

## Chapter Three: History and Profile of the City of Sequim

### I. Historical Background – See Appendix C.

### II. Population and Land Profile:

The City of Sequim is located on the northern Olympic Peninsula, along SR101 east of Port Angeles and west of Discovery Bay, see Vicinity Map #A. SR101 bypasses the City's downtown core, but separates the major part of the City north of the By-pass from the rapidly developing neighborhoods to the south. Beyond the City limits to the south rise the foothills of the Olympic Mountains, and to the north the land beyond the City extends to the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The City of Sequim is planning under the guidelines of Washington State's Growth Management Act, (GMA), meaning, among other features, higher residential density in order to reduce the likelihood of urban sprawl. The City has a defined Urban Growth Area boundary (UGA) guiding the direction of future expansion. At the present time (2005) the City of Sequim and its UGA encompasses 5824 acres.

A review of historical population growth within the City of Sequim is shown in Table 3-1. As identified in that Table, the City has grown at a consistent, and at times, a substantial rate for each ten-year period. From 1920 the City has grown an average of 36.6% every ten years to the year 2000. A 9% increase has been realized for the 5-year period from 2000 to 2005.

**Table 3-1**

**Historical Population Growth in the City of Sequim: 1920-2005**

YEAR	POPULATION	GROWTH PERCENT
1920	402	-- <sup>a</sup>
1930	534	33%
1940	676	27%
1950	1,044	54%
1960	1,164	11%
1970	1,549	33%
1980	3,013	95%
1990	3,617	20%
2000	4,334	20%
2005	4,730	9%

<sup>a</sup> The City of Sequim was incorporated in 1913.

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management.

The population of Sequim is forecast to grow substantially during the next 20 years. During the same period of 2000-2005, the annualized rate of growth for the City of Sequim and the UGA, was nearly 11.5%. This growth is expected to continue at a slightly reduced annualized rate (6% to 8%) resulting in forecasted population levels for Sequim and its UGA of:

- a. 11,716 persons by 2008
- b. 18,000 persons by 2015, and
- c. 28,000 persons by year 2025.

Sequim has long been known as a retirement destination and the population growth continues from that knowledge. In 2004 the median age of Sequim residents was 59.3. Increasingly, new retirees moving to Sequim anticipate an active, involved lifestyle. Age distribution of the 2000 resident population is shown in Table 3-2. This analysis provides an insight to the potential user trends which influence the provision of recreation facilities and activities. As shown in Table 3-2, residents at age 50 or above represent over 60% of the City's population in 2000.

**Table 3-2**

**Age Distribution in the City of Sequim: 2000**

<b>AGE</b>	<b>TOTAL IN GROUP</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL</b>
0-4	173	4
5-9	181	4
10-13	154	4
14-18	198	5
19-34	422	10
35-49	564	13
50-64	667	15
65+	1,975	46

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Parks system is used at much higher levels on a daily basis than comparable cities that have better mix of age groups. Also, the parks throughout Sequim are used by the residents of the City, the urban growth area and the region from Gardiner to the east, and the area from Morse creek to the west. There is also considerable use of these parks by non-local guests and tourists. The increasing successes of the various festivals and events are also placing additional burdens on the existing parks.

In addition to age distribution, another valuable demographic characteristic is

income. The amount of available household financial resources is directly related to the frequency, intensity and travel distance a household is willing to make to achieve the desired recreation experience. Residents with lower incomes may not have the ability or propensity to travel and fulfill their recreational needs in other locations. The City of Sequim household income ranges and percent within each range is shown as a comparison to Clallam County and the State of Washington in Table 3-3.

**Table 3-3**

**Household Income in the City of Sequim, Clallam County  
and Washington State: 1999**

INCOME RANGE	CITY OF SEQUIM		CLALLAM COUNTY		STATE OF WA.	
	Households	% of Total	Households	% of Total	Households	% of Total
\$0-9,999	329	15.3	2,877	10.6	171,863	7.6
\$10,000-14,999	318	14.8	2,097	7.7	124,848	5.5
\$15,000-24,999	342	15.9	3,950	14.5	265,131	11.7
\$25,000-34,999	355	16.5	4,040	14.9	284,630	12.5
\$35,000-49,999	436	20.2	5,274	19.4	389,434	17.1
\$50,000-74,999	268	12.4	5,318	19.5	486,392	21.4
\$75,000-99,999	61	2.8	2,033	7.5	264,498	11.6
\$100,000-149,999	14	0.6	926	3.4	188,513	8.3
\$150,000 +	32	1.5	672	2.5	96,952	4.3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,272,261</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**III. Natural Resource Base**

Conservation and wise use of the natural resource base is vital to the physical, social and economic development of any area. Knowing the location of existing resource elements and understanding the interrelationship between these elements will allow for an orderly growth of the city while maintaining the rural small town character of Sequim.

In conformance with the Growth Management Act, the City of Sequim has classified and designated natural resource lands and critical areas. Locations of important resource lands are identified on the critical areas and natural resource lands Map G.

Key features of the existing critical areas in the City are the wetland areas located in the northeast portion of the City associated with Bell Creek. A large Category II wetland is located south of the SR 101 Bypass and east of Simdars Road. Other features include Johnson Creek which traverses the southeastern portion of the City, Bell Creek which bisects the City and a mile of shoreline associated with Sequim Bay.

Locally unique features in the Sequim region include ravines, marine bluffs and beaches and locally unique biological species such as the Brittle Prickly Pear Cactus, Garry Oaks and the local herd of Roosevelt Elk.

During the consideration of park and recreation facility expansion and development, the natural resource base plays an important role. Coordination between the acquisition and development of additional parkland and the preservation of critical resource features should be accomplished. The incorporation of areas with soils containing development limitations, wetlands, frequently flooded areas, streams and stream corridors and wildlife habitat areas, all provide suitable opportunities for park and recreation development. Lands set aside for critical area mitigation, natural environment conservancy lands, and lands designated for wildlife reserves should also be considered for possible inclusion in the City's park system.