

Recent accomplishments and activities in your state parks

New Connor Creek Bridge: Grays Harbor County, North Beach, work with State Parks

State Parks, Grays Harbor County and the North Beach Community Improvement Association celebrated the dedication of a new bridge on Nov. 16 at Connor Creek.

State, county and community worked together to



New access over Connor Creek.

solve a long-standing problem in the area by providing easy beach access for visitors and emergency vehicles.

During the past several years, Connor Creek had shifted north about four miles, cutting off easy vehicle access to the beach in two places, at Heath Road and Benner Gap. Grays Harbor County will assume ownership and management responsibility for the new bridge.

Cape Disappointment boat launch upgrades complement Confluence Project

A modern boat launch and art by Maya Lin through the

Confluence Project will help make Baker Bay a destination area within Cape Disappointment State Park.

In 2006, State Parks constructed a new breakwater for the boat launch area as part of Phase I. Phase II is under way. It calls for replacement of the boat launch ramps and floats. Funding for both phases—about \$1 million—was provided through a Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant.

Phase III will be completed by summer 2009 and involves the redesign and paving of the boat launch parking area and replacement of the restroom. This phase will also be funded through a grant through RCO's Boating Facilities Program at an estimated cost of nearly \$700,000.

The boat launch installation, along with design, funding and construction from the Confluence Project, will complete the redevelopment of the Baker Bay area of the park.

Fort Worden draws crowds with wildlife, nature expo

More than 900 visitors from 11 states and Canada attended a wildlife and nature art event in early October at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend.

The event included nature walks, wildlife education programs and award-winning nature art, with an emphasis on the endangered sea otter and the state's recovery plan for them. Steve Jeffries, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,



Artist prepares artifact at expo offered a slide presentation, "The Recovery of Washington's Sea Otter Population," on both days.

Featured artists hailed from Washington, Oregon, Montana, California and Canada. The expo netted the park about \$3,000 after expenses, according to staff.

Planning for next year's expo is already under way and includes larger facilities to accommodate more artists. The wildlife focus at the next expo will be on the Fisher, which will be reintroduced into the Olympics next year.

Eastern Washington parks end summer with cultural events

Lake Chelan State Park played host to the Rhythms of the Lake Festival, and Riverside State Park celebrated Hispanic heritage in September outdoor festivals featuring music, dance and storytelling.

These were two of 30 events statewide in the third season of the Folk & Traditional Arts in the Parks Program. An estimated 4,000 park visitors attended cultural events in more than thirteen parks.

Funding is from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Washington State Arts Commission, the Washington State Parks Foundation and State Park Region Offices.

Planning is under way for events in 2008.



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Storm damage takes toll on state parks

Winter storms that brought record rainfalls, high winds and widespread flooding to much of Western Washington in early December caused damage to state park buildings, trails, campgrounds, roads and bridges. Early park damage estimates are pegged at more than \$5 million.

While residents along rivers and lowlands were struggling to repair damage to their homes and find relief for lost belongings, state park staffers were assessing damage to state parks in Pacific, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis and Mason counties. Some of the damage was particularly disheartening to park staff who recently had seen progress on new projects. Included on the damage list:

- A historic pedestrian suspension bridge under reconstruction at Rainbow Falls State Park washed away.
- Resurfaced bridges along the Willapa Hills Trail near Chehalis gone.
- Trees went down on newer roofs and park buildings at Lake Sylvia, Schafer and other Southwest Washington state parks.
- An estuary project at Belfair was set back significantly by floods and mudflows.
- A metal roof on the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment peeled back in high winds.

"Our hearts go out to the people whose homes were damaged and lost, and we feel strongly that private property needs should come first," said State Parks Direc-

tor Rex Derr. "The State is applying for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) money to help rebuild, and State Parks will be included in that request. We do plan to rebuild and repair parks as quickly as we can."

Nearly every year, volunteers help repair parks after winter storms, and this year's damage already is spurring groups to help, according to State Parks Volunteer Coordinator Pamela McConkey. Volunteers are encouraged to contact her at (360) 902-8593. Those who wish to donate financial assistance towards storm damage repairs in parks are encouraged to do so online through the Washington State Parks Foundation, www.washington-stateparksfoundation.org and stipulate donations are for storm damage repairs.



Centennial 2013 Plan Recent Endorsements

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Park and play in the snow: Sno-Parks welcome winter sports enthusiasts

Washington state Sno-Parks are now open and ready for cross-country skiers and snowmobilers.

Before heading out to enjoy the snow, winter sports enthusiasts need to register snowmobiles and purchase Sno-Park permits. More than 125 retail dealers statewide and throughout the State Parks system offer the permits for sale. Those who need one-day permits also can purchase them online at www.parks.wa.gov/winter.

Winter season 2007-08 fees include \$10 for a one-day permit, \$30 for a seasonal and \$30 for a Special Groomed Trails Permit. Vendors add a \$1 handling fee. Washington State Parks Sno-Park permits



allow visitors to park in more than 120 designated parking lots in winter recreation areas in the Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Closures, new parks: Nason Ridge Sno-Park near Lake Wenatchee State Park will be closed this season because of winter logging. Downriver Golf Course Sno-Park in Spokane

and Hardtime Sno-Park along the Wind River Highway in southwestern Washington are no longer available.

Several new Sno-Parks have been added: Ape Cave and Government Mineral

Springs (South Cascades area), CS Road 54 and Lake Keechelun (I-90 corridor/Mt. Snoqualmie area) and Silver Springs (Crystal Mountain area).

Snowmobile registration: More than 80 designated snowmobile Sno-Parks are available in



Washington. Snowmobile owners are issued a seasonal snowmobile Sno-Park permit as part of the annual snowmobile registration fee. Registration is valid from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, for \$30 a year per sled (\$12 a year per vintage sled), plus additional dealer fees. Snowmobile owners can register their sleds through county auditors or local Department of Licensing sub-agencies.

State Parks' Non-motorized and Snowmobile Sno-Park programs are supported entirely by user fees, snowmobile registrations and a percentage of the state of Washington's fuel tax.

Find detailed information, including trail grooming reports, on the State Parks winter recreation Web page, www.parks.wa.gov/winter.

Efforts to build partnerships expands at Washington State Parks

Targeted efforts to build new partnerships and reinforce existing ones are part of Washington State Parks' Centennial 2013 goals. Partnerships provide clear public benefits by expanding services and boosting improvements to parks and trails statewide.



work together on a common goal."

Whether they are formal, signed partnerships or casual arrangements made with a park manager for trail improvement or cleanup weekends, partnerships are at work everywhere to care for the park system. Here are just a few examples:

Northwest region

- Cascadia Marine Trail - With Washington Water Trails Association, to build campsites along the trail

Puget Sound Region

- Lake Sammamish State Park and Sound Transit, to redesign the park entrance as part of outside transit project

Eastern Region

- Riverside State Park Centennial Trail Agreement with City of Spokane and Spokane County, to help maintain and operate the trail

Southwest Region

- Beacon Rock State Park and Chinook Trails Association, to develop Chinook Trail

Fort Worden has several formal agreements, including one with Peninsula College, to provide college classes at the park and another with the Burke Museum to develop the Natural History Museum.

For more information, visit the Washington State Parks Web site at www.parks.wa.gov or call the State Parks information line, (360) 902-8844 during business hours.

Intern assembles Saltwater State Park's rich cultural history

Last summer a cultural diversity internship brought 22-year old University of Chicago student Miroslav Lysyuk to the Pacific Northwest for the first time. Steven Starlund, State Parks Stewardship Manager for Puget Sound Region, had successfully applied for the cultural resources internship through the Student Conservation Association and the National Park Service. When Russian-born Lysyuk found himself at Saltwater State Park near Des



Intern Miroslav Lysyuk

Moines, his charge was to focus on a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cultural landscape history.

By summer's end, Lysyuk had produced a complete Cultural Resource Management plan for the park. His story of the park's history outlined the area's use by Native Americans, pioneers and settlers. It also brought to life the arduous work performed by the CCC to transform a ravine into a popular Washington State Park.

Lysyuk's project has expanded

the park staff's ability to share the park's history with visitors who want a deeper cultural and historic understanding of the park. It will also help State Parks to better care for the area's cultural landscape

Understanding the mutually beneficial nature of internships, State Parks staff is working to expand its internship agreements statewide. For example:

- Blake Island staff is working with an outdoor recreation San Diego State University intern.
- A Central Washington University intern recently completed three months of service and accepted a

new internship to inventory artifacts with the Cascade Rail Foundation.

- Lake Easton staff works with a Central Washington University intern on interpretive programs.
- A State Parks region office intern is working a cultural resource management plan for Twanoh State Park.

Efforts are under way to establish ongoing internship agreements with both the University of Washington and Western Washington University.

For more information, contact Steve Starlund (253) 288-2579, or steven.starlund@parks.wa.gov.