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## 6 PUBLIC ACCESS

The City shoreline has public access opportunities in multiple locations in parks, trails, and road termini. The City has developed the Rivershore Linkage and Amenity Plan (Pasco 2012; attached as Appendix C). This plan provides an in depth analysis of public access opportunities, needs, and constraints for the entire shoreline. It also makes short-term and long-term recommendations for public access and other rivershore improvements. For the purpose of the IAC Report, the shoreline reaches and subreaches have been delineated to match the rivershore segments identified in the Rivershore Linkage and Amenity Plan (see Table 5). This Rivershore Linkage and Amenity Plan is being used as the public access plan. Instead of applying uniform public access requirements to all future developments, future public accesses should be consistent with this plan as recommended in WAC 173-26-221(4)(c).

The City shoreline has multiple parks along the shoreline. These include Chiawana Park, Wade Park, Riverview Park, Schlagel Park, and Sacajawea State Park. In addition, Sacajawea Heritage Trail parallels almost the entire stretch of shoreline starting from Reach 2 and ending at the Sacajawea State Park at Reach 7. Public access opportunities exist in many of the publicly owned properties, including the long-term goal of developing the Sacajawea Heritage Trail to connect to the Columbia Plateau Trail/Ice Harbor Dam (Section 6.1.4 includes additional discussion of Washington State Parks and Recreation goals related to the Columbia Plateau Trail). Additional discussion on public access opportunities by reach are provided in Appendix A.

### 6.1 Public Access Goals

#### 6.1.1 City of Pasco

The City's Comprehensive Plan includes recreation goal as follows:

- **Recreation Goal CF-4** – In conjunction with Franklin County, provide parks, greenways, trails, and recreation facilities throughout the UGA.

The City's Parks, Recreations and Forestry Plan objectives include:

- **Goal 1 (Physical) Objective** – Take advantage of the river frontage as a recreational, natural, and scenic asset.
- **Goal 3 (Management and Operations) Trail Policies** – Trails should be routed to provide visual and physical access to natural areas and to the riverfront.

### **6.1.2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' environmental operating principles were developed to ensure that its missions include totally integrated sustainable environmental practices. The Walla Walla district operates and manages dams on Snake River. It provides a variety of recreational opportunities within its management areas.

### **6.1.3 Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife**

WDFW's vision for Lands 20/20 (WDFW 2005) intends to offer all Washington citizens, "an opportunity to access and appreciate this state's fish and wildlife." Recreational uses of land are consistent with WDFW's land policy for providing outdoor recreation opportunities when they, "don't threaten fish and wildlife or degrade the habitats that support them." WDFW intends to continue providing wildlife viewing opportunities.

WDFW's Swanson Lake Wildlife Area Management Plan (Anderson 2006) indicates that the agency's management objective is to provide recreation compatible with fish, wildlife, and habitat protection. It indicates that access and recreation must be controlled to protect fish and wildlife resources and to comply with federal and state regulations.

### **6.1.4 Washington State Parks and Recreation**

Washington State Parks and Recreation applies land classification systems to its parks and recreation areas such as:

- Recreational areas for high-intensity outdoor recreational use
- Resource recreation for high-intensity outdoor recreational use
- Natural areas for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes
- Heritage areas for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features

- Natural forest areas for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes
- Natural area preserves designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value

Sacajawea Park is operated by Washington State Parks and Recreation.