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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Six new projects added to community's Our Valley Our Future planning document**

### ***Education, recreation and health projects among those added following feedback from residents***

WENATCHEE — Our Valley Our Future / Nuestro Valle Nuestro Futuro has added six new projects to the community's Action Plan, the collaborative nonprofit organization announced today.

The 2020 version of the Action Plan, which includes more than 150 projects meant to sustain and strengthen residents' quality of life, was published this week. It can be found at <http://www.ourvalleyourfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/OVOF-2020-Action-Plan-small-file-size.pdf>

The initial Action Plan was released in January 2017, following two years of community outreach, visioning and planning work. OVOF told residents it would update the plan once a year, including adding new projects as others are completed. From 2017-19, lead partner organizations completed 20 projects in the Action Plan. More than 100 other projects are underway or considered ongoing.

The six new projects:

#### **Number Two Canyon Trails Project**

**Description:** Build more than 30 miles of new multi-use trails, plus parking and other amenities, in the Number Two Canyon area near Wenatchee, adding another outdoor recreation facility for use by local residents and visitors.

**Lead partner:** Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

**Status:** Underway

#### **Substance Abuse Treatment Programs**

**Description:** Enhance and expand substance abuse treatment programs for criminal offenders, including programs like Chelan County Drug Court, so that they help more drug users become productive citizens and lessen crime in the community.

**Lead partner:** The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment

**Status:** Underway

#### **Healthy Community**

**Description:** Conduct a community campaign that educates and encourages governments, schools, health-care providers, restaurants, stores, recreation groups and others to enact changes that make it easier for residents to live healthier lives.

**Lead partner:** Columbia Valley Community Health

**Status:** Underway

### **New Facilities for Higher Education**

**Description:** Construct new facilities at Wenatchee Valley College — including a new Wells Halls and a Center for Technical Education and Innovation — to house programs ranging from adult basic learning to four-year degrees. Utilize public financing and community support to build these facilities and to meet the growing demands of local industries and the region’s economy.

**Lead partners:** Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee Valley College Foundation, Chelan County Emergency Operation Center, State of Washington

**Status:** Underway (Wells Halls is being built; Center for Technical Education and Innovation is at least several years away.)

### **New East Wenatchee Public Library**

**Description:** Build a new East Wenatchee Public Library facility to meet the growing needs of our valley and its changing population, specifically addressing the need for community meeting spaces, programming for all ages, and the integration of new technology.

**Lead partners:** North Central Regional Library System, City of East Wenatchee, East Wenatchee Friends of the Library

**Status:** Planning stages

### **IRIS Online Archives**

**Description:** Transcribe 300 oral histories and success stories as told by current and past community leaders, catalogue them with the North Central Regional Library, and make them available to the general public via a searchable online archives.

**Lead partner:** Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS)

**Status:** Underway

The OVOF Board of Directors vetted the new six projects in 2019 to ensure they fit the Action Plan’s overall vision and strategies. OVOF then asked residents for feedback at an open house at Pybus Market and through a survey completed by 300 residents. After reviewing the community feedback, the OVOF Board decided in December to bring all six projects into the fold.

“The Action Plan is meant to evolve over time as the community evolves, and the new projects and completed projects are certainly examples of that,” said Steve Maher, OVOF project coordinator. “These six new projects would still be in the idea stage if not for their leaders — Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment, Columbia Valley Community Health, Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee Valley College Foundation, Chelan County Emergency Operation Center, North Central Regional Library System, City of East Wenatchee, East Wenatchee Friends of the Library, and the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship. They are all to be congratulated.”

OVOF, founded in 2015, is a collaborative nonprofit organization that brings together residents and organizations to improve our quality of life regionally. OVOF serves as convener, facilitator, data-collector, planner and communicator. For more: [www.ourvalleyourfuture.org](http://www.ourvalleyourfuture.org).

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