

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# VISION

Lake Sacajawea Park fulfills Longview's ongoing commitment to community recreation and respite. It is a defining feature of one of the nation's most complete city plans of the 1920s. The original park design intended an aesthetic setting extended to all parts of the park emphasizing views, transitions between spaces, and movement through a carefully selected palette of plantings. The quality and universal appeal of this original design matures with use and time. The aesthetics of originally designed topography, vegetation, built environment, site furnishings, and circulation networks influenced by the City Beautiful movement impart a remarkable setting to pedestrian and recreation activities.

The principle of providing a cherished neighborhood treasure for the enjoyment of the community has guided park design and stewardship. Managing change over time to respond to evolving community needs while gradually pulling forward missing features to restore and sustain the park's original character will be an important perpetual responsibility.



# PURPOSE OF REPORT

A Preservation Plan for a historic resource is a written and illustrated reference document that provides a thorough historic and architectural evaluation. The plan identifies significant original and subsequently added features, landscaping, and spaces, existing appearance and condition, and associated historic events. The purpose of this evaluation is to provide a basis which will be used to inform decisions relating to ongoing stewardship.

A plan is usually prepared for sites that are on the National Register of Historic Places prior to planning any alterations, additions, rehabilitation, or restoration. These sites often contain multiple objects, buildings, structures, and designed and natural landscape elements. The plan allows the collective importance of these various elements, their individual contribution, integrity and condition to be assessed and factored in to decision-making. The report is used to guide contemporary modifications, reuse or restoration of the property. The National Park Service, under the guidance of the U.S. Department of the Interior, establishes specific guidelines and contents for the creation of Cultural Resource Management Plans, and provides advice on when they should be done. These reports are often required when work is performed on Federally-owned historic sites and are recommended for publicly owned sites or publicly funded projects involving historic sites.

This report is anchored on a detailed survey and inventory of significant features and spaces of the park performed during the summer and fall of 2009. The purpose of this survey was to investigate the historic character of the resource and identify intact elements of the original design and historically significant subsequent additions. This will allow for the protection and preservation of the historic elements of the resource and provide standards for alterations and new construction to manage change.

The entire park was surveyed, photographed and features and spaces catalogued. Existing feature and spaces were then compared with the original grading and

planting plans, as well as maps pre-dating site development, planning documents for the master planning of the city of Longview, and original specifications and correspondence to identify original elements. Current condition was noted for features and spaces. Then each feature and space room was categorized by historic significance (descriptions of these categories are provided later).

As this document is employed in future planning and research related to Lake Sacajawea Park, its content will guide decisions about maintenance, modification and conservation on a very detailed level. The information incorporates an understanding of historic preservation design guidelines such as the *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, and accepted practices in regard to landscape and architectural conservation methods.

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt Restoration from the *Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as the guiding standard of treatment for Lake Sacajawea Park.
- Incorporate the Lake Sacajawea Park Preservation Plan into the City of Longview's Park and Recreation Plan.
- Revisit management recommendations for improvements in Lake Sacajawea Park in the existing Park and Recreation Plan Update. Review in light of preservation plan recommendations.
- As city budget permits, expand professional staffing devoted to the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Support annual preservation training provided by the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for Historic Preservation Commissioners.
- Investigate expanding the boundaries of the Lake Sacajawea Park Historic District to include the historic roadway, sidewalks, and street trees surrounding the park. Alternatively, investigate creation of a conservation district to protect these features.
- Adopt a cooperative stewardship approach to Lake Sacajawea Park management.
- Create a Lake Sacajawea Park Advisory Committee with the Parks and Recreation Department in order to advise on implementing the historic preservation plan and to serve as a liaison with the Historic Preservation Commission, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board/Tree Board, and surrounding neighborhoods, as well as other stakeholders.
- Seek appropriate historic preservation training for Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff.
- Develop a programmatic agreement based on the Lake Sacajawea Park Historic Preservation Plan between the City of Longview, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the Federal Highway Administration in order to streamline federal review processes related to road improvements affecting the park.
- Merge TRIMS Program and city GIS capacity for use by Parks to link twenty plus years of maintenance and condition history with planning and location data to continue this important legacy.