

# Economic & Visitor Profile



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\*since counting began in July ,2021

30,462

The total amount of visitors to the Festhalle during Christmastown 2023

In 2023, the Chamber's Funding It Forward programs assisted 21 nonprofits raise \$92,334

CONTENTS & FACTS

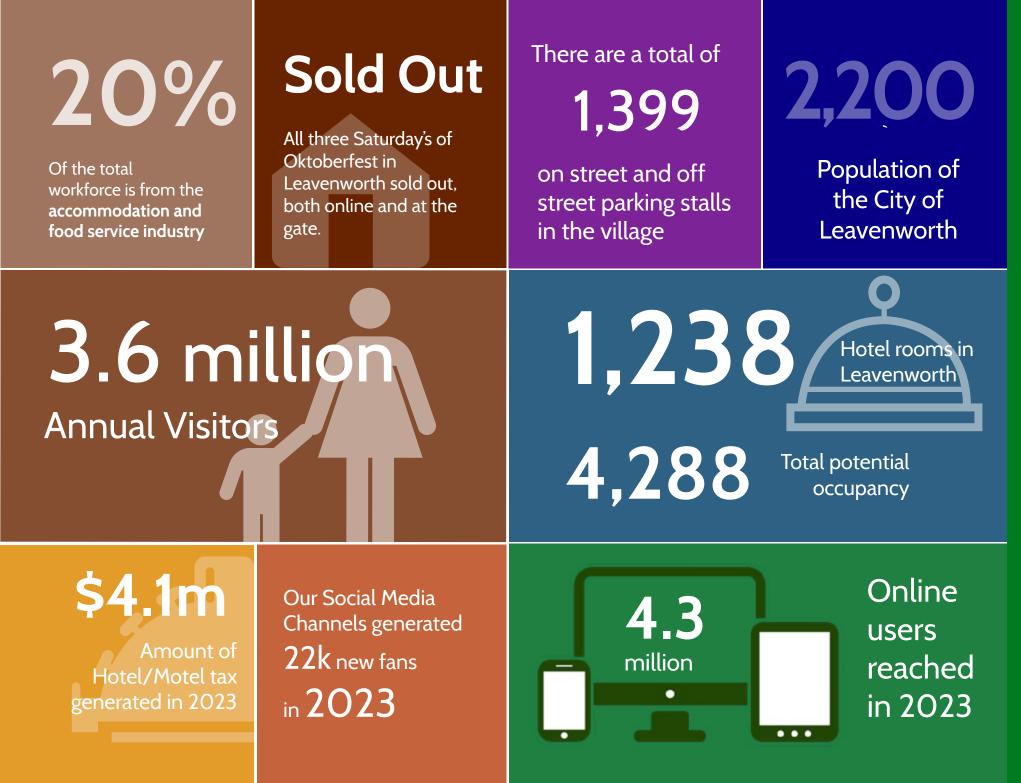


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#### **Our Mission & Structure**

The Leavenworth Chamber's mission is to promote commerce, tourism, the Bavarian Theme, economic development, diversification, and cooperation among the business community, governments and residents of the Chamber membership area.

The Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c)6 non-profit Business Association and is governed by a fourteen member Board of Directors who meet twice a month on the first and third Thursdays.

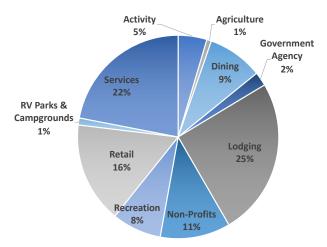
Board members help execute initiatives and goals through four committees: Membership, Finance, Economic Development & Programs/Events.

#### 2024 Board of Directors

- 1. Kevin Rieke, President
- 2. Kayla Applebay, Vice-President
- 3. Joel Martinez, Secretary
- 4. Jesse Boyd, Past President
- 5. Joe Cannata

- 6. Don Wood
- 7. Michelle McMullen
- 8. Gavin Evans
- 9. Rusty Gibbs
- 10. Chris John
- 11. Chuck Schuringa
- 12. Martin Szuster
- 13. Matt Cade

#### Membership by Industry



#### **Chamber Staff Members**

- 1. Troy Campbell Executive Director
- 2. Jessica Stoller Marketing & PR Director
- 3. Ernest Palmer Director of Events & Entertainment
- 4. Dana Kemmerling VC & Membership Manager
- 5. Cameron Campbell Event Coordinator
- 5. Guest Relations Coordinators Kadence Harston & Alex Bugert

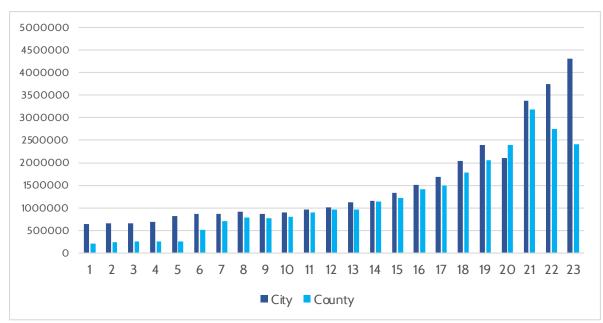
**CHAMBER** 

For over 60 years, the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce has been working to create a special experience for visitors and locals alike. Today, the area has evolved into an internationally recognized, four season destination. The Chamber of Commerce works to preserve what has made Leavenworth so successful, while ensuring its legacy continues.

### **Chamber Funding**

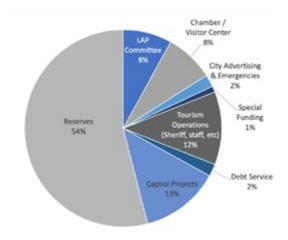
The Chamber is funded through membership dues, sponsorship & advertising sales, and fundraising events. As the Destination Management Organization (DMO) for Leavenworth, the Chamber also receives funding via a percentage of the hotel lodging tax collection from the City and the County. This funding allows the Chamber to operate and staff a year-round visitor center, plan and execute events, operate Ambassador programs, schedule entertainment at the gazebo during the summer months, and provide assistance with tourism infrastructure.

#### Lodging Tax Collections '01 to '23

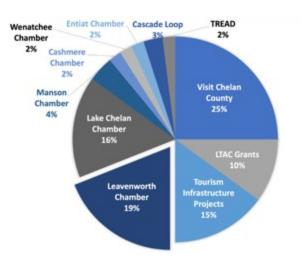


Due to short term rental legislation passed in early 2021, the amount of rentals in the county has decreased as evidenced by the declining tax revenue.

#### **City Distribution**



#### **County Distribution**



#### Lodging Tax Requirements

The Chamber receives funding from the City and the County from lodging tax revenues paid for by patrons of city and county lodging facilities.

This funding is made possible by **RCW 67.28.1816** which also requires that lodging tax revenues be used exclusively for the following:

1. Tourism marketing.

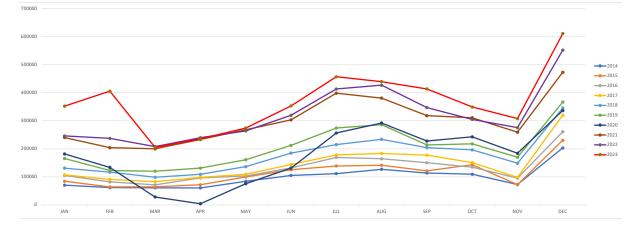
2. The marketing and operations of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists.

3. Supporting the operations and capital expenditures of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by a municipality.

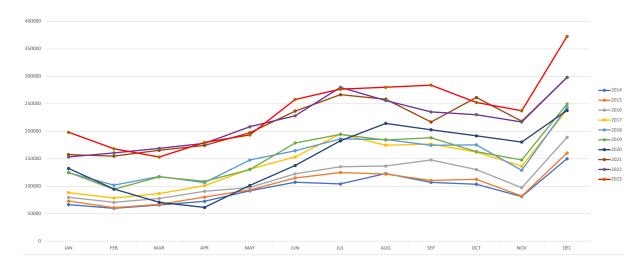
4. Supporting the operations of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by nonprofit organizations.

### Leavenworth Tax Growth

#### City Lodging Tax - 2014 to 2023



#### Retail Tax Collection - 2014 to 2023



### **Annual Chamber Events**







#### The Village of Lights

The Chamber's Village of Lights encompasses three winter months in which our 500,000 lights brighten downtown and Front Street Park, creating a must-see attraction. In fact, this over 60-year tradition has made December Leavenworth's busiest month of the year.

Christmastown activities and events now begin on Black Friday and run through December 24th. This includes the daily activation of the Festhalle which houses family photo stations, free gift wrapping, kids crafts and story corner, pictures with Santa and more. It also includes over 300 hours of programming at the gazebo and additional food service at Front Street Park.

To capitalize on the popularity of the lights, and to get the best return on their annual investment, they stay lit until Feb 28th. This has created activity and promotional opportunities for two additional, less popular months. January is Winter Karneval, anchored with fireworks on MLK weekend. In February we add hearts to the largest tree in the park to kick off the Love from Leavenworth promotions. These months now have their own unique branding, identities and promotional opportunities, and room for additional growth.

#### Christmastown Stats

- 24,900 visitors to the Festhalle
- 6000 daily entries into the online Advent Calendar
- 4000 mid-week shopping bags distributed
- 650 volunteer hours
- 160 additional work hours installing lights
- 80 total hours of live entertainment
- 40 hours with Santa & Mrs. Claus
- 31 consecutive days of the Festhalle being open
- 31 days of the Festhalle bathrooms being open & maintained by the Chamber
- 28 porta potties
- 26 gingerbread houses
- 24 days of the online advent prizes
- 12 actors to wear costumes.
- 6 carolers
- 4 food booths
- 3 holiday concerts
- 2 national network stories (Good Morning America & CBS Sunday Morning)



Since 2022 the Leavenworth Chamber has produced three weekends of Oktoberfest celebrations in Leavenworth. The weekends consist of two venues featuring live music and entertainment, contests, beer gardens, and a Kinderplatz complete with a Ferris wheel. Our beer gardens proudly feature our Festbier, a collaboration between three Chamber member breweries and the best-selling beer all three weekends!





The Chamber has produced the Maifest Celebration since 1971, a mainstay in the much needed spring months. The event has been expanded to the entire month and consisted of the Mother's Day 5k run, the Chamber's traditional Maifest festivities and Maipole dancing on the second weekend of the month, chainsaw carvers on the third weekend and our sponsorship of the Alphorn Celebration on Memorial Day Weekend.





Destination Smart is a framework for the execution of the Chamber's operations in relation to managing, marketing, and planning Leavenworth's commerce and tourism industry

The approach strives to balance the needs of the industry and area residents, provide education to visitors, leverage our events to create revenue streams for local non-profits or initiatives, and develop responsible infrastructure projects and initiatives to maximize sustainability.

The five properties of our Destination Smart that house our goals and strategies are:

- Funding it Forward
- Visitor Flow Management
- Communication & Monitoring
- Destination Development
- Climate & Resiliency

By following the Destination Smart approach to our vibrant tourism industry, we ensure that it continues to contribute to the health and well-being of our city, our region, our economy, and our environment.



profit.

regional impacts.

a Schnitzel Campaign.

and event planning decisions.

economic and environmental impacts.

recreation locations in our region.

Visitor Flow

Management



Communication & Monitoring



> Invest time and/or funding for programs that strengthen Leavenworth's workforce development and workforce housing.

> Finding creative ways to ensure that when we are using

lodging tax funding for events, each event contains a fundraising opportunity for a local cause or member non-

> Designing events to reduce negative community and

> Provide visitor services and education at highly visited

> Provide destination education to visitors through our Give

> Use visitor data to make informed and targeted marketing

> Monitor our destination by collecting visitor data to gauge

> Champion responsible destination infrastructure projects to enhance or expand opportunities and offerings.



> Having our events and destination work towards being zero waste.

> Strengthen our emergency communication and preparedness plans.

THE CHAMBER

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In 2023, twenty-one member nonprofits raised \$92,334 through the Chamber's Funding it Forward programs including (but not limited to) the following:

- Christmastown Ambassadors help the Chamber staff the Festhalle from Black Friday to Christmas Eve and help with Santa photos, crafts for kids, the gift wrapping booth and more. Funding through our Ambassador programs, direct sponsorships, concerts, and our Carvings for Causes program.
- Oktoberfest Ambassadors assist with guest relations, retail food service and managing our Kinderplatz.
- Carvings for Causes take place each summer as the result of auctioning off the wood carvings done during our Maifest celebration.
- In 2023, we added two new ticketed concerts during the holidays at the Festhalle which raised \$6500 for the food pantry.
- Additionally, Bird Fest, Music at the Markets, The Alphorn Celebration, Earth Day, Rotary Reimagined, and the Accordion Festival received financial sponsorship support.

In 2023, the following organizations beneffited from Funding it Forward programs:

- Autumn Leaf Festival Association
- Cascade Community Markets
- Cascade Education Foundation
- Cascade Fisheries
- Cascade Medical Foundation
- CCFD#3 Volunteer Association
- Faith Lutheran Immigrant Justice League
- Greater Leavenworth Museum
- Leavenworth Alphorns
- Leavenworth United Methodist
  Church

- Lion's Club
- Marlin Handbell Ringers
- Rotary
- Scouts
- The International Accordion Festival
- The Royal Bavarians
- The Wenatchee River Institute
- Upper Valley Historical Society
- Upper Valley Mend
- Waste Loop
- Young Life



#### walk-in visitors\*

72

Visitor Center & Festhalle during Christmastown





#### The Visitor Center

The Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce uniquely acts as both a traditional chamber, facilitating business to business and governmental relations, while also managing a Visitor Center and satellite kiosk.

The Visitor Center is open seven days a week, 362 days a year, and is staffed full time with experts who provide a myriad of information to our visitors about current activities and events, shopping and dining options, attractions, outdoor recreation and more.

The following services are also provided:

- Distribute 200,000 Maps & Info brochures & 30,000 Leavenworth Destination Guides
- Public restrooms
- Trip planning services
- Driving directions
- USFS Permit Assistance
- Lost & Found
- Post and share pass reports, weather conditions and construction information.
- Provide emergency, chain, and stranded vehicle assistance.

- Parking & transportation information
- Internships
- Assist with school projects
- Ticket sales
- Management of the Gazebo schedule, music and the pointing people signs
- Maintain the Bavarian closet
- Produce an annual Halloween map for the community
- Collect and distribute holiday hours throughout the year



#### **Recreation Ambassadors**

The Recreation Ambassador program aims to provide a consistency in staffing and messaging at some of the most heavily used, and therefore at times abused, resources, trailheads, and river access locations. Since 2021. Ambassadors staffed four of the six locations below every weekend from June 25th to August 28th.

- US Fish & Wildlife Hatchery ٠
- East Leavenworth Road Boat Launch
- Barn Beach Take Out
- **Icicle Road Bridge**
- Eight Mile Trail Head USFS
- Stuart Lake Trail Head USFS

Ambassadors are key in collecting key information and data about the locations they serve. In 2023 they counted 14,269 cars and witnessed 268 violations.

The Recreation Ambassador program also provides a fundraising mechanism for member nonprofits working to raise money for their operations, programs or initiatives.

In 2023, the below organizations served as Recreation Ambassador and raised a combined total of \$31,534.

- Autumn Leaf Festival
- **Cascade Education Foundation**
- **Cascade Fisheries**
- **Cascade Medical Foundation**
- CCFD#3 Volunteer Association
- Faith Lutheran Immigrant Justice Group
- Marlin Handbell Ringers
- Rotary
- Scouts
- Upper Valley Historical Society
- Young Life

**Bags of Trash** Collected

Ambassadors made 13,698 interactions with users

at river and trailhead locations in 2023



## Communication & Monitoring

#### Leavenworth Area Promotions Group (LAP)

The Leavenworth Area Promotions Groups works to maintain Leavenworth's continued success through promotions and by fostering the community's tourism industry.

#### **Goal & Execution**

LAP's goal is to support tourism and lodging and aims to foster longer, meaningful guest stays.

LAP receives its funding from the approximately \$4.3 million generated by the hotel lodging tax collected from visitors who stay within the city limits of Leavenworth.The committee also works to establish continual top of mind presence in the marketplace, strengthen soft seasons and reach midweek travelers.

The Chamber staff works yearround in coordination with the LAP Committee to set advertising schedules for a variety of media, communicate and hire PR firms for specific projects and pitch the Leavenworth experience to various marketing partners and media outlets.

#### LAP History & Committee Structure

Leavenworth Area Promotions was created in the mid-1990's when the State allowed certain cities to raise the lodging tax collected at the local level. In order to specifically advertise and market the town of Leavenworth, the City (at the request of the Leavenworth Lodging Association) adopted a local 1% lodging tax in 1993 before increasing it to 3% in 1997. A separate committee also administered the 1960's era 2% "Kingdome" lodging tax which cities could use for tourism infrastructure. In 2000, the state no longer required two separate committees to oversee the distinction between the state 2% tourism infrastructure tax and our local 3% marketing and promotions tax.

In 2001 the City of Leavenworth, the Leavenworth Lodging Association and the Chamber of Commerce entered into a multi-agency agreement to create the LAP Committee to manage and administer the funds allotted as part of the annual city budget of the combined 5% tax.

The LAP committee is made up of representation from the following groups:

- Three (3) board members from the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce
- Three (3) members from the Leavenworth Lodging Association
- Two (2) mayor appointed Leavenworth City Council Members

The work of LAP is executed and facilitated by the Chamber's Executive Director and the Marketing & PR Director.

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#### LAP Budget vs. Lodging Tax Collection



#### **Annual Media Campaigns**

The Give a Schnitzel multi media campaign encourages:

- Taking an active role in caring for our shared lands.
- By observing proper fire and water safety.
- By being mindful of proper trail and river etiquette and being prepared for conditions.
- Traveling in non-peak times.
- Know before you go: road conditions & parking.



Our "Holy Schnitzel" multi-media campaign covers our print media and select flight markets whose data shows both extended stays and direct flights to both SeaTac and Seattle Paine Field Airports.



#### Chamber staff executes the following programs and services:

- Operate and promote Leavenworth.org
- Manage all social media
- Provide accurate visitor information
- Produce public service & promo videos
- Write blogs & articles
- Arrange photography & video shoots
- Facilitate commercial film crews
- Editorial outreach & pitch stories
- Host and entertain travel writers
- Write and distribute E-Newsletter
- Respond to media requests
- Feed B-roll/photography/facts
- Write and distribute press releases
- Provide media referrals via travel shows
- Conduct seasonal & mid-week shopping promo
  - December Advent Calendar
  - Love from Leavenworth prize calendar
  - Restaurant Appreciation Month
  - Christmastown shopping bag with purchase
  - "Find a glass heart when shopping on a Thursday in February" promotion



Fans

Followers Subscribers Followers Consumers



Top Ten Cities (WA Only)

- 1. Seattle
- 2. Bothell
- 3. Everett
- 4. Snohomish
- 5. Spokane
- 6. Tacoma
- 7. Lake Stevens
- 8. Marysville
- 9. Puyallup
- 10. Olympia

#### Top Ten States

(excluding WA)

- 1. California
- 2. Texas
- 3. Arizona
- 4. Florida
- 5. Idaho
- 6. Oregon
- 7. Montana
- 8. Colorado
- 9. Nevada
- 10. Illinois

Top Ten Cities (excluding WA)

- 1. Los Angeles
- 2. Phoenix-Prescott
- 3. Boise
- 4. Bay Area (SF, OAK)
- 5. Portland
- 6. Dallas / Ft. Worth
- 7. Eugene
- 8. Sacramento
- 9. Salt Lake City
- 10. Houston



#### Top Ten Cities

by length of stay

- 1. Honolulu
- 2. Houston
- 3. Dallas / Ft/ Worth
- 4. Salt Lake City
- 5. Eugene
- 6. Phoenix-Prescott
- 7. Boise
- 8. Portland
- 9. Bay Area (SF, OAK
- 10. Sacramento

#### Top Ten Origin Airports

- 1. LAX Los Angeles
- 2. ANC Anchorage
- 3. LAS Las Vegas
- 4. PHX Phoenix
- 5. SFO San Francisco
- 6. DEN Denver
- 7. ORD Chicago
- 8. PDX Portland
- 9. SAN San Diego
- 10. DFW Dallas / F.W.

#### 2023 Busiest Days by Footfall

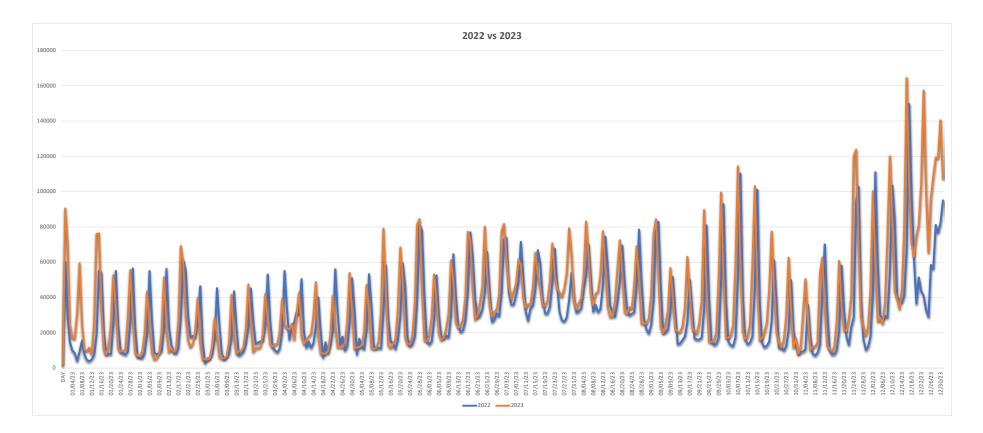
Day	Date
1. Saturday	12/16/23
2. Saturday	12/23/23
3. Saturday	12/30/23
4. Saturday	11/25/23
5. Friday	11/24/23
6. Saturday	12/9/23
7. Thursday	12/28/23
8. Friday	12/29/23
9. Saturday	10/7/23
10. Wednesday	12/27/23
11. Sunday	12/31/23
12. Sunday	12/17/23
13. Friday	12/22/23
14. Saturday	10/14/23
15. Saturday	12/2/23
16. Sunday	12/24/23
17. Saturday	9/30/23
18. Tuesday	12/26/23
19. Sunday	1/1/23
20. Saturday	9/23/23



Fun Fact: 25 mins is the average dwell time at Front Street Park

In July of 2021, (5) pedestrian counting cameras went live on Front Street. These cameras capture the total pedestrian traffic, in each direction, on a daily basis. This provides an additional way to assess, track and monitor visitation. It also provides a way to assess and guauge promotions and events.

#### **Annual Footfall Chart**



### **Destination Development**

From Existing Conditions Memo MxM Landscape Architecture, with MAKERS amd Toole Design, January 17, 2023

The Downtown Master Plan is a conceptual road map that identifies capital improvements within the Downtown commercial core along with standardized design elements. These improvements and enhancements include repair and reconstruction of roadways, sidewalks, streetlights, benches, trash receptacles, etc.

In December of 2022, the Leavenworth City Council voted to close Front Street and a portion of 8th street indefinately. In March of 2023, the Downtown Steering Committee approved the Request for Proposal document that will be used to solicit designers for the final phase.

#### Downtown Master Plan

After studying existing conditions, exploring potential future scenarios, and meeting with various community stakeholders, their findings were as follows:

- 1. The community broadly supports the Front Street closures. The business community has found increased revenues. Visitors appreciate no having to navigate between vehicles. Parents, the elderly, and children feel safer.
- 2. Community members see the closure as an opportunity to reinforce Leavenworth's strong brand identity as an Alpine Bavarian Village, recreating the car-free feel of many European streetscapes.
- 3. Closing Front Street offer a generational opportunity to thoughtfully transform the existing streetscape and Front Street Park into an inviting space for people to linger. Materials, spaces, amenities signage, and plantings should all be considered as part of a durable "cultural landscape" borrowed from Bavaria and creatively transplanted to the Cascade foothills.
- 4. Implementing the permanent vision for Front Street should be done deliberately and in coordination with other civic projects like the construction of a parking facility or completion of the water main loop in Downtown.

#### Next steps include:

- 1. The commission of a full topographic and underground utility survey for the area that might be impacted by construction.
- 2. Develop 30% plans for the area with designers/engineers to allow calibration of public expectations for capital expenditures and phasing.

### **Sensing Document**

#### **PROPOSED UPPER WENATCHEE VALLEY** SUSTAINABLE TRAILS PROJECT

The Chamber Board of Directors worked with a consultant to produce a Sensing Document for the Upper Wenatchee Valley.

The primary focus of this project is to create a non-motorized trail system with associated infrastructure for multiple user groups to easily access activities such as walking, hiking, trail running, climbing, paragliding and mountain biking.

The document, which was fully funded by the Leavenworth Chamber and facilitated by TREAD with partners at the Washington Conservation Science Institute, lays the foundation for getting NEPA & SEPA approval for new trails, road to trail conversions, bathrooms, parking lots and more for the project areas: Boundary Butte, Derby Canyon, Eagle Creek, Hay Canyon, Icicle, and Tumwater.

The full document can be accessed from the homepage of LeavenworthChamber.org



By furthering Leavenworth's Old World Bavarian-Alpine theme, we all ensure the continued vitality of our economy through an asset which forms the basis for Leavenworth's thriving tourist industry.

To maintain and enhance the benefits of the Old-World Bavarian Alpine Theme, the Design Review Board reviews all architectural elements, any exterior modifications, signs and lighting. The following is some basic information, to learn more, check out the City's website at www.cityofleavenworth.com or contact City Hall at 509-548-5275.

#### Architecture / Building Exteriors

The Old-World Bavarian Alpine Theme applies to all exterior elements of buildings, including but not limited to any painting (for instance entry doors, trim and murals) and many types of decorations on the exterior of buildings and businesses.

#### Signs

The Old-World Bavarian Alpine Theme and the Sign Code applies to all types of signage, including window signs and A-frames.

#### Lighting

The Old-World Bavarian Alpine Theme and the Lighting Code applies to all exterior lights including lighting of signage and/ or adding or changing exterior light fixtures. Holiday lights are a big part of the Leavenworth attraction and are exempt from a lighting permit when meeting the following a set standards such as no blinking or flashing lights, no interanlly illuminated signs and more.

The Design Review Board and City staff are available to address questions and provide feedback on the Old-World Bavarian Alpine theme.



Ensuring that our events produce as little waste as possible our our local environment as well as being prepared for when our environment might be inhospitable due to a natural disaster or event, is the foundation for our Climate & Resiliency pillar.

In 2024, the Chamber will be taking on new initiatives regarding recycling and an emergency response communications plan.

Some 2023 accomplishments include:

Having all 28,000 beer cups and organic waste from Oktoberfest composted at the Winton Facility. This resulted in 1 ton or rubbish being diverted from the landfill and 50 cubic meters of methane gas from being produced.

Each Chamber event include waste sorting bins and supporting staff to divert waste from landfills for all major Chamber festivals.

Eliminated plastic water bottles and replaced with aluminum for Oktoberfest.

Expanded the ability for our webcams to hold 30 days of footage to help law enforcement and prosecutors.



**AREA PROFILE** 

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#### History

Leavenworth's story is an inspiring one of a Washington town that reinvented itself. With the loss of its railway and timber industries in the 1920s, Leavenworth was a town in slow decline. In the early 1960s, it took the brave and determined decision to invest in tourism for its future. Inspired by the resemblance of the surrounding countryside to Germany's Bavarian Forest and Bavarian Alps, with its mountain wilderness and rolling meadows, Leavenworth was remodeled as a Bavarian Alpine village. Since then, Leavenworth has relied on tourism as its primary economic driver. In 2019, lodging and retail taxes accounted for 30% of the city's annual revenue bringing in a combined total of approximately \$4.29 million.

#### The Village

The downtown core, referred to as The Village, spans across approximately four blocks from east to west and two blocks from north to south, consisting primarily of Front Street, Commercial Street, 8th Street and 9th Street.

Nearly all of the shops and restaurants in the city of Leavenworth are concentrated in this core area, accounting for 30+ restaurants, 60+ retail shops, 3 bakeries, 4 coffee shops, 3 ice cream shops, 28 wine/cider tasting rooms.

Approximately 280 of the 1,238 nightly rental rooms in city limits are located in the village area and are within direct walking distance of the heart of the downtown area. There are a variety of parking options for guests that are within walking distance including 512 street stalls as well as a variety of paid parking lots. There are a total of nine paid parking lots within two blocks of the core downtown area accounting for 428 stalls.

#### Leavenworth City Limits

Leavenworth is located in Chelan County and is home to a population of just over 2,000. The area spans across approximately 1.25 square miles in the cusp of the Cascade Mountains with an elevation of 1,166 feet. There are 869 hotel/motel rooms within city limits as well as an additional 369 nightly-rental rooms spanning across a variety of bed and breakfasts, vacation homes, cabins, condos, and suites.

With a total of 1,238 nightly rental rooms, a sold out night more than doubles the population. The majority of the parking stalls in Leavenworth are concentrated within just a few blocks of the village, accounting for 940 stalls, however, there are a few additional public parking lots that span across a larger distance within city limits. One of those lots is located approximately 1/2 mile west of downtown that can accommodate 100 vehicles and the second is a 40 stall lot, approximately 1 mile east of downtown.

### Workforce

Just over 3,200 people are employed by Leavenworth's economy with the largest industries being accommodation and food services, followed by retail trade and finally, health care and social assistance. Not every industry is directly related to tourism, however, there is often a trickle-down effect. The chart below shows the relationship between employment and each industry present in Leavenworth.

Industry	Percent
Accommodation & Food Services	17.9%
Retail Trade	15.2%
Health Care & Social Services	11.2%
Educational Services	7.02%
Professional, Scientific & Tech. Services	6.92%
Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing	5.73%
Public Administration	5.63%
Real Estate and Rental Leasing	5.24%
Construction	<b>4.94</b> %
Wholesale Trade	3.85%
Manufacturing	3.56%
Transportation and Warehousing	2.96%
Other Services	2.47%
Utilities	1.68%
Information	1.19%

### Parking



Meters were installed in the village during the fall of 2020 as part of a new paid parking plan which strives to:

- Get the right parker in the right stall
- Open up parking for customers by providing appropriate options for employees
- Use data/revenue for future parking options (i.e. garage)
- Capture revenues in the downtown to fund future parking related infrastructure

In the Village/Core commercial area there are:

- 846 On Street Parking spots
- 470 In City Lots
- 83 Park and Rides
- 1399 Total Public Parking Stalls

An additional 1200+ spots are in private lots near the village/ core commercial area. (hotels, inns, Liberty Station)

### **Performing Arts**

Leavenworth is home to a variety of organizations who celebrate the arts and perform year-round at a variety of venues. Outdoor theater productions, galleries, art walks and educational experiences are all included in the Leavenworth arts and entertainment scene.

The Icicle Creek Center for the Arts is dedicated to bringing exceptional performances as well as educational experiences to the area. With piano retreats, youth orchestras, theater camps, and ticketed events, such as their Chamber Music Festival, the Center hosts thousands of people annually. Their state-of-theart facilities include a 230-capacity theater, a 100-capacity recital hall, and an outdoor stage for 700 people.

The Leavenworth Summer Theater (LST) hosts three spectacular productions each year including classics like The Sound of Music and Hello Dolly. Their productions take place at the Ski Hill Amphitheater and the Hatchery Stage, both of which have a capacity of approximately 500. The LST was established in 1994 and since then has grown substantially, drawing in upwards of 20,000 people each summer.

From April through October each year, a variety of artists set up in the downtown square on weekends to showcase and sell their work. The nonprofit organizer, Village Art in the Park, is the longest standing outdoor art event in the state.

### **Meetings & Events**

Another component to Leavenworth is the ability to host both large and small gatherings, conferences, retreats, social events, and teambuilding groups. There are more than a dozen lodging facilities in the Leavenworth area that can accommodate both intimate groups as well as meetings with a capacity of up to 600 people.

Additionally, there are 17 lodging partners who specialize in family reunions, retreats of all sizes, and more.

There are 24 wedding venue and service-related businesses spanning across the greater Leavenworth area making it the perfect destination for both intimate gatherings and lavish parties alike.

The Leavenworth Festhalle, located in the heart of downtown, is a multi-purpose center that hosts a diverse selection of events each year and can hold up to 1200 people. Each year it hosts conferences and annual festivals, including Oktoberfest, Christmastown, and the Accordion Celebration. Dozens of weddings, concerts and tradeshows also take place in the Festhalle each year drawing in small and large crowds alike.

