

Miller Peninsula State Park Property and Sequim Bay State Park—June 30, 2021 Meeting Comments

Note: Text in italics is a written response provided during the meeting from one of the presenters.

Sequim Bay comments start on page 7

<p>Since we are now in Stage 2, are no longer allowed to express hopes & concerns?</p> <p><i>You can still express your hopes and concerns. This stage talks about the range of possibilities in what we refer to as 'alternatives' so if there are elements of each of the different alternatives that you like you can express that along with any hopes and concerns you would like to be considered. Feel free to provide as much information to us as you like. It will be taken into consideration. Thanks so much for your time and for joining us this evening!</i></p>
<p>Why have we not seen staff's answers to questions received from Oct 31 2020, or the DRAFT of the SEPA checklist?</p> <p><i>Staff answers to all of the questions at the first meeting are posted on the project webpage, linked above. The draft checklist will be available on the webpage soon.</i></p>
<p>I read through the hopes/concern (30 pg doc online) previously expressed. Why no mention today of the many, many people that stated their interest in boat-in camping?</p>
<p>A park would be so much better than a massive housing development</p>
<p>I recently visited this park. It is a gem of a State Park for WA. The diversity of the forest is of the most beautiful I have ever visited. I had incredible interactions with all user groups, including equestrians, bikers and work party groups who were volunteering to do trail work. I live in Olympia, Thurston County and I am an equestrian who uses trails all over the state. Miller Peninsula State Park ranks as one of the best equestrian trail systems I have ever visited. Thank you for reading my comment.</p> <p><i>Thank you for your comment and for joining us tonight!</i></p>
<p>Diamond Pt Rd is already over whelmed with current use by many new resident, RV park that is full during much of the year, there is no good shoulder on this road and those of us trying to get to work and other necessary appts have a hard time already making left hand turns especially, but right hand ones as well. I hope there is no plan to make another RV camping area that has access off Diamond Point RD.</p>
<p>Why are opportunity areas viewed as areas for development rather than as areas for recovery/re-wilding?</p>
<p>RV camping should be restricted to Sequim Bay State Park. Diamond Point Rd cannot handle any more traffic than it already receives. I find it odd that the State Park system talks about encouraging people to get into nature but wants to increase car parking and cut down more trees within their state parks.</p>
<p>Niki mentioned possibility of events which is bothering me. I'm stressing about a planned event bringing tons of people to Miller Peninsu</p>
<p>Safety improvements at entrance are also essential!</p>
<p>Diamond Point Road & 101 this time of year is difficult to get on the Hwy, what is the plan for the extra traffic? Stop light, circle etc.</p>
<p>My name's redated. I would like my question regarding "opportunity areas" & recovery to be answered—thank you.</p>
<p>What is the interface between parks and WSDOT to recognize and fund needed traffic improvements on US101 and its several intersections between Palo Alto and Diamond Point?</p>

Sorry, if already answered - what is the specific impact to Miller Bay Park and Diamond Point Road? Will there be increase traffic on Diamond Point
What commercial activities (day camps, weddings etc.) are currently allowed at MPSP?
Why can't we talk about "opportuntiy areas" & the opportunity for them to recover & be wild places?
There is a bicycle day camp charging \$100/day per participant this summer. Is it not permitted?
Sorry it's \$100 for the duration of the day camp.
https://dungenessrivercenter.z2systems.com/np/clients/dungenessrivercenter/eventRegistration.jsp?event=195&
<i>Thank you - I will take a look after the meeting, but at first glance it appears to utilize the ODT and possibly camping, neither need permits</i>
why do planner ideas seem to go toward improvements that create bigger and better accomodations for rvs and people who want electricity rather than actual people low impact camping, especially in light of climate change concerns?
how many camp sites are you intending to set up on the Miller Penininsula? How many of them electic/water provided?
I keep contacting the county and I would like to let you guys know that you have a road boundary that is incorrect. You show a county road on here that is actually a private driveway. People keep driving down it trying to reach the beach/trailies. I'm on board with this concept of the park but we have to figure this out. My family built the road originally. The road runs down the middle of my property.
<i>Contact me at Sequim Bay (360) 683-4235 and I can get the details from you. I am out tomoorow, but back Monday</i>
How many entrances are planned for Miller Pen Park and where would they be located?
In the "village center" alternative with wildlife corridors, where are the high-value natural areas?
"This camp will help young bikers to build skills and confidence riding a mountain bike through the forested trails of Miller Peninsula State Park."
<i>Thank you, I will look at it detail after the meeting.</i>
Miller Peninsula is not well served with broadband Internet. Parks admin and 'modern' camping expect good connectivity. Is there an oppotunity to build infrastructure that could help bring brooadband to MP residents?
For any of the alternatives, how much waterfront is available and what kind of access would be planned?
How about changing "beach access" to "shoreline access"? That shore is quite gravelly and at most low tides, not wide. Users might be misled by the idea that there is "beach" there.
The beach access on the east side of the park is an eroding bluff. Are you planning on improving it or leaving it?
do all three plans have the same ammount of campsites? if not please explain.
<i>There is a range from 100 to 155+/-</i>
which options have a lodge?
<i>village center</i>

My request would be multi use trails and not to restrict horse trails, which has happened in other areas.
Just saying I applaud one of the maps addresses the possible cooperative use of DNR property to maintain wildlife connectivity corridor. Need to be a wider swath and realistically it needs underpass or overpass to make it work, to keep wildlife and cars from colliding
The Immersed in Nature and Traditional Alternative Plans seem to show development near the madrone forest on the southeast portion of the park. That forest is unique to the peninsula. Do these plans allow development in that area and how does the park plan on preventing damage to the plant communities near developed areas?
Comment, not question- The wildlife corridor is extremely important, and planning around habitat connectivity should be included in whatever alternative is selected. Thank you for considering wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity as crucial design elements!
I would request that all trails be multi-use particularly including equestrians.
Several existing trails have hikers and bikers ending up in our Diamond Point Neighborhood. Can these trails be redirected to keep these campers, hikers, bikers out of our neighborhood and our personal properties?
where is the funding coming from?
What is Miller Peninsula style...?
<i>We would love your thoughts, Northwest contemporary? Rustic?</i>
If Administration is moved to Miller from Sequim Bay, where in the Alternatives does the Administration center become located?
<i>The traditional alternative has it near the welcome center / entry</i>
Who will monitor the natural plant areas to keep them safe from being trampled?
unfortunately this designer/speaker seems to have absolutely no connection to this area, talking about wildlife viewing from a cabin and showing giant facilities that have no place here!
Can the existing trail system support so many people?????
any considerations of rating systems like sustainable sites or living building challenge? seems like a great opportunity for the state to be leader while educating.
What's the budget for each of these options???
Is the current ODT connector trail volunteers built to Pierce Rd included in all of the Alternatives?
Will trees be removed and therefore harming wildlife habitat?
What is the budget for each of these options???
We have local cougar, what is the plan to keep them local on our peninsula and safe?
What are the staffing needs for each of these options??
Are you considering the damage that will be done by campers feeding our local deer?
The designers seem to think that you need to intensely design a park in order for people to connect with nature. People need a trail and quiet spaces to connect with nature. People do not a lodge, cabins, amphitheater and more roads to connect with nature. That is taking people away from nature.
If cabins are being proposed instead of tent camping, it is important to consider the inclusivity and equitability in the costs to campers. Creating a space where most or all of the camping opportunities are higher priced, like cabins vs the cost of a tent site, makes this space inaccessible for many of the Washingtonians who currently have the least access to nature
Will the GIS mapping that has been presented be added and available on the project page? (https://parks.state.wa.us/1187/Miller-Peninsula-Planning)

Find myself struggling to understand where the water for the lush green lawns and meadows you showed will come from, in a rain shadow park. Have you based these images on any sort of geo-hydrologic assessment of what is possible? Images based on Kalaloch and Quinault ecosystem does not look realistic to me
What wildlife species utilize food trucks?
Find myself struggling to understand where the water for the lush green lawns and meadows you showed will come from, in a rain shadow park. Have you based these images on any sort of geo-hydrologic assessment of what is possible? Images based on Kalaloch and Quinault ecosystem does not look realistic to me
Where is no no development option?
Campers may search out beach access via private properties or add to the traffic in our community in their search for beach access. What plan is there to keep trespassers off private properties? We know signs don't work.
What about equestrian use???
<i>It is planned</i>
arent people going camping to go camping and enjoy nature? why would anyone need ziplines or rock climbing in miller peninsula ?? isnt fun suppose tobe in the experience of being in nature?
The kid-focused features remind me of a nice city park playground but seem disconnected from place here.
Will electric bikes be allowed on the trails?
disc golf is a really popular activity that can be implemented in a relatively low impact way, and that there is currently limited recreational opportunity for in the region
Less "fun"- NO adventurous activities ie ziplines, canopy walks etc... just enjoy the forest-- that is the point of going out in this area
It's clear development of the park is going to happen irregardless of the feelings of the majority of the community. All of your plans to develop affect the residents of Diamond Point in a negative way. Does it matter what we think?
the beach access is not realistic... the cliffs are eroding heavily! especially this past winter with heavy storms and king tides. now people are caring graffiti from panorama park to sequim bay. who is responsible for illegal activity on the cliff faces?
The whole east side of the peninsula is an eroding bluff!!
with the Jamestown S'Kallam development it seems there are competing interests. With motel there and lodges planned for both Sequim and Miller it seems there are competing accommodations.
How will the operating NTI explosives facilities be mitigated for sound to the camping areas?
Will there be a size limitation on RVs and large trailers?
Is it possible to just let the community know what would happen to the land if the park doesn't happen? Will the state sell it off for development? I'm assuming if this is the case then the objections will shift rapidly to support for determining what mix of things work appropriately.
Make the facilities more concentrated to preserve existing wildlife
Why can't the existing beach accesses be developed further instead of creating new ones?
Since professionals will be taking over trail design and regulation, can we move past from all-inclusive trails, which favor bikes and equestrians over nature study, discovery, and solitude?
Is there a study underway for evaluating the traffic issues at the 101/Diamond Point intersection?
<i>we have a traffic engineer on the team providing a preliminary study</i>

How do you see hikers, horses and more aggressive mountain bikers sharing a trail?
I appreciate the inclusion of people with limited mobility, seniors, and folks who are new to "wilderness" experiences. State Parks are such an important resource to all Washingtonians, not just those of us who are blessed to live here
Has the land acquisition in MP for the potential beach access been agreed on already? And what is the estimation price?
Maintain access for existing wildlife to move through the park
There are two private water systems that supply the Diamond Point community. One of those companies has two wells that are in the park and fairly close to your proposed camping areas. Have you assessed the impact of your sewage treatment plant on those wells? Also will any wells you drill for this new development affect existing water users?
As someone who camped with my young family, we found it difficult to find campsites that would accept tents or popup campers. It's already tipped too heavily toward RVs.
What is the ground water prospects for this area?
who is responsible for destruction of the cliffs/beach faces as more people descend on the beach?
Miller Peninsula is unique and special due to the lack of development. Keeping impact as low as possible is the best way to ensure people can enjoy the best parts about it.
there already is a county disk golf course on Miller Pen on Thompson rd
how is creation of beach access in Miller Park not going to create the same long term, erosion issues that are now facing beach areas at Sequim Bay Park?
Is there an option to simply maintain Miller Peninsula Park as it exists, with trails for hiking, riding horses, and bicycling? It appears that most of the options presented are geared toward creating an amusement park, and ruining the natural environment.
What is water availability for park development
Access from Diamond Point Road to Highway 101 is already problematic. With Miller SP development additional vehicles will be added to the existing traffic load. What plans have been considered to address this already dangerous and overloaded intersection?
NO ON VILLAGE CENTER PLAN!
how many of you on this panel have actually been on the trails that are already here? The pictures I have seen show land features that do not exist on these trails that I have hiked (I live off diamond pt rd) and would entail destroying a lot of sensitive habitat and probably driving away more of the cougars, foxes, bobcats, and other solitary animals that are now calling this peninsula home...
Eroding bluffs are an extremely important natural resource for habitat forming processes. Any proposed improvements being made need to not effect the erosion of the bluffs
What about entering the park from E Sequim Bay Road?
Is there more specific information available on existing vegetation areas and the planning for identifying and preserving high-value ones? Or are those surveys in the future?
Why isn't there a "no development" option?
Local volunteers pick up trash on a regular basis on the perimeter of the park. We do this because we love our quiet park and Diamond Point neighborhood. Will State employees take on this responsibility since you're changing our community?
What about increased traffic on Diamond Pt Road? Is another road access a possibility?
As I understood it, the main entrance would be just before the sharp right turn on Diamond Pt. Rd. (near the 1 mile marker). This will be a problem because of traffic coming from the north. Trees and brush block the view of campers entering the park coming from the south.

Currently this park property is a gem for multiuse trails. Please whatever alternative Parks hits on, keep as many trails as possible and as multiuse trails.
How soon might development begin?
Just a thought- doesn't need to be read aloud- The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has a very beautiful and distinctive aesthetic established along the 101 in Blyn. If there was a respectful and appropriate way to collaborate with the JSKT to draw inspiration for style/design, that would be a lovely and visually consistent way to represent the "look" of our area
Do any of tonight's presenters know what species presently inhabit the MPSP area? For instance: how many species of birds have been observed there?
Young don't get older when you remove them.
there are also bear in the area
given that the odt is planned to become part of the larger cross washington trail -and cross continental route are there plans for more dispersed primitive bike access camping that could provide space for bike packers using this trail route?
The bears and cougars travel through the site to the beach. This will happen more with drought.
I like the alternative with the wildlife corridor, but I do not favor the intense development of the "village" concept. Are these features somehow linked?
We have only a small volunteer fire department. Will you accept responsibility should a camper set our woods and possibly our neighborhood on fire?
Discouraging campers from feeding deer, really? You think that will work?
Thank you for considering people with disabilities and mobility limitations. Those people are "real people" too, and I appreciate you including their needs and interests in planning shared resources
Is the point of developing this park really just to bring revenue into Sequim? Be honest.
if all parks are built out to accomodate teenagers or those who want exciting camping adventures, where are accomodations the desires of people who want to have camping experiences that are basic and simple?
I don't thik it is all negative.
What about 101 and the high traffic?
Traffic is back-up from the hood canal bridgeallthe way to sequim???
So will JSKT operate the concessions in the park?
which state agency is responsible for the protecting the cliff faces? graffiti is happening at a fast pace now. the county parks say they are not responsible for protection, who is?
Did you really state that you care little about the Diamond Point community and more about bringing people in from the rest of the state? This is about bring in revenue, right?
Is widening of DP Road in the plan?
will a state environmental impact statement be done which specifically addresses the impact a trail to the beach would make on the cliffs in the area?
thank you for putting this presentation together - I appreciate the hard work you are putting in, and I do hope that you truly take into consideration how the various plans will effect wildlife, and the health and safety of the people and animals that live here, already use the current RV park that is on Diamond Point right now.
120 campsites is more typical of highly developed State Parks like Dosewallips, Fort Worden, or Fort Flagler. Will you consider a lesser number like 50-70 campsites with an option for possible expansion at a later date?
Has consideration been given for emergency services EMT, FIRE, POLICE

hiker-biker campsites in both MP and SB are important -- they are different places and going a bit off-ODT to a quiet campsite would be attractive.
Seriously people....do you want a campground or a massive housing development? The devil you know...
Campfire smoke is often noted when passing by Sequim Bay State park. Is it possible to eliminate campfires in the new Miller development to maintain the pristine air quality we enjoy in the area?
Hang in there, presenters. Public meetings are a blood bath, always a bunch of vocal nimby's, but there are a lot of citizens who appreciate the work you do for all of us!
Thank you for the presentation and the opportunity to comment on the park designs. There are obviously a lot of conflicting ideas to consider, I look forward to hearing more about this project as it develops.
thank you for a thorough presentation
Thank you for an encompassing presentation and respectfully responding to the variety of ideas related to developing another destination for WA state residents.
thank you everyone. great discussion
Thank you
Thank you. Nice job.

Sequim Bay State Park Comments

Will the bulkhead be removed after the pier is removed?
What are the future plans for the group campground area?
Will we get a chance to review these options again. It is hard to comment without studying them?
1) Pier at SB St Pk is essential at this location, AND is likely impossible at Miller Pen St Pk.
What do you include in the definition of "concessions"?
are the monies for sequim bay development and miller park development coming from the same or different pots of money?
The creosote bulkhead at the peir will be removed when the pier is removed.(Will the bulkhead be removed after the pier is removed?)
If the lower campground loop is prone to landslide and should be closed in the future, how would turning it into parking mitigate this hazard? Wouldn't parking areas slide as well?
Will reduced camping opportunities at Sequim Bay necessitate high-use developed camping at Miller Peninsula?
are there any design elements to improve performance or sustainability?
Once the pier is gone, will that area and the (now closed) group campground still be open for day use, or is it considered too unstable/unsafe? Thanks!
will there be additional ecological learning opportunities for visitors?
I like the idea of Alt 3 and rebuilding the pier, but this also involves the moving of camping to Miller and installing Clamping. Not sure that is a good idea. Many campers will still prefer Sequim Bay for water access, which is much better than Miller.
What about a marine park facilities or boating access use for overnight camping?
Tough to weigh (in isolation) whether the "new vision" of SB St Pk as a day-use park makes sense without simultaneously knowing what's proposed for Miller Pen St Pk.
Are dogs considered members of the public in the state parks charter?
Have you considered the effect of climate change to either give deluge levels of rain on the stability of the slope or give you drought conditions impacting water for visitors.

If you build cabins at Sequim Bay to eliminate RV camping there does that mean you will move RV camping to Miller?
Why not develop both Sequim Bay and Miller as day use parks? Sequim Bay could provide for those who are looking for boat and/or kayak launch, and Miller could remain primarily for those who want a more "natural" experience through trail use.
Can kayak rental concessions be located at Sequim Bay state park
back around the time the original planning efforts were underway (2006) I was working on a comprehensive strategic development plan (for EDC, for dept of commerce, for all 3 counties) was toilets for ODT users. This remains one of the key issues that seems to have been overlooked in all previous planning processes, bicyclists need bathrooms. This is an area where Sequim Bay Park could do very well
Is there a possibility of acquiring additional property in the Sequim Bay locations on either side of the highway?
what is modernized camping?
What none camping and day use are you allowing in Sequim Bay.. You allow a day school to use it. What else?
Because Sequim Bay has a boat launch, could additional marine facilities be considered (buoys, more dock moorage, overnight camping?
"Cabin camping" isn't camping. There are plenty of hotels etc. on the Peninsula!