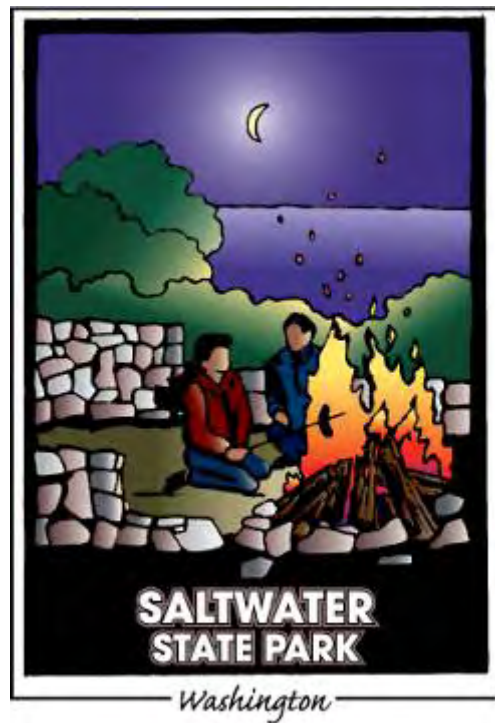
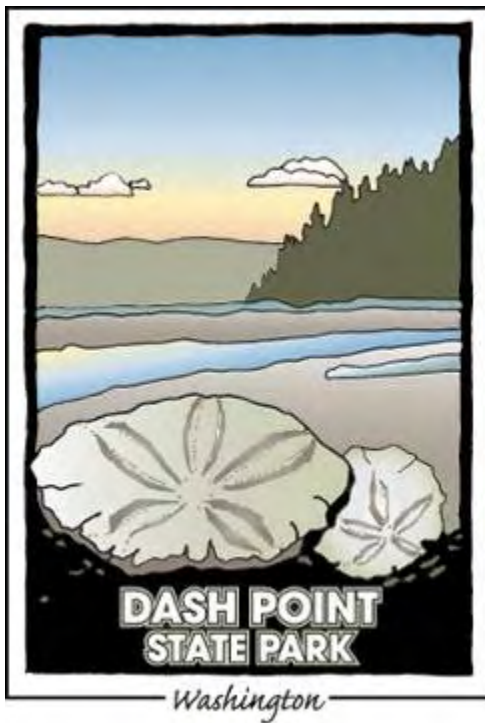


# SeaTac Area State Parks Management Plan

Adopted January 13, 2009



WASHINGTON STATE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



**CAMP**

Washington State Parks  
Classification and Management Planning Project

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONTACTS**

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the many stakeholders and staff members who participated in public meetings, reviewed voluminous materials, and made this a better plan because of it.

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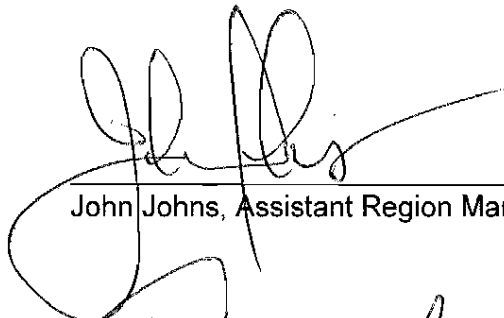
# SeaTac Area State Parks Management Plan

## Certificate of Adoption

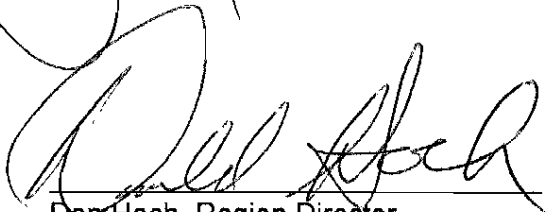
The signatures below certify the adoption of this plan by Washington State Parks for the continued management of the SeaTac Area State Parks.

  
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## PREFACE

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of 121 parks located throughout the state.

The Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan in October, 2003, thereby creating a focus intended to energize and bring together the agency, state leadership and the public, to work toward a parks system all can celebrate as it turns 100 years old and prepares for a second century of service. The Centennial 2013 Plan blends public and private funding, engages more partnerships and creates greater public ownership of the system.

The Centennial 2013 Plan calls for improvements to Puget Sound area state parks, including Dash Point and Saltwater. Completion of this plan will take us one step closer to achieving an important goal for the Centennial 2013 Plan -- "All 121 parks have land-use plans supported by the public and Commission (which includes the direction for care of historic buildings, sites and natural resources)."

These land-use plans follow a process that has been used by the Commission since 1996, called the CAMP Project. CAMP is an acronym for Classification and Management Planning. One of the most important elements is the classification of lands. In 1995, the Commission adopted a land classification system. Application of the system creates zones, or land classifications, within a park (see Appendix A). Six distinct classifications determine what recreational uses and types of developments are appropriate in different areas of a park. In general, sensitive areas are classified restrictively and allow only low-intensity uses and development of minor facilities. Less sensitive areas are classified to allow higher-intensity uses and more extensive facilities development.

A CAMP project brings together park users, nearby community, State Parks staff and others in a public process that forges a common vision of what the state park should become. This plan is intended to focus efforts to balance resource protection with recreational opportunities in a park. For State Parks' staff, this document represents policy approval and a means to improve a state park that meets the Centennial 2013 Vision:

*In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources that are outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people.*

## **SUMMARY**

The SeaTac Area state parks provide quality outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, while preserving important natural and cultural resources within central Puget Sound. The development of the SeaTac Area Classification and Management Plan began in February 2008 with assembly of an interagency planning team comprised on park, region and other specialized staff. Public outreach in this planning process was extensive. The planning team sent e-mails to approximately 1,500 park users and mailed over 700 postcards and letters to neighbors and other interested parties. Three public workshops were conducted to solicit public input on the identification of management issues, to explore a range of management and land classification alternatives, and to present preliminary land classification and management recommendations that led to the contents of this plan.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to: 1) orient readers to the park and the agency's park management planning system; 2) identify park-level natural, cultural, and recreation and facility management issues; and 3) provide initial direction to park staff (suggested management approaches) to address these issues (see Table 1). This document describes how the agency intends to balance recreational use with measures to protect natural and cultural resources.

This plan is divided into five sections, with several appendices, and is organized as follows:

- Section 1: Provides a brief overview of the SeaTac Area state parks including its geography, historical background, major attributes, and public use.
- Section 2: Describes the public process that led to this Classification and Management Plan (CAMP).
- Section 3: Outlines management objectives established for the SeaTac Area.
- Section 4: Describes each park's land classification (management zoning) and long-term park boundary.
- Section 5: Lists natural, cultural, and recreational/facility resource issues identified through the public planning and outlines general approaches toward addressing them.

Appendices contain additional supporting documentation pertinent to this resource management planning process and the future management of the SeaTac Area state parks.

Table 1 Summary of SeaTac Area State Parks Issues

<b>Natural Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Area-Wide Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of natural plant and animal communities</li> <li>• Wildfire protection</li> <li>• Shellfish management</li> <li>• Green and sustainable parks</li> </ul>
<b>Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Vision –stream and estuary restoration</li> <li>• Protection of wetlands</li> </ul>
<b>Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Vision - McSorley Creek restoration plan</li> <li>• Management of the artificial reef</li> <li>• Air quality</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Area-Wide Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of archaeological resources</li> </ul>
<b>Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of historic structures</li> </ul>
<b>Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of historic Civilian Conservation Corps resources</li> <li>• Design guideline development</li> </ul>
<b>Recreational Resource and Facility Issues</b>	
<b>Area-Wide Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail network management</li> <li>• Boundary management and trespass</li> <li>• Management of coastal bluff zones</li> <li>• Reservations and residential use of campground</li> <li>• Community outreach and volunteer coordination</li> <li>• Visitor orientation</li> <li>• Park fees</li> <li>• Security and emergency response coordination</li> <li>• Staff housing</li> <li>• Management plan evaluation</li> <li>• Local land use planning</li> </ul>
<b>Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Boundary Trail pedestrian bridge</li> <li>• Pedestrian safety</li> <li>• Barrier free access</li> <li>• Development and renovation of overnight facilities</li> <li>• Development and renovation of group and water trail campsites</li> <li>• Development and renovation of day-use facilities</li> <li>• Trailhead development and management</li> <li>• Development and renovation of administrative facilities</li> <li>• Park landscaping and grounds maintenance</li> <li>• Interpretive and environmental education services</li> </ul>
<b>Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfiguration of overnight facilities</li> <li>• Development and renovation of day use facilities</li> <li>• Development and renovation of administrative facilities</li> <li>• Development of boating facilities</li> <li>• Interpretive and environmental education services</li> </ul>

## SECTION 1: AREA DESCRIPTION

The SeaTac Area is comprised of Dash Point and Saltwater state parks and is located in the central Puget Sound area within King and Pierce counties (see Figure 1).

**Land Area:** The following information is from the State Parks' land inventory:

Name	Acreage	Saltwater Shoreline (feet)
Dash Point State Park	398.21	3,251
Saltwater State Park	87.84	1,445

**Jurisdiction:** Dash Point State Park is located in Pierce and King Counties. The King County portion of the park, which includes the Puget Sound shoreline, is located within the city limits of Federal Way. The remainder of the park is located within unincorporated Pierce County, with the city limits of Tacoma bordering the park to the southwest. The Pierce County portion of the park is part of the historic northern boundary of the Puyallup Indian Reservation.

Saltwater State Park is located entirely in King County within the city limits of Des Moines.

**Staffing:** The SeaTac Area staff is responsible for operation of Dash Point and Saltwater state parks (as of December 2008).

Position	Staff Months
Ranger 4 (Area Manager)	12.00
Ranger 3 (Assistant Manager)	12.00
Ranger 2	12.00
Ranger 2	12.00
Ranger 2	12.00
Ranger 2	12.00
Ranger 2	12.00
Construction and Maintenance Specialist 1	12.00
Office Assistant	9.00
Senior Park Aide	5.00
Park Aides (7)	24.00



Figure 1 - SeaTac Area vicinity map.



## **Dash Point State Park**

**Location:** Five miles northeast of central Tacoma along State Route 509 along the Pierce and King County boundary (Sections 10,14, and 15, Township 21 North, Range 3 East).

**Acquisitions:** The park was acquired in six parcels, the first in 1958 and the last in 2000.

**Historical Background:** The primary Native American land use of the park was within the shoreline and creek environments. Upland forest and stream corridors were also used as transportation routes and hunting and gathering areas. The origin of the name Dash Point is still unclear, perhaps named after the men or ships from either an 1846 British Expedition or an 1877 U.S. Expedition that explored the area. Even before the era of the State Park, the unique sand beach was a haven for beachcombers and anglers. The beach had other names: Olson Landing, after the founder of the Olson Logging Company, Fairview Beach, and Woodstock Beach. In the late 1950s, the property, then owned by the McLeod Estate, was sold to the State for the purposes of a state park. Dash Point State Park was dedicated during the Seattle World's Fair on June 19, 1962.

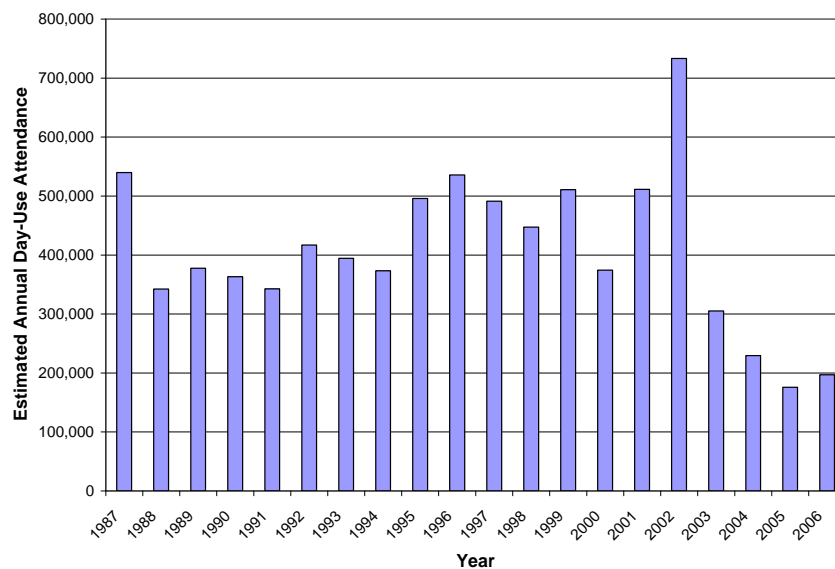
**Campsites:** Total of 140, with: 29 utility, 107 standard and 2 primitive sites.

### **Facilities:**

2 comfort stations with showers, 3 comfort stations without showers, and 2 vault toilets.	1 group camp (15 sites - 100 capacity)	2 covered picnic shelters (no electricity)
71 unsheltered picnic tables	Outdoor amphitheater	2 residences
11+ miles of trails	Park office and shop complex	Park store
Campground contact station	Trailer dump (out of order)	

**Day-Use Attendance:** From 1987 through 2006, the annual average day-use attendance at Dash Point State Park was 408,000.

Figure 2 - Dash Point State Park – Estimated Annual Day-Use Attendance (1987-2006).



### Overnight Occupancy

From 1987-2006, annual overnight occupancy for Dash Point has remained fairly consistent ranging from a low of 9,961 in 1994 to a peak of 15,426 in 1998. The twenty-year average is 12,891. The majority of the annual overnight occupancy occurs from June through September.

Figure 3 - Dash Point State Park -- Annual Overnight Occupancy (1987-2006).

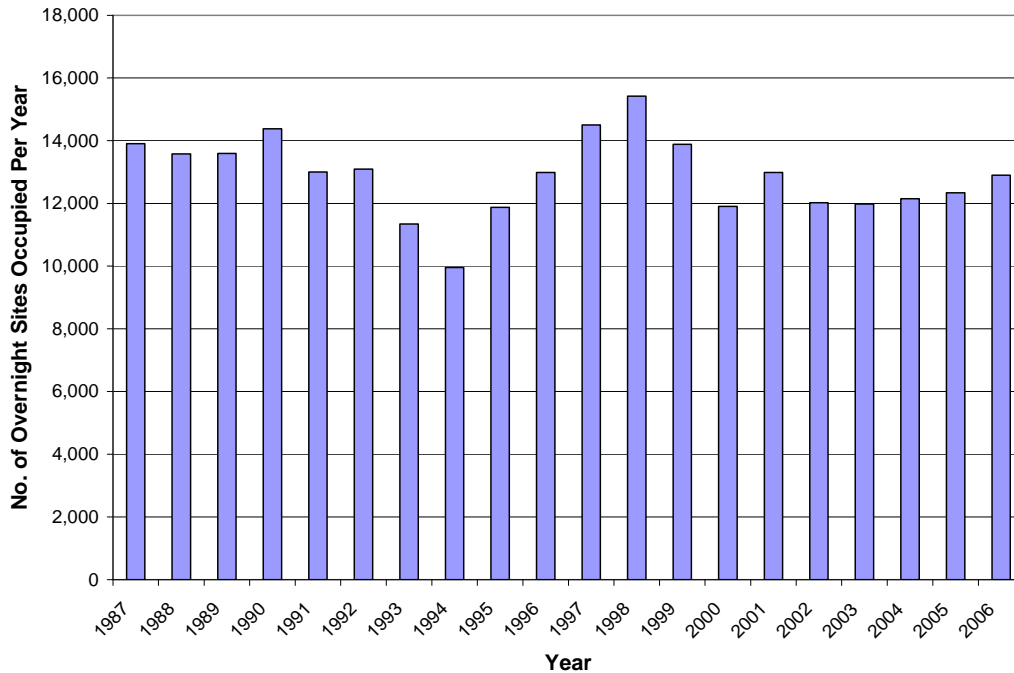
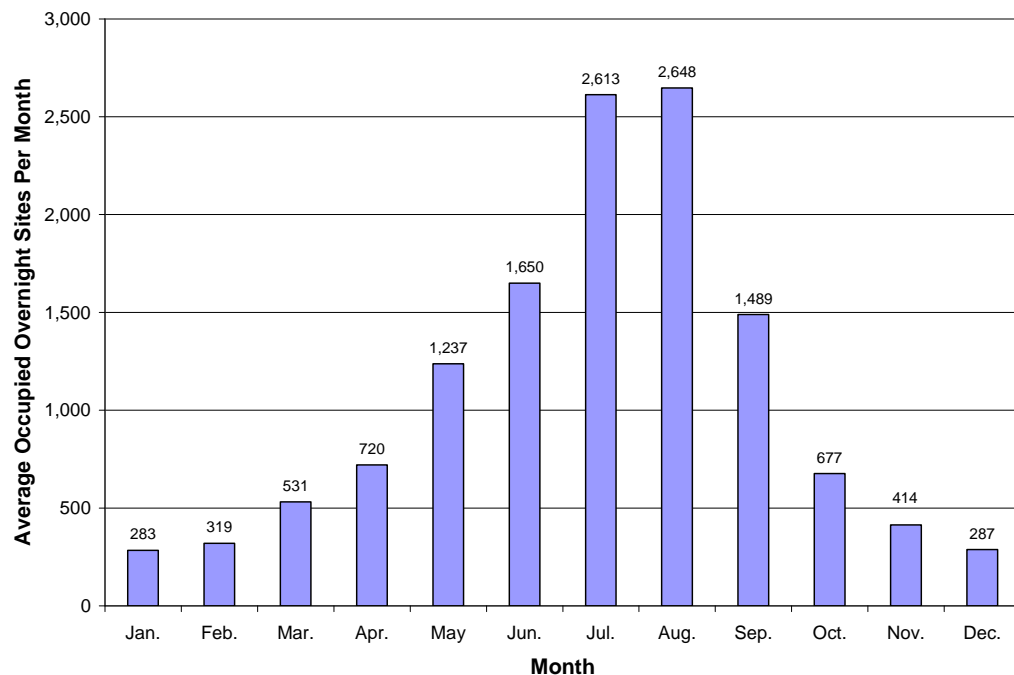


Figure 4 - Dash Point State Park -- Average Monthly Overnight Occupancy (1987-2006).



**Water:** Based on a survey of the National Wetlands Inventory<sup>1</sup>, a Class II wetland complex is located in the eastern corner of the park. Based on a 1998 survey conducted by the City of Federal Way<sup>2</sup>, additional wetlands were identified. An unnamed perennial stream (Thames Creek?) traverses through the park into Puget Sound. The park shoreline is located in the 100-year flood plain as defined by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps.

**Plants:** Based on a 2006 field survey<sup>3</sup>, 12 vegetative community types can be found in the park. The dominant vegetation community in the park includes a mixture of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, salal, and sword fern. In wet areas, Pacific crabapple, skunk cabbage, and salmonberry are typically present. In total, 131 individual plant species were identified, 47 of them were non-native, or 36% of the total. The Washington Natural Heritage Program database<sup>4</sup> does not list any rare plant species in or near the park.

**Wildlife:** The Priority and Habitat Species (PHS) database identifies most of the park as Urban Natural and Open Space. Priority marine habitats are listed for smelt and geoduck. In addition, the park contains bald eagle habitat<sup>5</sup>.

**Environmental Health:** No hazardous material sites in or near the park were identified in a survey of the Washington Department of Ecology Facilities Site Atlas<sup>6</sup>. To date, five City of Tacoma wells have been decommissioned in or near the park.

**Zoning:** City of Federal Way = Suburban Estate (one unit per five acres);  
Pierce County = Moderate Density Single Family (four units per acre).

**Comprehensive Plan Designation:** City of Federal Way = Parks and Open Space;  
Pierce County = Open Space/Recreation and Vacant (2 designations)

**Shoreline Master Program Designation:** City of Federal Way = Conservancy

**Historical and Cultural Preservation:** There is an archaeological site within the state park. No historic sites or structures are registered on the national or state historic registers<sup>7</sup>.

**Utilities:** The park is currently serviced by on-site septic systems, with a sewer collection system designed and awaiting construction funding. At this time, the trailer dump station is not operating. Water is provided through the City of Tacoma and power is provided by Puget Sound Energy.

**Business Development:** A park-operated store provides basic amenities and firewood.

**Interpretation:** Interpretive programming is currently volunteer-based and occurs primarily in the form of evening programs and beach walks. An interpretive plan is currently being produced and will incorporate recommendations within this document.

### **Saltwater State Park**

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a National Wetlands Inventory search, February 21, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Based on city of Federal Way GIS database search on March 12, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> H.M. Smith (2006), "Rare Plant and Vegetation Surveys of Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks".

<sup>4</sup> Based on a Department of Natural Resources – Heritage Program database search on February 20, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Based on PHS database search on February 8, 2008.

<sup>6</sup> Based on Department of Ecology database search on March 10, 2008.

<sup>7</sup> Based on Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation database search on March 3, 2008.

**Location:** The park is located midway between the cities of Tacoma and Seattle along State Route 509 in the City of Des Moines (Section 20, Township 22 North, Range 4 East).

**Acquisitions:** The park was acquired in seven parcels, the first in 1929 and the last in 1974. From 1926 through 1929, the initial 88-acre preserve was owned and managed by King County.

**Historical Background:** The primary Native American land use of the park was within the shoreline and creek environments and consisted of shellfish gathering and other marine resource harvesting. Upland forest and stream corridors were also used as transportation routes; specifically, the main McSorley Creek corridor. The park area was also used for hunting, gathering, and as an observation position overlooking Puget Sound. The park was originally presented April 24, 1926, through the cooperative efforts of the Seattle/Tacoma Associated Young Men's Business Club, co-sponsored by the Seattle Star and Tacoma Times. The park was dedicated as a state park during the height of the Great Depression on August 20, 1933. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built the first facilities, manager's residence and shop, a seawall, water system, and roughed in the road and trail systems. In the early 1950s the McSorley creek bed was moved to the north to enlarge the parking area and expand beach access. In the early 1960s a 50-site campground was placed in the creek floodplain.

**Campsites:** Total of 53, with: 50 standard, 2 primitive and 1 water trail site.

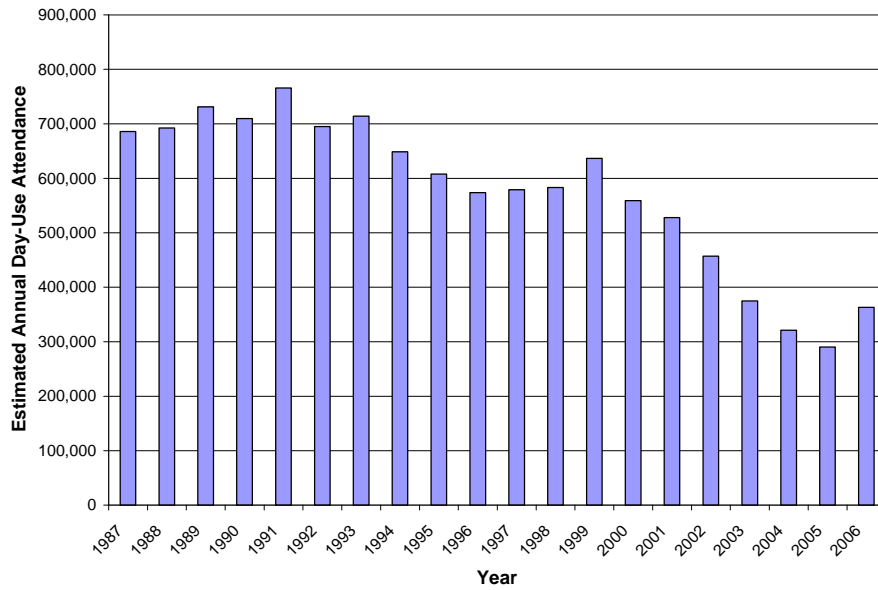
**Facilities:**

1 comfort station w/showers, 2 comfort stations wo/showers 1 WPA-built restroom, 2 pit toilets	4 covered shelters (no electricity)	128 unsheltered picnic tables
Park store (café)	Underwater artificial reef	CCC-built park office
2 CCC-built fire rings	3 park residences (1 CCC)	CCC-built chimney/fireplace
2 mooring buoys	2.2 miles of trail	Playground equipment
Trailer dump	1 primitive group camp	Volleyball court

**Activities:** Camping (group and individual), picnicking, hiking, interpretive programming, playground activities, volleyball, swimming, birding, beach walking, biking, diving and store (café) opportunities.

**Day Use Attendance:** From 1987 through 2006, the average day-use attendance at Saltwater State Park was 575,000 (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 - Saltwater State Park – Estimated Annual Day-Use Attendance (1987-2006).



**Overnight Occupancy:** From 1987-2006, annual overnight occupancy for Saltwater State Park has endured fluctuations ranging from a low of 1,819 in 2005, to a peak of 5,161 in 1998. The twenty-year average is 3,615. The majority of occupancy occurs from July and August.

Figure 6 - Saltwater State Park -- Annual Overnight Occupancy (1987-2006).

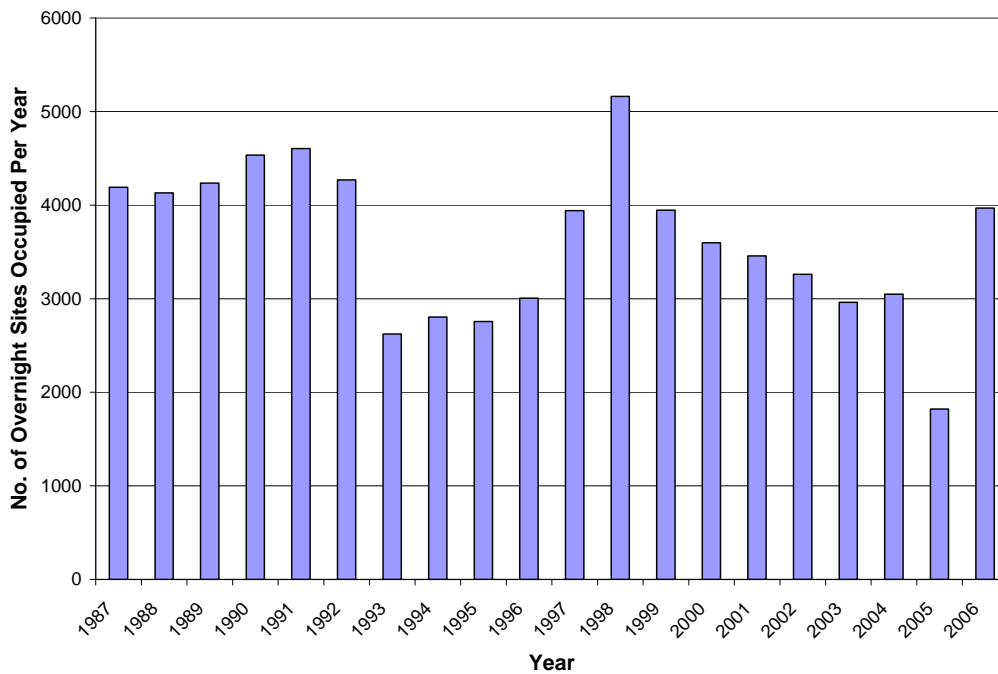
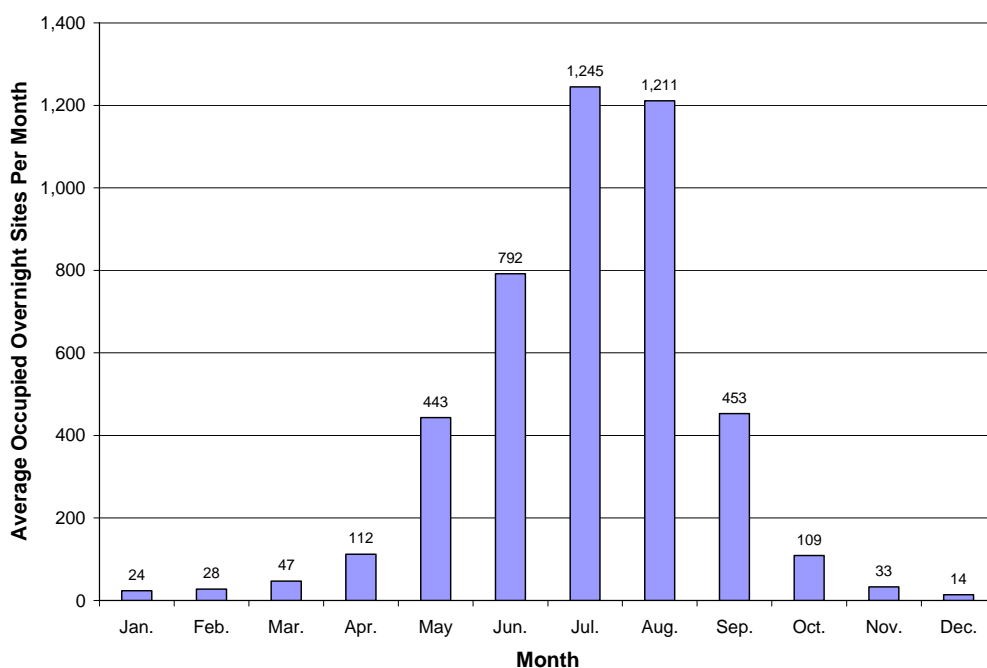


Figure 7 - Saltwater State Park -- Average Monthly Overnight Occupancy (1987-2006).



**Water:** McSorley Creek is a perennial fish bearing stream that traverses through the park into Puget Sound. No wetlands were identified in the National Wetland Inventory database<sup>8</sup>. The shoreline of the park is located in the 100-year flood plain, as defined by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps. The park includes an artificial reef constructed in the 1970s to provide recreational diving opportunities. Reconstruction of the artificial reef is currently underway with completion scheduled by June of 2009.

**Plants:** Based on a 2006 field survey, 10 vegetative community types can be found in the park<sup>9</sup>. The dominant vegetative community includes a mixture of Big leaf maple, red alder, sword fern, and fringingcup. This community is common in areas of steep terrain. In total, 121 individual plant species were identified, 52 of them were non-native, or 41% of the total. The Washington Natural Heritage Program<sup>10</sup> database does not list any rare plant species in or near the park.

**Wildlife:** The Priority and Habitat Species (PHS) database identifies most of the park as Urban Natural and Open Space<sup>11</sup>. Within the park, priority habitats are listed for seabird colonies. Based on a target amphibian and reptile surveys conducted in March 2006<sup>12</sup> Long-toed salamander and Western red-backed salamander were identified in the park. Geoduck and hard clam habitats are located within the park boundaries in Puget Sound.

**Environmental Health:** No hazardous material sites in or near the park were identified in a survey of the Washington Department of Ecology Facilities Site Atlas<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Based on National Wetlands Inventory database search on February 22, 2008.

<sup>9</sup> H.M. Smith (2006), "Rare Plant and Vegetation Surveys of Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks", Pacific Biodiversity Institute.

<sup>10</sup> Based on a Department of Natural Resources – Heritage Program database search on February 20, 2008.

<sup>11</sup> Based on PHS database search on February 8, 2008.

<sup>12</sup> L. Hallock (March 16, 2006), Washington Natural Heritage Program field survey.

<sup>13</sup> Based on Department of Ecology database search on March 10, 2008.

**Zoning:** City of Des Moines = Single Family Residential

**Comprehensive Plan Designation:** City of Des Moines = Park (regional)

**Shoreline Master Program Designation:** City of Des Moines = Urban Conservancy/Aquatic

**Historical and Cultural Preservation:** There is an archaeological site within the state park. The CCC-built ranger residence was found to be eligible for the National Historic Register in 2000. No other sites are registered on the national or state historic registers<sup>14</sup>. However, several Civilian Conservation Corps structures built in the 1930s remain in the park including the park office, the group camp restroom (WPA), an outdoor rock chimney/fireplace, and two beach fire rings. Remnants of early land use structures no longer standing are also present.

**Utilities:** The park is connected to sewer operated by Midway Sewer District. Water is provided through the City of Des Moines and power is provided by Puget Sound Energy.

**Business Development:** A park-operated café/store provides food and beverage amenities to park patrons. The store is staffed primarily by volunteers. Firewood is provided for a fee.

**Interpretation:** An interpretive plan is currently being produced for the SeaTac Area, with opportunities to enhance interpretation of the cultural and natural heritage of the Park. Specific topics include the CCC development of the park, salmon restoration and land use changes, as well as marine and diving education. The plan, to be completed by June 2009, will incorporate recommendations within this document.

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<sup>14</sup> Based on Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation database search on March 3, 2008.



## SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process began with a series of public workshops in February of 2008. The workshops were designed to be open-ended forums to allow the public to actively participate in the future plans for the SeaTac Area. The planning team took all concerns into consideration and responded to any issues that arose during the planning process.

### *Stage 1. Identify hopes and concerns of the community and park user*

To gather hopes and concerns, the planning team held a public workshop on March 20, 2008 at the Federal Way Regional Library in Federal Way. The team sent invitations to a mailing list of several hundred people, including nearby landowners. The *Federal Way Mirror* and the *News Tribune* published articles on the planning project. The team also sent more than 1,500 e-mails to users of the state parks. Responses from users and workshop attendees were posted on State Parks' planning webpage.

### *Stage 2. Explore alternative approaches to address community and user issues*

In response to the community and user comments in the first stage, the planning team developed alternative approaches that might meet peoples' needs. In order to gather comments on the alternatives, the team invited people to a second workshop and offered to send them the alternatives. The list grew as people expressed interest. A second workshop took place on June 18, 2008 at Highline Community College in Des Moines. The planning team took comments at the workshop and provided an option for written comments. Responses were posted on State Parks' planning webpage.

### *Stage 3. Prepare preliminary recommendations to address issues*

The planning team considered the comments received to date and developed preliminary staff recommendations based on the best available information. Staff shared its preliminary recommendations with the public at a third workshop on August 12, 2008 at the Federal Way Regional Library. Responses were posted on State Parks' planning webpage.

*Stage 4. Propose final recommendations for formal agency and Commission adoption* After hearing from the public, the planning team made its final recommendations to the Commission on November 13, 2008 in Vancouver, WA. The Commission adopted the land classification scheme and park long-term boundary as recommended by staff.

## SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Management objectives serve to define the vision and purpose of each state park. They must be consistent with laws, policy and the mission statement of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission):

*THE WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ACQUIRES, OPERATES, ENHANCES, AND PROTECTS A DIVERSE SYSTEM OF RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND NATURAL SITES.*

*THE COMMISSION FOSTERS OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION STATEWIDE TO PROVIDE ENJOYMENT AND ENRICHMENT FOR ALL AND A VALUED LEGACY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.*

Likewise, the Centennial 2013 Plan gives guidance to what state parks should be as the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission begins its second century of service.

*IN 2013, WASHINGTON'S STATE PARKS WILL BE PREMIER DESTINATIONS OF UNCOMMON QUALITY, INCLUDING STATE AND REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT NATURAL, CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES THAT ARE OUTSTANDING FOR THE EXPERIENCE, HEALTH, ENJOYMENT AND LEARNING OF ALL PEOPLE.*

The following management objectives are presented below in Table 2 to provide management direction for the SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater state parks).

Table 2: SeaTac Area Management Objectives.

<p><b>Natural Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In coordination with local, state, federal, and tribal governments and interested groups, identify, monitor, protect and interpret native plant and animal communities and the ecological functions they perform.</li><li>• Identify, maintain, protect and interpret geologic and watershed systems associated with upland streams and wetlands, as well as estuary environments of the SeaTac Area.</li></ul>
<p><b>Cultural Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify, monitor and protect Native American archeological sites and traditional cultural practice areas.</li><li>• Model responsible stewardship in the management of historical and cultural landscapes and resources; specifically, the Civilian Conservation Corps heritage of Saltwater State Park.</li></ul>
<p><b>Recreational Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide an array of uncommon quality day use and overnight facilities and services that are compatible with natural and cultural resource management objectives.</li><li>• Provide a full range of accessible park experiences and opportunities.</li><li>• Provide safe public access to the Puget Sound shoreline.</li></ul>

Table 2: SeaTac Management Objectives (continued).

**Administrative Management and Facilities**

- Focus long-range management of the SeaTac Area to nurture the desired relationship between Dash Point State Park as a “Regional Camping Destination”, and Saltwater State Park as “Premier Day Use Destination” of uncommon quality.
- Rehabilitate, maintain and develop durable, functional, and attractive administrative facilities to maximize operation costs and efficiency, and to attract and retain high-quality employees.

**Sustainability**

- Identify and implement green practices and actions that protect the environment and meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.
- Promote and demonstrate the wise use of natural resources.

**Trail Management**

- Develop and maintain effective trail network orientation and trail standards for all users.
- Coordinate with user groups and interested public to identify and address ongoing trail network concerns.
- Identify, monitor, and reduce natural and cultural resource impacts resulting from trail use.

**Interpretation and Environmental Education**

- Utilize interpretation as a tool to enhance visitor experience, understanding, and stewardship of natural, historical, and cultural resources.
- Provide year round, interpretive and outdoor learning programming and opportunities.
- Collect, record, and interpret the natural and cultural heritage of the SeaTac area.

**Community Partnerships**

- Engage community participation and partner with stakeholder groups, including camping, diving, biking and hiking communities, to implement park management objectives.
- Work with local and state governments, tribal groups, and non-profit organizations to support regional open space, biodiversity, and watershed conservation efforts.
- Recruit and manage a volunteer corps of park neighbors, users, and resource stewards to assist staff in outreach, public service, and maintenance needs.

**Concessions and Park Enterprise**

- Provide visitor services through public/private partnerships and other entrepreneurial programs that are clearly compatible with other park management objectives.

**Artificial Reef Management (Saltwater State Park specific)**

- Maintain the artificial reef as an underwater diving destination of uncommon quality.
- Establish and maintain a Marine Protected Area to promote recreational access and stewardship of related biological systems.

## **SECTION 4: LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM PARK BOUNDARY**

### **Land Classification**

An important part of the planning for the SeaTac Area state parks involves the zoning or classification of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification sets an appropriate intensity for recreational activity and development of facilities. Classifications are aligned along a spectrum ranging from low to high-intensity recreational uses and developments. By classifying park lands, the agency gains new tools to protect park resources and to provide an appropriate variety of recreational opportunities to park visitors.

The agency's land classification system includes: Natural Area Preserves, Natural Areas, Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas. Detailed definitions of each land classification are available in Appendix A. Through critical analysis of natural and cultural resource inventories and evaluation of future recreational facilities needs, the Commission adopted staff recommended land classifications as shown in Figures 8 and 9.

### **Long-Term Boundary**

Delineation of long-term park boundaries is an often misunderstood aspect of park planning. In short, the purpose of a long-term park boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Including a privately owned property in a long-term park boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that it would be in the park's best interest if the property were managed/maintained in a condition that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply:

The agency might:

- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal.
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features.
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee.

## Dash Point State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Park Boundary

In order to maintain the park experience as a natural setting, which balances increasing demands for outdoor recreation and public beach access with the protection of native plant and animal communities and cultural resources, the following land classification was adopted by the Commission (see Figure 8):

- Limit classification of Recreation Areas to currently developed areas with sufficient space for reconfiguration and expansion of campgrounds, the group camp area, day use parking, exterior trailheads, and administrative facilities.
- Classify identified wetland complexes located south to southeast of campground, along the eastern park border, and in the southwest corner park as Natural Areas.
- Classify remaining lands, including stream and riparian corridors, coastal bluff landforms, and marine tidelands as Resource Recreation Areas.

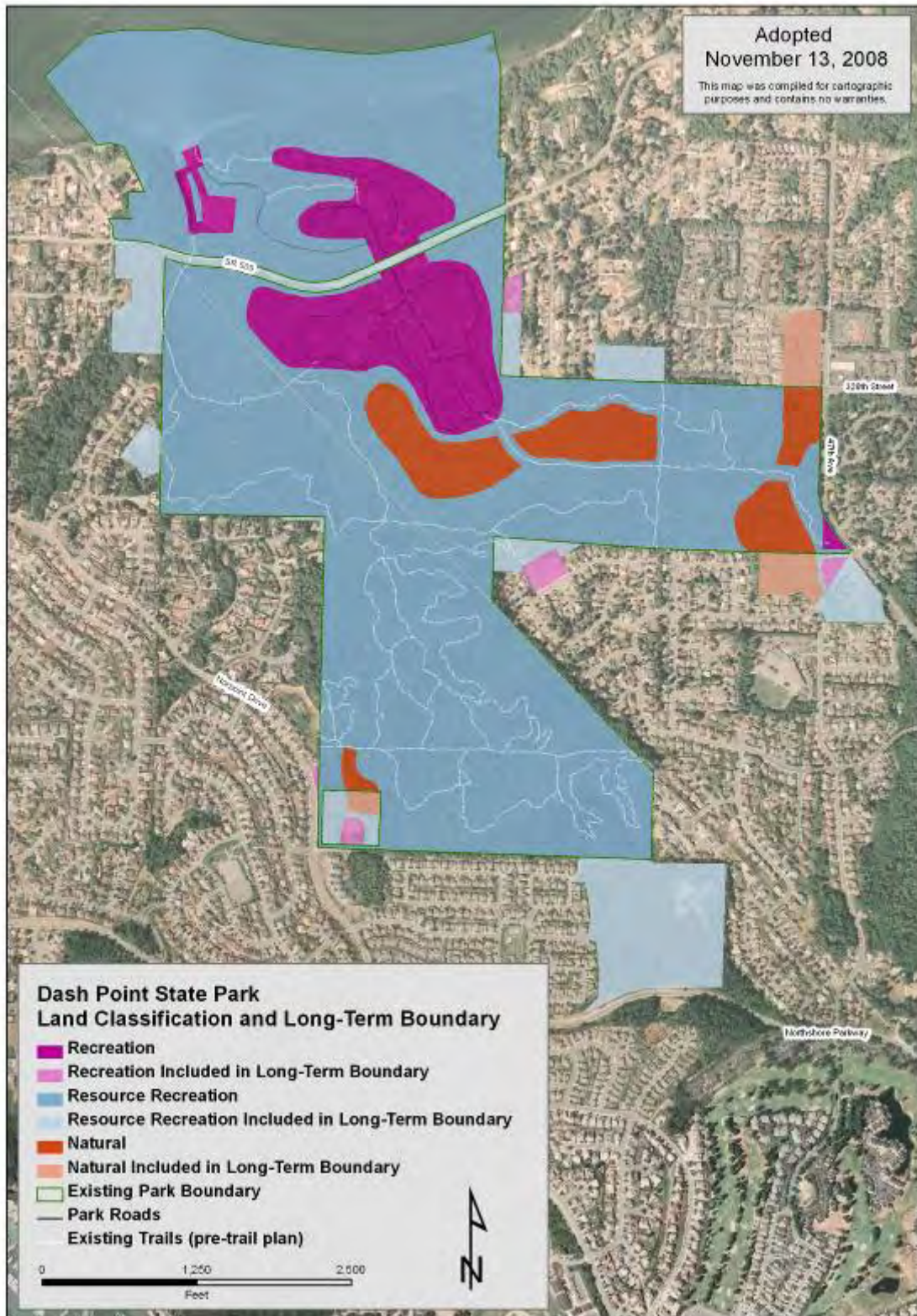
The long-term park boundary includes the existing 398-acre state park, as well as undeveloped and select developed lands adjacent to the boundary. Long-term park boundary properties provide a variety of potential park benefits, including critical area protection, open space preservation, staff housing, and expanded trail network access. Specific areas of interest/concern include:

- Cooperative management or acquisition of undeveloped lands located southeast of park on City of Tacoma and private property.
- Cooperative management with the City of Federal Way and adjacent property owners to develop and manage trail access, as well as wetland resources along eastern section of the park.
- Work with property owners along western boundary to maintain undeveloped open space.
- Desire to work with local jurisdictions and interested property owners to coordinate the conservation or low-impact development of undeveloped lands, open space, and rural properties located within the watershed, but not found adjacent or nearly adjacent to park lands (for more detail regarding areas of potential environmental affect see Appendix B).

Figures 8 and 9 delineate each long-term park boundary where darker shaded colors indicate properties already in agency ownership and lighter shaded colors indicate properties not in agency ownership, but desirable for long-term park boundary inclusion. The lighter and darker shaded areas together represent the long-term park boundary.



Figure 8 - Dash Point State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map.



## Saltwater State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary

Saltwater State Park is a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-built park that has served as a day use destination for over 70 years. In order to balance the stewardship of the park's unique cultural and natural heritage, the following land use classification was adopted by the Commission (see Figure 9). Based on the feasibility and results of an approved Green Vision - McSorley Creek Restoration Plan, amendments to land classifications within the proposed Restoration Study Area may be desirable.

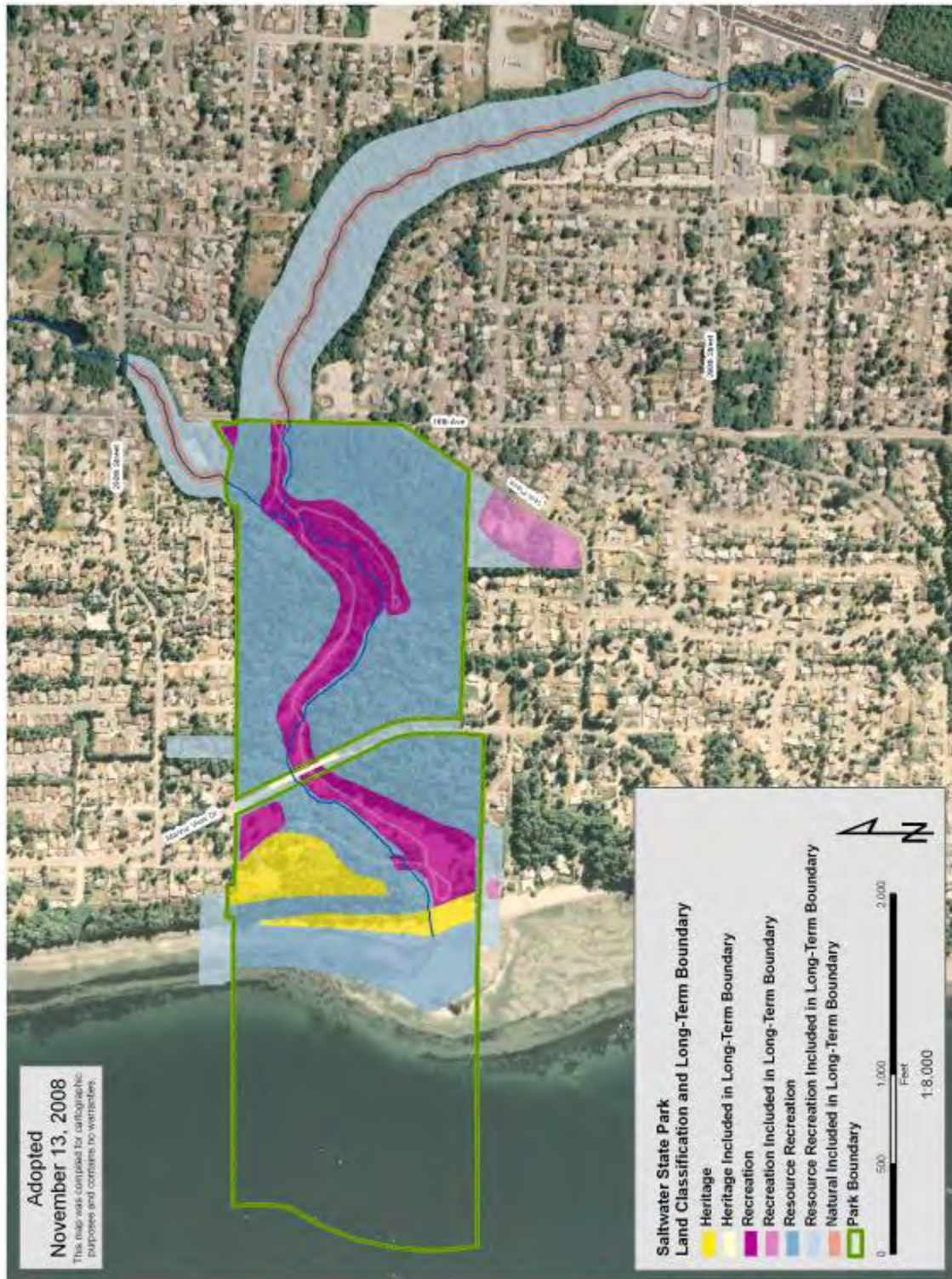
- Classify the coastal bluff day use and saltwater beach access landscapes designed and initially developed by the CCC as Heritage Areas.
- Retain Recreation Area classification in existing developed areas not designated Heritage Area with the intent to make the restoration of McSorley Creek and its estuary a land use priority.
- Classify remaining lands, including marine tidelands as Resource Recreation Area.
- No land classification is provided at this time for the underwater park. A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is desired that would restrict fishing and harvest. The MPA will be implemented by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with State Parks.

The long-term park boundary would include the existing 88-acre state park, as well as adjacent undeveloped and select develop properties. Existing developed areas in the long-term boundary would be considered for future recreational and administrative uses. Specific areas of interest/concern include:

- The canyon-like section of the watershed located east of the park, which is largely undeveloped. Work with property owners and City of Des Moines to promote conservation and low-impact development.
- Work with the First Unitarian Church located south of the park to retain open space and potential long-range recreation land use.
- Work with local jurisdictions and interested property owners to coordinate the conservation or low-impact development of undeveloped lands, open space, and rural properties within the watershed (for more detail regarding areas of potential environmental affect see Appendix B).



Figure 9 - Saltwater State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map.





## SECTION 5: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

This section of the document outlines the principle natural, cultural, and recreation/facility resource issues identified by the public and staff during the CAMP process, and suggested management approaches to address them. As in any real world situation, some issues do not neatly fit into any one of these three categories, while others may span more than one. Some license has been taken for the sake of consistent presentation. Addressing these issues will in almost all cases involve park staff working with Regional Stewardship, Environmental, and Planning staff. Additional stakeholder involvement is anticipated. All management actions will be consistent with the laws and policies<sup>15</sup> governing the agency, in addition to all federal, state, and local regulations. As the issues and their management approaches are addressed in the future, associated materials (e.g., inventories, plans, monitoring records) will be added as appendices to this document.

*Readers should note that the issues presented below represent a significant staff workload and may also create very high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. Clearly, completing or even beginning all the suggested management approaches in the short-term is not realistic. This is a long-range planning document; therefore, the following issue responses should be seen as a "to do" list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.*

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<sup>15</sup> Specifically, for natural resources: Protecting Washington State Parks' Natural Resources – A Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item F-11, December 2004); and for cultural resources: Cultural Resources Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item E-1, October 1998 + three amendments).

## Natural Resource Issues

SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Protection of natural plant and animal communities</b>	<p>As per the Commission's Natural Resource Management Policy (73-04-1), emphasize management to conserve existing natural plant and animal communities and undeveloped open space. Specific recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop staff, volunteer, and outdoor learning opportunities to further develop inventories and observation records of natural plant and animal populations.</li> <li>• Develop park-specific Forest Management plans with objectives to: a) enhance forest and animal community health, b) address impacts of invasive species on biodiversity, and c) to promote old-growth habitat characteristics over time. Plans should identify programmatic target zones for the removal of invasive species within shoreline and riparian areas, wetlands, and forest communities. Periodically, Forest Management plans will be evaluated and updated to analyze treatment results, revise treatment strategies, and to identify new and emerging threats and conditions.</li> <li>• Work with interested parties to identify, monitor, and interpret wildlife populations within each park, and develop appropriate best management practices to manage target populations/species. Public comment was received to specifically address management of coyotes, raccoons, and sensitive bird species.</li> </ul>
<b>Wildfire protection</b>	<p>Public and staff comments expressed concern over current levels of wildfire management. Area staff will work to involve appropriate emergency service entities, such as King County Fire and Rescue, Browns Point Fire and Rescue, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, as well as interested community members, in the development of a Wildfire Policy for each park. Policy should contain fire response procedures and protocols, and be reviewed and updated over time and include equipment inventory and need assessments, wildfire risk assessments, as well as monitoring and emergency response protocols.</p>

SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Shellfish management</b>	Water quality conditions in the subtidal and intertidal zones of Dash Point and Saltwater state parks have improved in recent years. Based on existing shellfish resource inventory and biodiversity of species in these locations, State Parks has no plans to open said environments to recreational shellfish harvest.
<b>Green and sustainable parks</b>	<p>In August of 2007, the Commission directed staff to develop a plan to make the agency a leader in the country for sustainability and being green. In June of 2008, the Commission adopted the following Sustainability and “Being Green” Policy, with a Sustainability Plan planned for adoption in 2009:</p> <p><i>“It is the policy of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission that the ethic of sustainability and the practice and actions of “being green” be integrated into every aspect of agency operation so that Washington State Parks will be the sustainability leader among state parks nationwide.”</i></p> <p>SeaTac Area facilities and operations will incorporate relevant elements of forthcoming agency plans for creating sustainable and “green” state parks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of integrated sustainability plans for each park; including energy conservation measures.</li> <li>• Continued efforts to expand recycling, compost, and related waste management programs to meet visitor, volunteer, and staff maintenance needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Green Vision estuary and stream restoration</b>	Based on consultation with stewardship staff, the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Program, City of Des Moines, and City of Federal Way, Green Vision estuary and stream restoration recommendations will be addressed individually at the park level (see park-specific issues below).

Natural Resource Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Green Vision- stream and estuary restoration</b>	<p>Focus management of estuary and upland stream and riparian environments to restore and enhance fish, plant, and animal habit, as well as natural geologic and hydrologic functions. Specific recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop opportunities to allow natural stream processes to occur. Some existing facilities will be removed where they adversely interfere with natural processes and restoration objectives.</li> <li>• Work with interested agencies, tribal groups and non-profit entities in the implementation of restoration objectives within the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Management Plan; specifically, restoration of intertidal stream and estuary habitat for juvenile salmon.</li> <li>• Focus initial trail management and restoration efforts on the stream and riparian corridor extending from the lower parking area to the designated Natural Area wetland complex. Options to realign trail routes in this zone should be explored to maximize restoration and interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>• Work with local jurisdictions (cities of Tacoma and Federal Way and Pierce and King Counties) to address impacts of permitted surface runoff from urban development on park resources; specifically, mitigation measures for identifiable impacts (e.g. bank erosion and sedimentation).</li> <li>• Coordinate with local jurisdictions in the design and implementation of Shoreline Master Program enhancement projects, such as the removal of derelict debris from marine waters.</li> </ul>
<b>Protection of wetlands</b>	<p>Several wetland complexes exist within the park, with most of them classified as Natural Areas. Work with interested agencies and stakeholder groups to delineate and assess all wetlands within the long-term park boundary, and develop best management practices for their long-term care. Work with wetland specialists and interested outdoor learning groups to develop reproducible monitoring protocols to assess wetland function and integrity over time.</p> <p>As per the Commission’s Natural Resource Management Policy (73-03-1), “new park facility developments shall not be built in critical areas except where the theme, character, quality or other park planning provides overriding justification for development in such areas, and appropriate mitigation can be provided”.</p>

Natural Resource Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Green Vision - McSorley Creek restoration feasibility plan</b></p>	<p>In 2007, Washington State Parks developed a Green Vision concept to model Sound-friendly development at strategic state park locations in the system. Saltwater State Park was selected due to the presence of cooperative environmental restoration opportunities, significant recreation use levels, and high visibility within urbanized Puget Sound.</p> <p>Agency staff should develop viable partnerships and grant proposals to pursue the development of a Green Vision – McSorley Creek Restoration Feasibility Study (see Appendix C for a map of proposed study area). Desired outcomes of this study effort include the development of concept designs for phased restoration and recreational facility improvements. Overnight accommodations should continue to occur, where they do not significantly impact natural processes, the cultural heritage of the park, or outstanding day use and interpretive facilities and programs. Specific restoration activities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain baseline hydrologic and biological conditions of creek/pocket estuary and develop monitoring protocols to measure impacts over time (pre and post construction).</li> <li>• Adopt a restoration concept similar to “the most-sound friendly” concept developed with the 2007 Green Vision for the park. This concept will involve a significant reconfiguration of the basalt riprap armoring the confluence of McSorley Creek with Puget Sound. The proposed reconfiguration would include environmentally sensitive materials and be designed to widen the creek channel to promote the health and development of a pocket estuary by enhancing delta forming processes, while protecting core recreational facilities (e.g. pedestrian and diving access to shoreline, comfort station, and CCC fire rings).</li> <li>• Contain objectives to prohibit damage to adjacent private property within site design treatments and retain vehicle access to the beach day use area (park road from upper day use area). Recognize this concept could result in a net reduction in existing vehicle parking and potential long-range displacement of park store operations from the existing structure. Viable opportunities to relocate the park store should be examined prior to action resulting in the loss or significant change to this visitor service.</li> <li>• Manage existing and future core recreational facilities and features near the mouth of McSorley Creek and along the shoreline as a Heritage Area.</li> </ul>

Natural Resource Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Management of the artificial reef</b></p>	<p>The underwater park at Saltwater State Park has undergone extensive research, design, and capital investment to construct a new artificial reef. In order to promote the responsible stewardship of the artificial reef and related biological systems, the following recommendations should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain a Marine Protected Area (MPA) to promote recreational access and enhanced biological protection to the artificial reef.</li> <li>• Continue to monitor and study the biological impacts of the artificial reef on fish and subtidal marine populations.</li> <li>• Through the input of the public, user groups, and related resource management specialists, develop an Underwater Park Management Plan to: a) develop management goals and objectives for the management of the artificial reef and implementation of an MPA; b) research and develop viable methods and partners to help monitor and assess impacts to the site over time; c) develop viable partnerships and funding strategies to provide maintenance for the artificial reef and related upland facilities; and d) develop responsible stewardship strategies that work to balance recreational and natural resource needs and values.</li> <li>• Maintain efforts to enhance the artificial reef as a diving destination of uncommon quality. This should include the development of onshore facilities such as expanded changing stations and showers designed for divers, improved shoreline access, as well as diving information and interpretive opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Air quality</b></p>	<p>The Saltwater State Park campground is in close proximity to dense residential areas. The park’s natural ravine topography acts as a funnel to trap campfire smoke sending smoke “up valley” in a condensed form that is problematic to maintaining good air quality.</p> <p>In an effort to resolve this air quality issue, park staff should implement a pilot program to ban wood smoke fires in the park during the summer peak use season (July and August). Propane stoves would be permitted for outdoor cooking purposes. Air quality response to this pilot management program should be examined to determine impacts to neighboring air sheds and the development of long-range management strategies.</p>

## Cultural Resources Issues

SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Protection of archaeological sites</b>	<p>Archaeological sites are recorded within Dash Point and Saltwater state parks.</p> <p>State Parks will continue to consult with the Puyallup Tribe and Muckleshoot Tribe to ensure archaeological resources are accurately identified and recorded, as well as adequately protected. State Parks will develop a cultural resource management plan to address archaeological resources and site conditions specific to each park. The scope of a SeaTac Cultural Resource Management Plan will include archaeological, cultural, and historical resources and properties (see Saltwater State Park Cultural Resource Issues below).</p> <p>Cultural resource management planning outcomes will provide long-term protection of archaeological/cultural resources, including the establishment of monitoring and reporting protocols.</p> <p>In all future actions, State Parks will comply with direction from the Commission's Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1.</p>

Cultural Resource Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Management of historic structures (future eligibility)</b>	<p>Dash Point State Park contains many structures constructed in the 1960s and 1970s. While these structures currently do not meet the eligible criteria for historic properties due to their age (less than 50 years old). At such time as any structure is 50 years old, examination of their condition, character-defining features, and representation in the state park system should occur prior to significant modifications or removal. This process should be done in consultation with agency Historic Preservation and building design staff, as well as applicable design standards.</p>

Cultural Resource Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Protection of historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) resources</b></p>	<p>A draft cultural resource management plan has been established for historical structures in the park. Park, Region, and cultural resource staff should coordinate to finalize a Cultural Resource Management Plan that includes historic CCC resources of the park, as well as other historical and archeological resources. Management treatments to historic structures should be developed in consultation with historic preservation staff and examined and developed within a Facilities Development Plan, which should consider the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove existing group camp and restore the shoreline bluff area to its traditional day use function.</li> <li>• In accordance with Cultural Resource Management Policy 12-98-1, <b>preserve</b> the historic Ranger's Residence, which is currently designated as eligible for listing on the National Register.</li> <li>• <b>Preserve and restore</b> the WPA-built restroom and beach fire rings in accordance with Cultural Resource Management Policy 12-98-1.</li> <li>• <b>Restore</b> the outdoor chimney for use by public groups and for outdoor interpretive programming.</li> <li>• <b>Rehabilitate</b> park office and shop building to convey its historical, cultural and architectural values, while providing for the compatible use as a meeting and interpretive hub.</li> <li>• <b>Reconstruct</b> community kitchen shelter in upper day use area.</li> <li>• Research, document, and maintain cultural landscapes within designated Heritage Areas, including programmatic view shed maintenance along the coastal bluff trail route.</li> <li>• Work with planning, historic preservation, and architect staff to develop building design guidelines to incorporate appropriate CCC architectural style, design features, and building material standards into the overall park landscape.</li> </ul>
Cultural Resource Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park	



Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Design guideline development</b></p>	<p>Saltwater State Park also contains park structures constructed in the 1950s and 1960s that have not been evaluated for their historic significance and integrity. While some of these structures, such as the park store, were constructed with rustic design elements similar to that of the CCC-era, other structures were not. The development of design guidelines should consider the range of construction types in the park. Once a design standard is established, existing structures should be evaluated for historic potential and renovated or maintained to meet desired design guidelines. Design guidelines should be developed and adopted in consultation with agency Historic Preservation and building design staff prior to construction or reconstruction of structures in the park.</p>

## Recreational Resource and Facility Issues

SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Recreational Resource and Facility Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Trail network management</b>	<p>The need for improved management of trails for pedestrian and bicycle use received extensive public comment. Local volunteer and bicycle user groups expressed a desire to foster and develop partnerships in support of trail maintenance and network improvement needs. In accordance with WAC 352-32-075 “Use of non-motorized cycles or similar devices” and the Commission’s Advisory Group Policy 15-78-1, the development of a SeaTac Area Trail Management Plan is needed. The scope of trail planning efforts will include both parks and incorporate the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build upon outreach and research efforts through the development of a SeaTac Area Trail Management Task Force, to be appointed by the Puget Sound Region Director. This task force should be comprised of diverse trail user, public safety, and stewardship representatives.</li> <li>• Develop reproducible methodologies to identify limits of acceptable change and monitoring protocols for all routes. Ensure limits of acceptable change include wildlife habitat and specific use pattern considerations.</li> <li>• Conduct field-based trail analysis within an open public process, which will result in the determination of trail standards and routes suitable for: a) pedestrian use, b) shared use (bicycle and pedestrian use), and c) seasonal/permanent closure.</li> <li>• Identify and consider improvement of trail routes that are, or can be made, universally accessible.</li> <li>• In coordination with volunteer groups and ongoing interpretive efforts, develop and maintain trail orientation sign plans, including pre-visit and on-site orientation strategies and media.</li> <li>• Identify and explore opportunities to extend trail networks into local (cities of Tacoma, Federal Way, and Des Moines) and regional (King and Pierce Counties) non-motorized transportation systems.</li> <li>• Focus development and maintenance efforts to improve drainage and trail surface conditions (e.g. boardwalks, water bars, and bridges) to provide year round access.</li> <li>• Continue to prohibit equestrian and motorized trail use; however, examine WAC 352-32-050 “Park periods” regarding park hours of operation policy and procedures in the trail management process.</li> </ul>

SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Recreational Resource and Facility Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Boundary management and trespass</b></p>	<p>High-density residential development along the boundaries of both parks has created a variety of trespass and boundary management issues. To address existing and potential future boundary issues the following actions are prescribed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Lands Program staff to request and conduct boundary surveys for both state parks.</li> <li>• Using an open public-participation process, develop a Boundary Management Plan to identify park-specific policy and procedures for boundary marking and routine maintenance. This process should address private landowner concerns, and identify steps to resolve existing trespass issues.</li> <li>• Maintain signing and orientation to public tideland boundaries.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Management of coastal bluff zones</b></p>	<p>Maintain coastal bluff zones of each park as areas closed to recreational use (Closed Areas). Maintain existing efforts to prohibit public access to unstable slopes such as fence barriers, closed area sign (message) plans, and the revegetation of unauthorized access points and routes.</p> <p>The agency's Green Vision plan identifies management objective to restore coastal processes related to feeder bluffs (steep, unconsolidated bluffs and soils) and adjacent estuary and shoreline sediment distribution systems present along both park shorelines. The effort to restore coastal processes and functions will include the continued investigation of recreation land use and management strategies to provide safe access to the Puget Sound shoreline.</p>

**SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Recreational Resource and Facility Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Reservation system and residential use of campgrounds</b></p>	<p>Overnight occupancy rates in the SeaTac Area are moderately high in the summer months and distinctly low during winter months (see pages 11 and 15). In an effort to manage site availability and reservations more effectively, a seasonal reservation system (May 15 through September 15) is recommend for both state park campgrounds in the SeaTac Area. Outside this time window, campsites would be available on a first-come-first serve basis.</p> <p>In an effort to avert residential use of public campgrounds, reduce existing off-season law enforcement demands, and provide staff with increased opportunities to address a backlog of facility, trail, and landscape maintenance needs, the seasonal closure of campgrounds during low occupancy winter months (November – February) should be tested to identify impacts on revenue and park operations, and to determine if a long-range policy is warranted.</p>
<p><b>Community outreach and volunteer coordination</b></p>	<p>Public comment to expand community outreach and volunteer opportunities within the SeaTac Area was widespread. The following strategies should be explored by staff to evaluate and enhance existing outreach and volunteer networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and coordinate opportunities for community outreach, including facilitating regular open house forums and community events.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a visible volunteer outreach campaign with a focus on the recruitment of community-based volunteers.</li> <li>• Identify needs and opportunities for outreach and volunteer activities and programs and review on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Review and revise annual landscaping and maintenance work plans to identify a range of projects and service needs suitable for volunteers of varying ability.</li> <li>• Establish and maintain community-based invasive species removal programs for each park.</li> </ul>

**SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Recreational Resource and Facility Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<b>Visitor orientation</b>	Continue to work with agency public affairs office to develop and update accessible park information, including park opportunities and reservation information, park maps, and trail orientation. Include orientation needs in ongoing interpretive planning processes and project recommendations.
<b>Park fees</b>	Park user fees are set by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and cannot be modified on a park-by-park basis.
<b>Security and emergency response coordination</b>	<p>The desire for increased security and emergency response was expressed through public comment. The following security and emergency response coordination measures should be maintained and/or explored in the development and review of management policy and procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine and revise as needed park hours of operation policy (WAC 352-32-050) to address nighttime closure of parks to non-overnight guests, specifically beach and trail access.</li> <li>• Enhance coordination between park staff, South King County Fire and Rescue, cities of Tacoma, Federal Way and Des Moines, and Pierce and King Counties to evaluate existing needs and service gaps within emergency response communication systems.</li> <li>• Research and utilize effective orientation and interpretive methods to improve community and visitor knowledge, understanding, and compliance with park quiet hour and closure rules and policies, as well as access to emergency response information.</li> <li>• Explore strategies to increase Ranger staff presence in campgrounds, day use areas, and within trail networks, while balancing maintenance and interpretive duties.</li> <li>• Maintain or install gates at exterior vehicle entrance points (such as the Hoyt Rd parking area) to secure during closure periods.</li> <li>• Both parks will remain open year round (at least day use) with at least one ranger living on-site.</li> </ul>

**SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater State Parks) Recreational Resource and Facility Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<b>Staff housing</b>	<p>By statewide standards, private housing in the SeaTac Area is expensive. In order to retain and recruit high-quality staff, the agency should maintain and consider expansion of existing staff housing levels (5 units in total). Based on the assessment of existing housing infrastructure conditions and renovation cost estimates, the agency should consider opportunities to replace existing housing units or expand housing opportunities within long-term park boundaries. In addition, programmed maintenance plans should be updated periodically to address aging infrastructure.</p>
<b>Management plan evaluation</b>	<p>Work with interested citizens, user groups, local jurisdictions, and elected officials to implement management planning tasks at the park-level. Develop routine, park-level opportunities for input such as open house forums and community events.</p> <p>Project recommendations within Facilities Development Plans should include cost estimates.</p>
<b>Local land use planning</b>	<p>In order to effectively plan for future planned maintenance, renovation, and development opportunities, it is important to maintain awareness of land use regulations related to park lands. Agency staff should build upon this CAMP process to work with appropriate jurisdictions (Pierce County, City of Tacoma, City of Federal Way, and the City of Des Moines) to address existing and/or emerging land use zoning, Comprehensive Plan designation, and Shoreline Master Program designation changes as they arise.</p> <p>In addition, agency staff will coordinate with appropriate jurisdictions in the scoping and permitting of ongoing park improvements.</p>

Recreational Resource and Facility Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>West Boundary Trail pedestrian bridge</b>	The West Boundary Trail pedestrian bridge has been closed for several years due to bridge conditions and safety concerns. Many comments were received requesting this section of the trail network be reopened. Region Parks Development staff is currently pursuing a repair of the bridge with the goal to reopen it by the summer of 2009.
<b>Pedestrian safety</b>	<p>State Route 509 separates the campground and day use areas of the park. Park and Region staff should coordinate with the City of Federal Way and the Washington Department of Transportation to examine and establish appropriate pedestrian and bicycle safety strategies, suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The installation of a revised highway corridor sign plan to enhance the identification of park entrance and pedestrian crossing areas.</li> <li>• Examine the feasibility of realigning the campground entrance off SR 509 within a proposed Facilities Development Plan to address the need for identified pedestrian corridors.</li> </ul>
<b>Barrier free access</b>	<p>Portions of the park are not readily accessible to all visitors. Opportunities exist to provide a wider range of accessible park experiences and opportunities. Specific recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop additional ADA-compliant campsites and picnic sites.</li> <li>• Work to programmatically establish universal access to all comfort stations.</li> <li>• Examine feasibility to develop an accessible Puget Sound overlook in the upper day use area.</li> <li>• Develop a network of accessible trails with interpretive opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Development and renovation of overnight facilities</b>	Dash Point is an established regional camping destination in the central Puget Sound region. Opportunities to enhance overnight facilities and long-term park revenue should be examined and developed within a Facilities Development Plan and business planning activities, which should examine the following recommendations:

Recreational Resource and Facility Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park

Issue	Management Approach
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct sanitary sewer distribution system with the potential to increase capacity.</li> <li>• Expand existing dump station access and capacity.</li> <li>• Renovate lower and upper campground road networks to provide for emergency vehicle and standard RV access.</li> </ul> <p><u>Campground:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish goal of 35 full hook-up sites (~25% of existing sites) within the lower and upper campgrounds (sewer, electric, and water connection). Dependant on construction of sewer distribution system and logistics (gravity, distribution line geometry) of proving sewer connections.</li> <li>• Establish goal of 70 utility sites with electric and water connection (~50% of existing sites). Currently, statewide demand for utility sites is growing; need to consider percentage of registered RV's and first-time campers within a 2-hour drive service area (among the highest in state park system).</li> <li>• Retain at least 35 standard campsites (25% of existing sites), mainly in the upper loop, to provide for rustic camping experiences.</li> <li>• Consider placing additional cabins/yrurts within existing sites or in lower campground expansion area.</li> <li>• Consider restoration, conversion, or removal of low-quality standard sites (due to flooding, size, or levelness).</li> <li>• Renovate or replace lower campground comfort station, including expanded shower facilities.</li> <li>• Renovate and expand all three upper campground comfort stations to include shower facilities (currently only one with showers).</li> </ul>

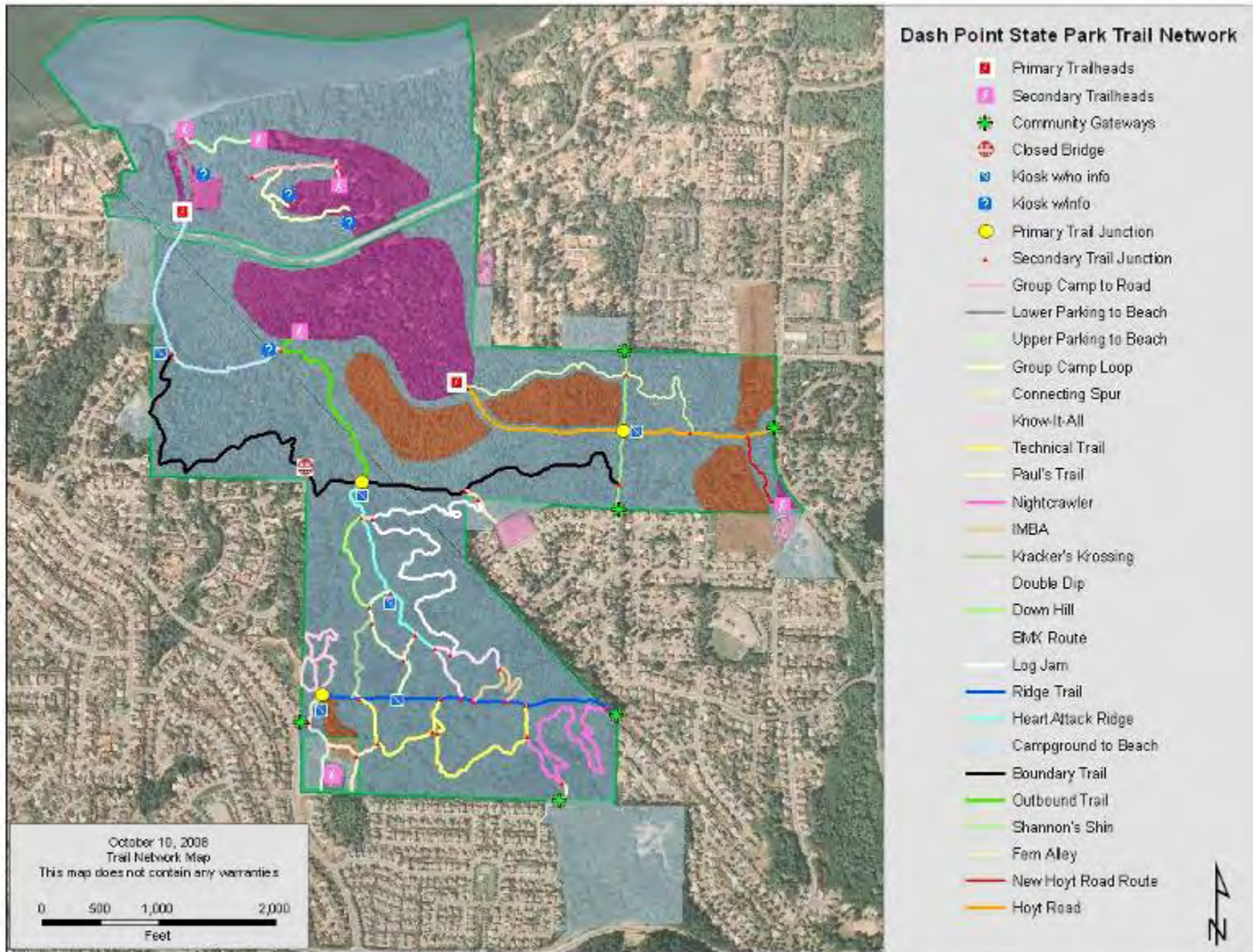


Recreational Resource and Facility Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Development and renovation of group camp and water trail campsites</b></p>	<p><u>Group Camp:</u> The existing group camp is used primary on weekends during the summer months, with low to no occupancy during weekdays and winter months. The following recommendations should be considered within future Facility Development Design and utility development opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide gravity sewer and electric utilities to group camp area (water already on-site).</li> <li>• Using low-impact development (LID) design concepts, develop a new comfort station with shower facilities.</li> <li>• Consider a mixture of overnight opportunities, including placement of cabins or yurts, Adirondack shelters, or utility and standard campsites. Roofed structures could be available for year round use.</li> <li>• Consider sites #119, 120 and 121 for use as a group campsites (10 to 18 capacities) or cabin/yurt and utility combo sites.</li> </ul> <p><u>Water Trails Campsites:</u> The City of Federal Way has expressed interest in coordinating the development of water trail campsites along Puget Sound. Staff should consider adding water trail campsites (1 or 2) within the beach area. The presence of cultural resources and hazards of coastal bluff landforms should be considered in the placement of campsites.</p>

Recreational Resource and Facility Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Development and renovation of day-use facilities</b></p>	<p>Day use facility recommendations should be examined and developed within a Facilities Development Plan, which should examine the following recommendations:</p> <p><u>Beach (lower) Day Use Area:</u>            Due to the presence of the unnamed creek (Thames?) and cultural resources, no expansion of parking or day use facilities in this Recreation Area is advised. Recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain 192 stall parking area and road access.</li> <li>• Based on improved access road conditions; consider providing mass transit access to site during steady and peak visitation periods.</li> <li>• Maintain existing capacity of covered shelter, replace/renovate as needed.</li> <li>• Using LID design concepts, renovate comfort station.</li> </ul> <p><u>Picnic Point (upper) Day Use Area:</u>            The Picnic Point day use area is in need of renovation. Due to the presence of critical area slopes and habitats, no future expansion of the existing developed area is recommended. Opportunities exists to reconfigure facilities in place, as well as to expand day use facilities away from the coastal bluff. Future Concept Facility Designs should examine the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider expanding covered shelter capacity (expand existing or add additional structure).</li> <li>• Based on funding of a sanitary sewer force main expansion, examine potential to expand day use area into current drain field /pump station.</li> <li>• Examine opportunities to expand parking in Recreation Area north of the park administrative area.</li> </ul>

Recreational Resource and Facility Issues Specific to Dash Point State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Trailhead development and management</b>	<p>The park trail network contains a variety of access points with varying degrees of services and information available to the visitor. It is recommended that trail access points (trailheads) be developed, organized, and managed within a hierarchy compatible with designed road, pedestrian and interpretive network circulation patterns. The following recommendations should be examined in the identification of trailhead networks within ongoing trail management and facilities planning efforts (see Figure 10):</p> <p><u>Primary Trailheads:</u> Should be located at trail access points with a full spectrum of visitor services, including vehicle parking, restrooms (flush or vault toilet), and trail/interpretive orientation. Bicycle access should be possible from primary trailheads. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Beach Trail trailhead located in the lower parking area (kiosk needed).</li> <li>• Site #85 – South Campground trailhead providing access from the Hoyt Road trail.</li> </ul> <p><u>Secondary Trailheads:</u> Should be located at trail access points accessible from primary park circulation routes and provide at least one of following services: vehicle parking, restroom access (flush or vault toilet), and orientation information (kiosk, sign, or other media). Bicycle access may be possible from secondary trailheads, based on management objectives for the site and adjacent trail segments. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Picnic Point-to-Beach trailheads</li> <li>• The Lower Campground – Outbound trailhead</li> <li>• The Hoyt Road trailhead</li> <li>• The Federal Way Highlands City Park trailhead</li> </ul> <p><u>Community Gateways:</u> Should be identified as pedestrian access points, primarily from residential areas. Community Gateways should not include vehicle parking; however should provide trail orientation media at a minimum. Bicycle access may be possible from Community Gateways, based on management objectives for the site and adjacent trail segments. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Norpoint Road gateway</li> <li>• The SW 324 Place/51<sup>st</sup> Ave SW gateway</li> <li>• The City of Tacoma lands gateway (and other long-term boundary expansion opportunities)</li> </ul>

Figure 10 Existing Dash Point State Park Trail Network Inventory by Named Trail Routes



Dash Point State Park Recreational Resource and Facility Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Development and renovation of administrative facilities</b></p>	<p>Dash Point State Park serves as the administrative hub for the SeaTac Area. Administrative facility recommendations should be developed within area-wide Facility Development Plan, which should include the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovate existing park office to provide adequate office work and storage space for permanent, seasonal, and volunteer staff of the SeaTac Area (Dash Point and Saltwater).</li> <li>• Construct a weatherproof two or three-bay park shop dedicated to equipment and material storage.</li> <li>• Construct a gate and/or fence to secure park equipment.</li> <li>• Develop a motor pool parking area for employees (separate from public parking areas)</li> <li>• Examine opportunities to site, or renovate an existing structure, to serve as a visitor service/interpretive facility with the capacity to provide on-site visitor contact, orientation and interpretive hub services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Park landscaping and grounds maintenance</b></p>	<p>Public comment was received requesting improvements to the park's appearance and vegetative maintenance of campsites and picnic areas. Recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory campground and day use areas for opportunities to enhance vegetation buffers.</li> <li>• Develop and update an annual landscaping plan to identify, organize and prioritize landscaping and related maintenance needs. The management and introduction of non-native and cultivar species will comply with agency Natural Resource (73-04-1) and Cultural Resource (12-98-1) policies. A Cultural Resource Management Plan should also address the landscaping objectives within areas classified as Heritage Areas.</li> <li>• Coordinate with Region Steward, staff, volunteers, and community groups to implement landscape maintenance projects.</li> </ul>



Dash Point State Park Recreational Resource and Facility Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Interpretive and environmental education services</b></p>	<p>A separate interpretive master plan will be completed for the park by June of 2009. This planning effort will provide recommendations for each level of the park’s interpretive network (e.g. pre-visit, on-site orientation, interpretive hubs, and resource story points and related programs). The following recommendations should be within the interpretive and related facility planning processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue the development of interpretive staff to coordinate community outreach programs and partnerships, interpretive programs and events, and outdoor learning activities for visitors of all ages.</li> <li>• Renovate existing outdoor amphitheater to enhance capacity and improve utilities needed for daylight and evening programming and events.</li> <li>• Develop accessible interpretive trails and related interpretive media.</li> <li>• Develop an inventory of suitable outdoor learning field sites for scheduled programming and outreach learning opportunities. An inventory development process should include coordination with local school districts and educational groups and organizations to maximize network benefits.</li> <li>• Consider the development of an interpretive boardwalk within sensitive areas along the Beach Trail route to minimize trail use impacts, as well as to convey thematic messages to visitors regarding the natural and cultural history and geological and hydraulic processes present in the landscape.</li> </ul>

Recreational Resources and Facilities Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<b>Reconfiguration of overnight facilities</b>	<p>The Saltwater State Park campground was not part of the original CCC design for the park. It was designed by Washington State Parks and established within the floodplain of McSorley Creek . The operation of overnight facilities should continue if compatible with restoration objectives. Recommendations for types and scale of overnight facilities should be studied and considered within Green Vision restoration planning efforts, which should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midway Sewer maintains a legal perpetual easement through the park for a six inch force main sewer system and related auxiliary service corridors.</li> <li>• Removal of campsites and related services that currently impact the health and function of McSorley Creek and its historic floodplain should be given priority in future facility design processes.</li> <li>• Remove group camp from upper day use area and consider its function/potential within the restoration design; specifically for outdoor learning and related group rental facilities.</li> <li>• Consider the development of a mixture of utility and standard campsites, cabins, or Adirondack shelters in areas suitable for high-intensity use, especially if they can advance the educational and interpretive mission of the park</li> <li>• Consider additional water trail campsites within the lower day use area (expand network).</li> </ul>

Recreational Resources and Facilities Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Development and renovation of day use facilities</b></p>	<p>Day use facility recommendations should be examined and developed within proposed McSorley Creek restoration and recreational facility design planning efforts, which should consider the following recommendations:</p> <p><u>Beach Day Use Area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) projects, such as bioswales and rain gardens, within the existing beach access parking areas.</li> <li>• Consider the reconfiguration and potential reduction of automobile parking within the western margin of the day use area (retreat parking to restore shoreline).</li> <li>• Redesign or reroute drainage system near and within the beach environment.</li> <li>• Retain current levels of covered picnic shelters and tables.</li> <li>• Replace or relocate beach comfort station using LID design concepts. New or enhanced facility should include covered changing space for divers and additional shower/rinse facilities.</li> <li>• Consider long-range renovation of concessionaire/park store structure to serve as an open-air outdoor learning facility focused on marine, shoreline, and watershed ecological themes.</li> <li>• Consider long-range relocation or development of a concessionaire/park store facility within suitable areas of the restoration project footprint.</li> <li>• Consider relocation or development of a children playground and volleyball facilities within suitable areas of the restoration project footprint.</li> <li>• Consider development of a McSorley Creek Watershed trail beginning at the mouth of the creek using a portion of existing trail network and portions of the existing campground road. At this time, State Parks has no plans to extend the park trail system east into the long-term boundary.</li> </ul>



Recreational Resources and Facilities Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park	
Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Development and renovation of administrative facilities</b></p>	<p>Saltwater State Park is a satellite park within the SeaTac Area. Administrative facility recommendations should be examined and developed within a Facility Development Plan, which should include the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deny request from South King County Fire and Rescue to site a fire station on existing park property. The visual, audio, and environmental impacts of a 24-hour emergency response facility were found to not be consistent with park management objectives.</li> <li>• Retain use of historic park office space as a satellite office and point for visitor contact.</li> <li>• Remove outdoor stored items from the upper day use area. Relocate items to Dash Point (centralized location).</li> <li>• Consider the relocation and development of administrative shop area in restoration planning efforts. Based on the feasibility of relocating shop function within the park, examine potential to develop a meeting space within the existing shop area, to serve park needs, and as a potential rental space.</li> <li>• Remove ranger residence from lower day use area. Consider development of park shop, store, or interpretive facility in its place. Seek opportunities to replace housing within the long-term boundary of the SeaTac Area.</li> <li>• Renovate or remove administrative building located along 16<sup>th</sup> Ave South. Based on the scope of improvements to this site, consider use as volunteer or staff housing or a rental facility.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Development of boating facilities</b></p>	<p>Maintain existing offshore mooring buoys (two) and consider the additional of 1 to 2 more buoys based on permitting and site conditions.</p> <p>Consider the development of designated hand-craft launch area for non-motorized boat use in the shoreline restoration design planning process (in reasonable proximity to water trail campsites).</p>

Recreational Resources and Facilities Issues Specific to Saltwater State Park

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Interpretive and environmental education services</b></p>	<p>A separate interpretive master plan will be completed for the park by June of 2009. This planning effort will provide recommendations for each level of the park’s interpretive network (e.g. pre-visit, on-site orientation, interpretive hubs, and resource story points and related programs). The following recommendations should be included within the interpretive and related facility planning processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider interpretive messages targeted at: a) the ecology of the artificial reef and related marine and shoreline environments; b) ongoing efforts to reverse land use impacts to the shoreline (e.g. past actions to dike and realign creek, fill historic creek channel, and alter shoreline to arrest natural delta processes); and c) the benefits of estuary and upland creek restoration to salmon and other wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Develop an inventory of suitable outdoor learning field sites for scheduled programming and outreach learning. An inventory development process should include coordination with local school districts and educational groups and organizations to maximize network benefits.</li> <li>• Development of an interpretive trail and appropriate media to tell the story of the park’s CCC heritage.</li> <li>• Considered rehabilitation of the CCC-era shop building as an interpretive hub (see protection of historic CCC resource above).</li> <li>• Focus on outdoor programming in the CCC Heritage Area (outdoor chimney) and within the beach day use area (e.g. guided hikes, formal interpretive programs, outdoor learning activities/opportunities, and cultural events).</li> <li>• Consider use of exposed CCC beach fire ring for daylight and potentially evening programming (subject to parking and visibility).</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX A: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS LAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

WAC 352-16-020 Land classification system. State park areas are of statewide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

- (1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
- (2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.
- (5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
  - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
  - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
  - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

WAC 352-16-030 Management within land classifications. (1) The director shall develop management guidelines for each land classification listed in WAC 352-16-020. The guidelines shall provide specific direction for each classification, outlining the philosophy of each classification, its appropriate physical features, location, allowed and prohibited activities, and allowed and prohibited developments. (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow uses that are otherwise prohibited, nor prohibit uses that are otherwise expressly allowed, by the commission, this code, or by statute.

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Recreation Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Recreation Areas	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> are to respond to the human needs for readily available areas for outdoor recreation and facilities to congregate for education, artistic expression and other ennobling pursuits. They are to provide a variety of outdoor recreational, educational, artistic, and cultural opportunities to large numbers of participants. Primary emphasis is on the provision of quality recreational services and facilities with secondary recognition given to protection of the areas natural qualities.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> physiographic features such as topography, soil type, drainage, etc., shall be adaptable to varied types of intensive uses and development. An attractive natural setting is desirable, however, human-made settings are acceptable. There are no specific size criteria.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> generally are made, not found. They shall be located throughout the state with primary emphasis to service major centers of urban populations and/or outstanding recreational tourist attractions. Scenic and inspirational values shall be considered but are secondary to the site adaptability and population criteria. When part of a large diverse park, recreation areas should be sited in proximity to public roads and utilities.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> may allow and provide for a wide variety of indoor and outdoor day, weekend and vacation activities. Provision may be made for high intensity participation in camping, picnicking, trail use, water sports, winter sports, group field games, and other activities for many people. Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Activities requiring high levels of social interaction are encouraged.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> shall provide appropriate facilities and services for the participation and enjoyment of high concentrations of outdoor recreationists and/or participants in indoor educational, cultural and artistic activities. A high degree of development is anticipated. Facilities may include road and parking networks, swimming beaches, full service marinas, trails, bathhouses, artificial lakes and pools, play fields, large sanitary and eating facilities; standard and utility campgrounds, stores, picnic grounds, group shelters, conference centers, environmental learning centers, hostels, and administrative support facilities.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Resource Recreation Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium- and low-intensity recreational use.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> are sites where the high quality of a particular natural or cultural resource or set of such resources is the lure for human recreation. Thus, the rationale for recreation is based on the value of attractive natural or cultural resources. Management of these areas must stress the centrality of preserving the quality of the natural and cultural resources while allowing appropriate and sustainable levels of human use and enjoyment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> have a variety of physiographic features. While they may contain areas of environmental sensitivity, most portions of each area will be able to withstand low- to medium-intensity recreation use without significant environmental degradation.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural or cultural factors produce land and water sites particularly suited for recreation in a natural setting. Access to these sites should be reasonably proximate to major urban centers, but some access restriction may be necessary to avoid overuse of resources. Within large diverse parks, these areas should be located at least a moderate distance from public roads and high use intensity areas, while still maintaining reasonable public access for their intended use.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> provide opportunities for low- and medium-intensity recreational experiences including, but not limited to, picnicking, primitive camping, a variety of recreational trail experiences, interpretive facilities, historic/cultural exhibits, nature observation, photography, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, floating, and fishing. Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Basketball, tennis, organized group sporting activities requiring formal sports fields, commercial-sized piers and docks, standard and utility camping, indoor accommodations and centers, developed swimming areas, and other similarly intense uses are not appropriate. Scientific research is permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> development shall be permitted to the extent necessary to serve allowed activities. Parking, sanitary facilities, and other ancillary developments and support facilities should be constructed in a manner that is consistent with the site's ability to manage environmental change.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Areas</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> are to respond to the human need for readily available "conservatories" of nature and open spaces. Emphasis is directed toward nature and the conservation of native flora and fauna, special geologic or paleontologic resources, and the natural amenities of the area. Human wants for other than naturally existing educational and recreational opportunities are considered secondary to nature's requirement for the sustained maintenance of its natural balances, or the preservation of special geologic or paleontologic features.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> have a variety of topography and features to provide a diversified natural environment with interesting but not necessarily unique flora and fauna, or geologic or paleontologic features. Where classification is based on biological considerations, sites should consist of land areas large enough to maintain natural biological processes in a nearly undeveloped state and provide users with a feeling of solitude and tranquility, and an opportunity to view nature in its "uncontrolled" form. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> are not "made", but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural environment. Those areas most desirable in terms of physical features and size usually are "found" and "held" against creeping encroachments and raising land values. They often become over used and "lost" as populations spread around them. As a part of the overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural processes in a classified area. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, nordic track or other similar trails into a natural area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that their use is causing significant degradation to the system of natural processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, photography, cross-country skiing, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural processes. Scientific research is permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area</u> development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to primitive items such as trails, trail structures and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Heritage Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Heritage Areas	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of outstanding, unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> are designated to preserve and/or interpret selected areas or features for the education and enjoyment of the public, an area's intrinsic cultural value, and/or for scientific research.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> vary in size and physiographic makeup according to their location and reason for existence. Historic landscapes may require relatively large acreage while archaeological sites may be measured in square feet.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> usually are located where they are found or the feature exists. However, in some instances relocation or re-creation of artifacts, resources or facilities is possible. In these situations they may be located in appropriate settings and concentrated near major population centers and along primary travel routes.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> activities shall generally be limited to those directly associated with the interpretation of the area or feature, and the education of the patrons. Picnicking, recreational trails, and other low- to medium-intensity recreation uses may be allowed if they do not detract from the principal purpose of the area, its setting, structures, sites and objects.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> development shall generally be limited to that necessary for the protection and interpretation of the area or feature, and the education and safety of the patrons. Sanitary facilities, recreation trails, and picnicking facilities may be provided in a manner which does not detract from the aesthetic, educational or environmental quality of the area, its setting, structures, sites or objects, or, if applicable, its value for scientific research.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Forest Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Forest Areas	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:</p> <p>(a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for 150 years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for 90 years or longer; or Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> are places where human access to and interpretation and enjoyment of natural forest processes are limited to those activities and facilities that do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Public access into these areas emphasizes appreciation of nature through experiencing nature. The principal function of these areas is to assist in maintaining the state's bio-diversity while expanding human understanding and appreciation of natural values.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and relatively intact vegetative communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual forest community. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural factors produce forest vegetative cover. These areas are not "made", but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in natural forest progression. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state, recognizing that maintenance of bio-diversity is one of the primary functions of their classification. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated recreation trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural forest processes in a classified area. Careful design of recreation trails should match intended uses, to maintain consistency with the purpose and philosophy of the classification. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural forest processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, nordic track or other similar trails into a natural forest area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that they are causing significant degradation to the system of natural forest processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, cross-country skiing, photography, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Scientific research is permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to trails, trail structures, and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.</p>



## Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Area Preserves

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Area Preserves</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> are sites where human access is limited to educational and scientific purposes. The principal function of these areas is to preserve natural ecosystems or geologic features of statewide significance. Public access for recreation must be subordinate to the principal function of the classification.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and intact ecological communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual ecological community or geologic feature. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural ecological systems or significant geologic features exist. These areas are not "made", but rather exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural system. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> provide opportunities for scientific research and education about natural systems, geologic features, sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. Recreational use of existing or relocated trails may be permitted, provided that it can be clearly demonstrated that such use does not degrade the system of natural processes occurring in the preserve. Otherwise, trails are limited to administrative, scientific and organized educational activities and uses. No other activities are permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> development shall be limited to access facilities for permitted activities and structures to inhibit general public access. No other facilities or structures are permitted.</p>

## Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Amphitheater	P	C	C	N	N
Archery/Target Range	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Std and Util	P	N	N	N	N
Camping - Primitive	P	P	C	N	N
Camping - Adirondack	P	C	N	N	N
Camping - Horse-oriented	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Water Trail	P	P	C	N	N
Children's Play Area	P	C	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Tables	P	P	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Group Shelter	P	N	C	N	N
Day Use Lodges/Centers	P	N	C	N	N
Environmental Learning Centers	C	N	C	N	N
Equestrian Facilities	C	C	C	N	N
Fields - Informal Play/Mowed	P	C	C	N	N
Indoor Accommodations	P	N	C	N	N
Interpretive - Centers	P	N	P	N	N
Interpretive - Kiosks	P	P	P	C	N
Interpretive Trail	P	P	P	P	C
Interpretive - Signs	P	P	P	P	C
Parking - Vehicles	P	P	C	N	N
Roads	P	P	C	N	N

### Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Sanitary: Comfort Stations	P	N	C	N	N
Sanitary: Composting/Vault	P	P	C	C	N
Sports Fields	C	N	N	N	N
Skiing - Alpine Facilities	C	C	N	N	N
Swimming Facilities	P	N	C	N	N
Trails - Hiking	P	P	P	P	C
Trails - Mountain Biking	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Equestrian	C	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Nordic Track Skiing	P	P	C	N**	N
Trails - C-C skiing	P	P	P	P	C
Trails - Snowmobile	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Paved non-motor	P	C	C	C	N
Water: Docks/Piers ≥ 10 boats	P	N	C	N	N
Water: Docks/Piers < 10 boats	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Launch Ramps	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Hand Launch Areas	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Mooring Buoys	P	P	C	C	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted, but conditioned to assure design is compatible w/purpose of land classification and abutting classification objectives.

N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

\* All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.

\*\*Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).

## Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Farming/Orchards	C	C	C	N	N
Filming/Special Events	P	P	P	C	N
Grazing	C	C	C	N	N
Harvesting - Edible Fruiting Bodies	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Mushrooms	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Shellfish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Fish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Algae, etc.	P	P	P	P	N
Haying	P	P	P	N	N
Metal Detecting	P	P	C	N	N
Orienteering	P	P	C	N	N
Ocean Beach Driving	P	C	N	N	N
Off-Trail: Equestrian	C	C	C	N	N
Off-Trail: Hiking	P	P	P	P	N
Off-trail biking	C	C	C	N	N
Paragliding	P	P	C	N	N
Technical Rock Climbing	P	P	C	C	N

## Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Water: Jet Skiing	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Kayak/Canoeing	P	P	P	C	N
Water: Power Boating	P	C	N	C	N
Water: White Water Boating	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Sailing	P	P	P	C	N
Water: Skiing	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Swimming	P	P	P	P	N
Water: Wind Surfing	P	C	C	N	N
Winter: Alpine Skiing	C	C	N	N	N
Winter: C-C Skiing (off-trail)	P	P	P	P	C
Winter: Mushing/Sled Dogs	C	C	C	N	N
Winter: Snowshoeing	P	P	P	P	C
Winter: Snowmobiling (off-trail)	P	P	C	N	N
Wood Debris Collection	P	P	P	N	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted with Commission concurrence, but conditioned to assure compatibility w/purpose of land classification and abutting classifications.

N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

\* All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.

\*\*Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).

## APPENDIX B: AREAS OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AFFECT (SeaTac Area)





10.10.08  
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This map was compiled for cartographic purposes and contains no warranties.





# APPENDIX D - SEATAC AREA CAMP RECOMMENDATIONS FRAMEWORK

