



State Parks celebrates 94th birthday under Capitol dome

Washington State Parks celebrated its 94th birthday at the Capitol this year from Feb. 26 to 28 with three days of information sharing under the Capitol dome in Olympia.

Staff and other volunteers answered questions and distributed agency information to hundreds of visitors, legislators and touring students. The event raised awareness about enjoyment and learning opportunities offered by Washington's 120 state parks and the Centennial 2013 Plan.

"This is the perfect time and place to answer Legislators' questions," said State Parks' Director Rex Derr. "We are thrilled with the Governor's and the Legis-

lature's support. The governor's proposed funding allows us to get started with the first priority of the Centennial 2013 Plan – fix what we have. There have been many discussions in the Legislature about helping improve state parks and services."

The 2007-2009 state budget was final in April.

The state's park system will celebrate its 100th birthday on March 19, 2013. The agency is working closely with an advisory committee comprised of legislators, business leaders and citizens to take care of existing parks and build a legacy for the future, in preparation for a second century of service and a statewide Centennial celebration.

The Centennial 2013 Vision captures the Commission's intention: "In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations



State Parks' traditional mascot, Eager Beaver, greets touring students in the Legislative rotunda in Olympia during the agency's 94th birthday celebration at the Capitol Feb. 26 to 28.

of uncommon quality..." is the first phrase in State Parks' Centennial 2013 vision statement. For

more information, visit: www.parks.wa.gov/centennial2013.

State Parks icons now on sale

Washington State Parks icon prints, a series of images representing the unique features of individual state parks, are available for sale in two sizes on the State Parks Web site.

The prints represent the diverse and distinctive character of state parks. Every picture captures a particular feature of natural, cultural, historical or recreational significance. As a group, the icons reflect the beauty of Washington state and the wonderful opportunities available to the public in their state parks. Individually, they are intended to inspire memories of visitors' favorite parks and experiences.

To develop the icons, park staff helped choose themes and symbols, and then State Parks Marketing Manager Susan Mayer, artist Suzanne Wood and designer Donetta Matautia worked as a team to produce them. So far, 55 state parks have icons, and more are being developed.

The images sell for \$11 and \$16, plus tax and shipping. To order visit www.parks.wa.gov/specialoffers.asp or call (360) 902-8844.



Parks move toward Centennial 2013 goals

The Centennial 2013 Plan's three priorities (1. Fix what we have; 2. Expand existing parks; 3. Build new parks and trails for the future) are designed to ensure that Washington citizens reap the following benefits as a result of an investment in their park system:

- Higher quality parks, natural resources, facilities and experiences
- Greater capacity so more people can enjoy their parks
- A tighter bond between Washington's state parks, communities and people

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has made progress on the 11 goals

of the Centennial 2013 Plan. (Visit: www.parks.wa.gov/Centennial2013/progress.asp) Progress as of December 31, 2006, is as follows:

- 1) Stewardship
Goal: 120 parks have land-use plans. Progress: 30 parks have completed land-use plans.
- 2) Enjoyment, Health and Learning
Goal: 120 state parks offer community events and interpretive programs. Progress: 59 parks offer community events and

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Parks measure success on goals

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interpretive programs.

3) Public service

Goal: Agency rates at least "B+" on surveys.

Progress: In 2006, Responsible Management did a scientific survey of 1,200 citizens; respondents gave Washington State Parks an overall grade of "B" or better on questions relating to satisfaction and quality of services and facilities in their state parks.

4) Facilities

Goal: Rebuild half of the state park system – Deferred maintenance, 1,860 of 2,782 projects completed; major renovations, \$17.8 million of \$87.85 million completed.

5) Partnerships

Partnership goal: Double

partnerships to 500. Partnership progress: 312 partnerships in place
Volunteer goal: 500,000 annual volunteer hours. Volunteer

"In a 2006 scientific survey, citizens gave State Parks an overall grade of 'B' or better on quality of services and facilities in state parks."

progress: Approximately 1,200 volunteers donated 296,000 volunteer hours.

6) Financial strategy

Goal: 120 state parks have busi-

ness plans that include cost savings and four revenue sources (taxes, facility fees, product and service revenues and donations). Progress: 8 state parks have business plans; 75 parks have plans in draft.

7) Trails

Goal: 1,000 new miles of trail for public use. Progress: 704.5 new trail miles added.

8) Expand existing parks, build new parks

Goal: Open three new parks, expand 10 parks. Progress: Expansion parks identified as Beacon Rock, Belfair, Cape Disappointment, Deception Pass, Fort Worden, John Wayne Pioneer Trial (West), Lake Sammamish, Millersylvania, Pearrygin Lake and Riverside state parks. New park sites identified for planning and development are Lake Spokane,

Miller Peninsula, Nisqually Mashel.

9) Historic sites

Goal: Four major historic sites renovated and open. Progress: Planning underway for Saint Edward State Park Seminary, Fort Simcoe and Olmstead Place; Iron Horse/South Cle Elum Depot - completed and open

10) Ice Age Floods story

Goal: Tell the story of the Ice Age Floods. Progress: The Commission adopted the State Parks Ice Age Flood Interpretive Plan, and phase I development is under way.

11) 100 Connections

Goal: 100 citizen gift projects in parks all over the state. Progress: 39 projects completed.

Puget Sound Clean Water effort progresses

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is making swift progress on all 24 state parks projects identified and funded in the Puget Sound-Hood Canal cleanup effort.

At Fort Casey on Whidbey Island, a new drainfield and restroom are currently under construction, with completion just around the corner. Meanwhile, Twanoh State Park's wastewater treatment project is well under way, with completion expected by June.

The Governor and Legislature appropriated \$17.3 million in the 2006 supplemental budget for wastewater and sewer treatment projects

in 24 parks, as part of the larger goal of cleaning up Sound waters. State Parks is one of several state

agency, county and tribal partners working on the effort. State parks were chosen so that work could

get under way quickly and parks could serve as models for Sound-friendly development. Design work has been completed for projects at Sequim Bay and Deception Pass state parks. Scoping and pre-design work are complete at Belfair, Dosewallips, Kitsap Memorial, Potlatch, Scenic Beach, Shine Tidelands, Birch Bay, Fay Bainbridge, Fort Worden, Fort Flagler, Illahee, Kopachuck, Larrabee and Penrose Point state parks. The remaining parks targeted for the funding have scoping and pre-design under way; these parks include Possession Point, Blake Island, Fort Ebey, Camano Island, Triton Cove and Pleasant Harbor.



A 2006 sewer system failure at Twanoh coincided with the beginning of construction on a \$1 million project to replace the park's wastewater collection and treatment system. The \$968,000 project is due for completion by the end of June 2007.

Recent accomplishments and activities in your state parks

Land exchange adds campsites at Potlatch: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission recently approved a land exchange that will result in new campsites and updated wastewater and sewer systems at Potlatch State Park on Hood Canal. The land exchange between a local homeowners' association, State Parks and the Skokomish Tribe represents gains for all parties and allows State Parks to work toward Hood Canal cleanup efforts, while ensuring the park remains open. The Skokomish Tribal Nation will receive

needed land access to a planned federal tribal housing development that will allow them to relocate tribal residences currently in the Skokomish flood plain. State Parks staff say that, as part of the tribe's development, park visitors and passing motorists will enjoy a safer park entrance area on US Highway 101.

New cabins near completion: Lincoln Rock State Park staff report that their new cabins have sparked interest after recent coverage in the Wenatchee Daily World. The two-room cabins are 10' by 26' with nearby showers and restrooms. Each has a fire pit and picnic table. They

will rent for \$45 a night and have heating and air conditioning. For more information, call 1-888-226-7688.

State Park Ambassador honored: State Parks' ambassador Tab Tabacek of Renton was recognized at the March 8 Commission meeting in Castle Rock for his dedication and outstanding volunteer efforts. Since 2002, Tabacek has volunteered 5,000 hours at 15 parks. One of about 550 park hosts in 2006, he also helped train fellow hosts, wrote articles for RV publications, gathered endorsements and distributed information about Centennial 2013. For the last

three years, he promoted State Parks through radio interviews with KMPS radio in Seattle.



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