

## Recent accomplishments and activities in your state parks

### Washington Coast cleanup draws hundreds of volunteers

More than 800 volunteers joined an April effort to clean



up trash and marine debris along Washington's coastline from Neah Bay to Cape Disappointment.

Last year, beach cleanup volunteers removed more than 23 tons of debris, including cigarette butts, bottles and beverage cans; bags and food wrappers; lids, cups, plates and eating utensils.

Sponsors included Washington Clean Coast Alliance, a partnership of eight founding members, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Future cleanups are scheduled for Long Beach on July 5 and Operation Shore Patrol at Twin Harbors State Park Sept. 20-21.

For more information and to sign up for the Washington Coast Cleanup, visit the Washington Clean Coast Alliance Web site at [www.coastsavers.org](http://www.coastsavers.org).

### Cape Disappointment hosts North Head Light House anniversary event

Visitors to the Ilwaco area joined State Parks in May to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Head Light House at Cape Disappointment State Park. Special events featured shipwreck rescue tales, tours of the lighthouse and keepers' residences and living history reenactments of life among the lighthouse employees in the early 1900s.

### Picnic at the Palouse features new ice age floods panels

A May open-house picnic at Palouse Falls State Park gave park staff an opportunity to show off some new

visitor features now available at the park. Visitors got a first look at new interpretive Ice Age floods panels, along with park upgrades while on a guided tour of the park. The first 600 guests got free lunch, as well. Park staff reported that the day was enhanced by spectacular views of heavy water flows over the falls due to recent high temperatures and resulting mountain ice melts.



*New interpretive panels at Palouse Falls State Park tell the story of Ice Age floods and the landscapes they carved in the area.*



## What's new for visitors? Sacajawea State Park

**New trees:** In April, volunteers from local garden clubs recognized Earth Day with a donation of seven trees to Sacajawea. The trees replaced those lost or damaged by wind. Local news media covered the event, which was organized to recognize Earth Day in state parks.

**Birding trail site:** The Audubon Society has nominated the park for inclusion in its state birding trail map. The nomination is based on

the visiting population of bald eagles and accessibility to other birds at the park year-round.

The recognition is part of a larger effort to promote high-quality birding watching sites nationwide.

**Pioneer Picnic:** The local chapter of the Daughters of the Pioneers will sponsor a Pioneer Picnic at Sacajawea on June 28. The event will feature a potluck and

music by Park Manager Reade Obern and other members of the Traditional Folk Arts Society.

**School tour groups** are again visiting the park and the renovated museum, designed to be engaging for all levels of students. Many teachers save money and heighten learning by incorporating science and nature walks into their field trips.

### Centennial 2013 Plan Recent Endorsements

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# CENTENNIAL 2013

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- UPDATE EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS
- WORK TOWARD NEW PARKS AND TRAILS

# News

## Cama Beach will soon become Washington's newest state park

State Parks, partners and friends will celebrate the grand opening of Cama Beach State Park on June 21, 2008. The new state park is on the southwest shore of Camano Island facing Saratoga Passage.

The historic fishing resort, within a 90-minute drive from Seattle, was a favorite summer getaway for families for more than 50 years. The area, used for centuries by Native Americans for fishing, hunting and gathering, looks out on sweeping views of the Sound, with Whidbey Island and the Olympic Mountains beyond. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission began acquiring land through a combination of family donation and sale in 1994. The resort was operated by Muriel and Lee Risk. The Risk daughters, Karen Hamalainen and Sandra Worthington, have worked with the Washington State Parks Foundation to help make the park, which is on the National Historic Register, available to future generations.

Cama Beach State Park is set in a spectacular, 433-acre waterfront location against a forested backdrop.

It is connected by a mile-long trail to Camano Island State Park, a 134-acre camping park. Both parks are open for day use or overnight stays year round.

Visitors can explore the expansive shoreline, gaze at beautiful sunsets, view an array of wildlife, hike or bike the park's 15 miles of trail and take in a boating workshop with the Center for Wooden Boats.

Cama Beach offers visitors a chance to step back in time to a 1930s-era Puget Sound fishing resort complete with waterfront cedar cabins and bungalows. These have been refurbished, with modern conveniences added and are available for rent year round to individuals and groups. Opening prices are discounted and range from \$17 to \$100 per night. Facilities will accommodate four to eight people.

A retreat center and dining hall are planned for the site, with completion slated for sometime in winter of 2009-2010.

Call (360) 387-1550 for reservations or (360) 902-8844 for more information. Or visit [www.parks.wa.gov/camabeach](http://www.parks.wa.gov/camabeach).



*Cama Beach State Park on Camano Island, once a fishing resort, offers visitors sweeping views of Puget Sound and the feel of earlier times.*

# Innovative State Parks No Child Left Inside program awards \$1.5 million in grants to get kids outdoors

This spring, State Parks awarded grants to 25 organizations and agencies across the state as part of the No Child Left Inside program, created to get kids connected with nature.

The funds, earmarked for youth outdoor education and recreation programs, went to school districts, non-profit organizations, conservation districts, environmental organizations and others. The 2007 Washington Legislature established the No Child Left Inside program, provided \$1.5 million in funds and appointed the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to administer the program. State Parks convened an advisory committee of 22 organizations, natural resource agencies, private businesses and outdoor education leaders to set grant criteria and help with selection. A total of 238 grant applications were received, totaling more than \$8.6 million in requests.

“It is exciting to get this program on the ground so fast and get the awards made so organizations can get start getting kids outdoors,” said Rex Derr, State Parks director.

“Washington is one of the first states in the nation to have its Legislature establish and fund a No Child Left Inside grant program like this one.”

The national discussion was sparked by author Richard Louv’s 2006 bestseller, “Last Child in the Woods.” Louv coined the phrase “nature deficit disorder” and joined others in making the case that younger generations are growing up without a strong connection to nature, putting their very health and overall well-being in peril.

Outdoor education and activities, in contrast, can help reduce stress among over-scheduled children and increase their attention spans. Getting children out of doors where they might learn about nature also can reduce absenteeism, create positive behavioral changes and increase overall test scores at school.

The “No Child Left Inside” program administered by



Washington State Parks seeks to:

- Provide a large number of underserved students, especially those at risk of failing or dropping out of school, with quality opportunities to directly experience the natural world through ecological, environmental, educational and recreation experiences.
- Improve the student’s overall academic performance, life skills, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health and understanding of nature.

- Empower local communities to engage students in outdoor

education and recreation experiences.

“You literally see the light go on in their eyes. Learning about our environment and getting out in nature is very powerful for anyone – but especially for kids,” said former State Parks Ranger Frank Galloway, who coordinates the program. “It can provide meaning for their lives and give them a sense of confidence and self-reliance that branches out to other areas of their lives and helps them be successful.”

For more information, e-mail [NoChildLeftInside@parks.wa.gov](mailto:NoChildLeftInside@parks.wa.gov) or call (360) 902-8844.

# Arts in the Parks hosts two fiestas in north central state parks



*Top: Foklor Latino members perform for nearly 1,500 people at a community-sponsored Cinco de Mayo fiesta at Wenatchee Confluence State Park. Bottom: Osoyoos Lake State Park features the Okanogan Valley Foklorico Dancers, bottom.*

Osoyoos Lake and Wenatchee Confluence state parks offered two Cinco de Mayo Fiestas this spring, drawing more than 2,000 guests. The community-produced events in north central Washington celebrated Latino music and culture with support from

The Washington State Parks Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program. Additional funding was provided by the Washington State Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.