May 2025.

§ Armstrong, Ashley. “Augmenting Trails & Pathways to Encourage Active Communities.” *PlayCore*, 17 Dec. 2019, www.playcore.com/news/augmenting-trails-and-pathways-to-encourage-active-communities. Accessed 29 May 2025.

The City Parks Forum. *How Cities Use Parks for Community Engagement*, American Planning Association, www.brec.org/assets/General_Info/Why_R_Parks_Important/Papers/Parks-for-Community-Engagement.pdf. Accessed 26 May 2025.

- Foderaro, Lisa W. “The Power of Parks to Strengthen Community.” *Trust for Public Land*, May 2024, www.tpl.org/parks-strengthen-community-report. Accessed 26 May 2025.
- National Recreation and Park Association. “Community Engagement Resource Guide.” *National Recreation and Park Association*, www.nrpa.org/contentassets/19b3cbe05a634d5e8d3b712dbc8aa9d0/community-engagement-guide-nrpa.pdf. Accessed 26 May 2025.