

# SEQUIM BAY STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

October 15, 2008



## Washington State Parks Mission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, 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.



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 the staff of (insert park name) State Park who participated in public meetings, reviewed voluminous materials, and made this a better plan because of if.

### **Plan Author**

Derek Gustafson, Northwest Region Parks Planner

### **Sequim Bay State Park Area Management Planning Team**

Derek Gustafson, CAMP Project Lead

Steve Gilstrom, Sequim Bay Area Park Manager

Dave Howatt, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor

Kara Symonds, Environmental Specialist

Jon Krambrink, NW Region Stewardship Manager

### **Washington State Park and Recreation Commission**

7150 Cleanwater Lane, P.O. Box 42650 Olympia WA 98504-2650

Tel: (360) 902-8500 Fax: (360) 753-1591 TDD: (360) 664-3133

Commissioners:

Fred Olsen

Mickey Fearn

Bob Petersen

Eliot Scull

Joe Taller

Joan Thomas

Cecilia Vogt

Rex Derr, Director

SEQUIM BAY STATE PARK LAND CLASSES, RESOURCE ISSUES AND  
MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

RECEIVED  
OCT 21 2008  
HQ

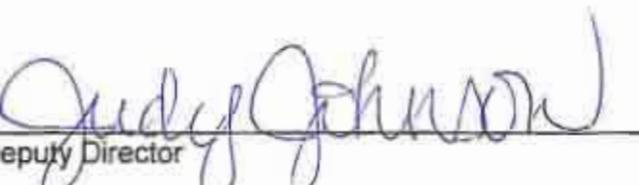
The signatures below certify the adoption of this document by Washington State Parks  
for the continued management of Sequim Bay State Park.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Park Manager

10-16-08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Region Director

11/3/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director

11/4/08  
Date

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PREFACE.....5**

**INTRODUCTION .....5**

**PURPOSE .....6**

**SECTION 1: PARK DESCRIPTION.....7**

**SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS .....10**

**SECTION 3: PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM BOUNDARY.....11**

**SECTION 4: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES .....14**

**SECTION 5: OTHER PARK PLANS.....17**

## **PREFACE**

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of 120 parks located throughout the state.

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

As part of the Centennial 2013 Plan, the Commission directed staff to complete land use plans for all 120 parks. Land-use plans follow a process that has been used by the Commission since 1996, called CAMP. CAMP is an acronym for Classification and Management Plan.

One of the most important elements of land use planning 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 facilities 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.

A CAMP brings together park visitors, nearby communities, stakeholders and agency staff in a public process that forges a common vision of what the state park should become. Through a public process staff and public participants identify park management issues, and look at alternative approaches for addressing them. The outcome is a plan that will help focus our efforts to balance resource protection with recreation in the park. For State Parks' staff, this document represents policy approval and a means to create a state park that meets the Commission's Vision for State Parks Centennial:

*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.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Sequim Bay State Park features 4,909 feet of saltwater coastline in Sequim Bay. Its location on the North Olympic Peninsula falls within the Olympic rainshadow effect. Sequim receives less than half of the yearly rainfall of other Puget Sound locations. The name Sequim is derived from a Native American word meaning “quiet waters,” which aptly describes the waters of Sequim Bay. The bay is protected by two overlapping sandbars. These same sandbars also protected the Bay from discovery by the first three expeditions that ventured into Puget Sound

## **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 natural, cultural, and recreation/facility management issues, and 3) provide initial direction to park staff (suggested management approaches) to address these issues. The ultimate purpose of this document is to describe how the agency intends to balance recreational use with measures to protect natural and cultural resources.

The document is divided into six sections, with several appendices:

- Section 1: Provides a brief overview of the park including its geography, historical background, major attributes, and public use.
- Section 2: Describes both the agency's system-wide park management planning program and its specific application to this park.
- Section 3: Outlines management objectives established for the park.
- Section 4: Describes the park's land classifications (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.
- Section 6: Lists other plans pertinent to this park.

Appendices contain additional supporting documentation pertinent to this plan.

## SECTION 1: PARK DESCRIPTION

### SEQUIM BAY STATE PARK

**Location:** Sequim Bay State Park is located in Clallam County on Highway 101 just 4 miles southwest of the city of Sequim. Ramblewood ELC (entrance) is located ½ mile south of Sequim Bay State Park.

**Acreage:** 91.54 acres (includes Ramblewood ELC) with 4,909 feet of tidelands.

**Acquired:** Sequim Bay State Park and Ramblewood ELC were acquired in 8 parcels primarily from the Department of Natural Resources; the first in 1936 and the last in 1981, for a total of \$768,944.

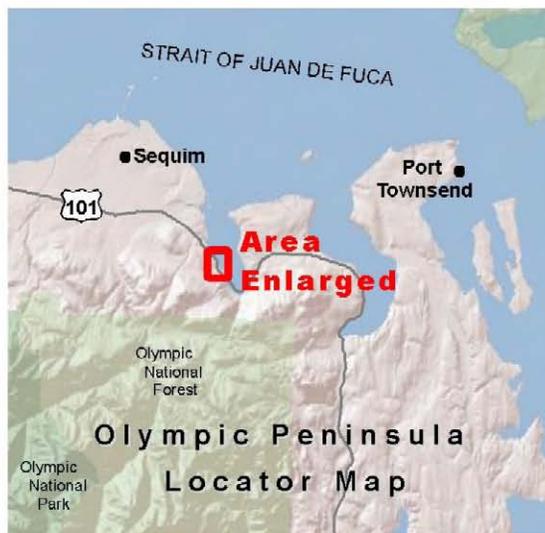
**Historical Background:** Sequim is an Indian word for "quiet waters", and it truly is, with two naturally occurring and overlapping spits which leave only a zigzag entrance into the bay from the Strait of Juan De Fuca. The first year this park was open to the public was 1923. At several different times, the community joined together to develop different areas of this park. The last major effort was in about 1955-56 when they raised \$40,000 and built Ramblewood Lodge.

**Facilities:** **Sequim Bay-** 16 utility campsites, 60 standard campsites, 3 primitive sites, a reservable group camp (10 sites), 53 picnic sites, 424 feet of saltwater moorage space and a boat-launch ramp, 6 mooring buoys, 2.5 miles of hiking trails, and 1.9 miles of roadway. Other buildings include the manager's residence, park shop and storage shed, 6 comfort stations, 3 kitchen shelters, and registration booth.

**Ramblewood-** environmental learning center, five Adirondack shelters, three cabins, and a large kitchen and dining hall.

**Activities:** **Park and ELC-** Camping, picnicking, fishing, boating, clamming, scuba diving, beach walking, marine life study, field and group sports, tennis, hiking, flora study, volley ball, and bird watching.

Figure 1: Sequim Bay State Park Vicinity



**Table 1. Summary of Hoko River State Park Issues.**

<p>Natural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of Natural Plant and Animal Communities</li> <li>• Collection of Natural Resource Inventories</li> <li>• Interpretive Approaches for Natural Resources</li> <li>• Management of Eagles</li> <li>• Forest Management</li> <li>• County Designated Critical Areas &amp; Shorelines</li> </ul>
<p>Cultural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing cultural/environmental education programming</li> <li>• Natural/Cultural resource interpretation/ environmental education</li> </ul>
<p>Recreational Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desired recreational experience/allowed recreational uses</li> <li>• Recreational Facilities Development – Visitor Services</li> <li>• Recreational Facilities Development - Camping</li> <li>• Recreational Facilities Development - Trails</li> <li>• Recreational Facilities Development – Water Access</li> <li>• Recreational Facilities Development – Overnight Lodging</li> <li>• Recreational Facilities Development – Interpretation &amp; Education</li> <li>• Recreational Facilities Development – Sports fields &amp; playgrounds</li> </ul>

## **SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS**

Between February 2006 and April, 2007, State Parks staff conducted a public visioning process for the Miller Peninsula property and Sequim Bay State Park. This process concluded with Commission approval of a park development concept and guiding principles for park planning on the Miller Peninsula property. The concept "Nature within Reach" and the guiding principles provided a starting point and a smooth transition into the Sequim Bay State Park CAMP Planning process.

The Sequim Bay State Park CAMP project began in January 2008, with the assembly of the planning team comprised of park, region and headquarters staff. The core planning team began data gathering and developing an inventory of environmental opportunities and constraints. Two alternatives were then assembled and presented to the community on March 10, 2008. At that meeting and through subsequent written and verbal communications, a number of issues, concerns and ideas were offered by the community. Drawing upon this valuable input, the planning team prepared a preliminary land classification and long-term boundary proposal, clarified resource issues and drafted management approaches. This staff recommendation was presented to the public for comment on April 30, 2008.

## SECTION 3: PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM BOUNDARY

### Land Classifications:

The CAMP process uses six land classifications: (1) the Recreation classification designates areas suitable for and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use; (2) the Resource Recreation classification designates areas suitable for and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use; (3) the Natural classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes; (4) the Heritage classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic properties; (5) the Natural Forest classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses; and (6) the Natural Area Preserve classification designates areas suitable for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features. (Appendix 4 describes the classifications in more detail.)

For each classification there is a list of activities and facilities that are permitted, conditionally permitted, or not permitted with the classification. A conditional activity requires approval of the Commission during CAMP. An activity identified in the matrix as permitted in a classification is not obligated to be included within the park.

Through analysis of future program direction, facility needs, and the existing natural and recreational resource base, staff recommends that the Commission classify Sequim Bay State Park as a combination of Recreation and Resource Recreation Areas (Figure 1).

### Recreation Areas

Areas classified as Recreation provide for high-intensity recreational activities such as overnight accommodations, camping and administrative facilities.

Activities *conditionally* permitted under the agency's land classification system may be permitted at specific sites only with the concurrence of the Commission. Activities conditionally permitted in Recreation Areas include:

- Farming/orchards
- Grazing
- Off-Trail Equestrian
- Off-trail Cycling

Of these, staff recommends the Commission not permit any of these activities at Sequim Bay State Park.

### Resource Recreation Areas

Proposed Resource Recreation Areas provide for medium to low-intensity recreational activities that are generally natural and or cultural resource based.

Activities Permitted in Resource Recreation Areas, by land classification include:

- Filming/Special Events
- Harvesting (fruits, mushrooms, algae, fish, and shellfish)
- Haying
- Metal Detecting
- Orienteering
- Off-Trail Hiking
- Paragliding
- Water: Kayaking/Canoeing
- Water: Sailing
- Water: Swimming
- Water: Wind Surfing

Activities conditionally permitted in Resource Recreation Areas include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farming/orchards</li> <li>• Grazing</li> <li>• Off-Trail Equestrian</li> <li>• Off-Trail Cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water: Jet Skiing</li> <li>• Water: Power Boating</li> <li>• Water: Skiing</li> <li>• Water: Wind Surfing</li> </ul>
--	---

Of these conditional activities, staff recommends the Commission only approve Water: Jet Skiing, Water: Power Boating, Water: Skiing and Water: Wind Surfing on park beaches.

## Long-Term Park Boundary

The purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the vision and goals 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 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 in a condition that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply:

The agency might

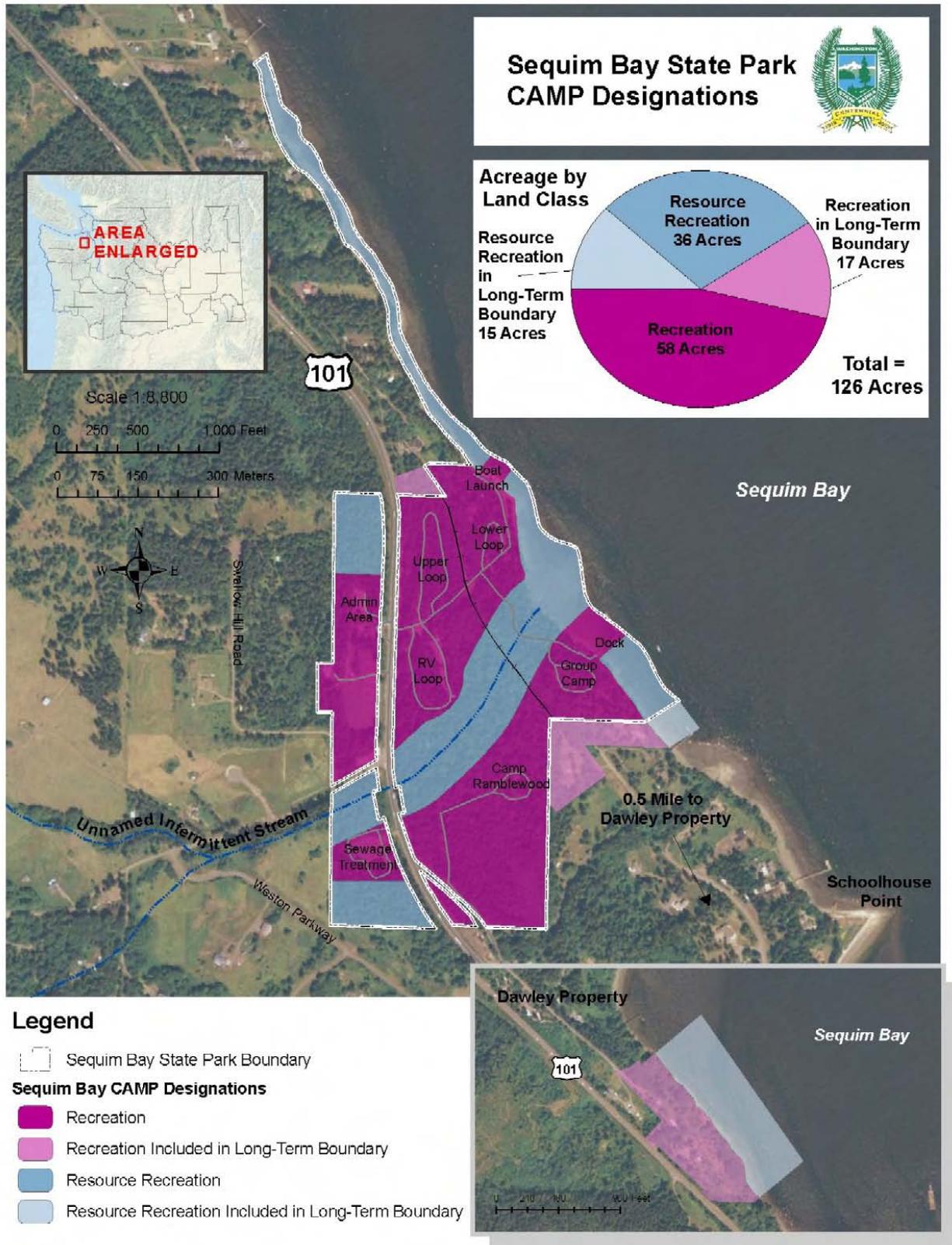
- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal.
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features.
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property.
- Consider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

Staff recommends that the following properties be included within the park’s long-term boundary:

- Dawley property.
- Private property south of the park for park buffer and/ or possible Retreat Center expansion.
- Private property north of the park boundary to provide minor camp ground expansion.

State Parks seeks to acquire properties identified in this action on a willing seller basis.

**Figure 1: Sequim Bay State Park Long-Term Boundary and Land Classification Map**



## SECTION 4: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

### PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

Numerous natural and recreation / facility resource issues were identified by the public and staff during the CAMP planning process. Suggested management approaches to address the issues are included within the tables below. 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 also anticipated, and may include (but not be limited to): Head Quarters, service centers, sister natural resources agencies (including the Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Ecology, Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation), local government institutions (weed control boards, permitting), non-profit organizations (Washington Native Plant Society, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society), tribes, institutions of higher education, and adjacent land-owners and interested citizens. All management actions will be consistent with the laws and policies<sup>1</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.

<b>Natural Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Management Approach</b>
Protection of Natural Plant and Animal Communities	<p>Emphasize management of the park for natural resource conservation and public open space/greenbelt functions with the same or slightly lesser intensity of park development than currently exists. Specific measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classify the majority of lands as Recreation Areas</li> <li>• Minimize construction of new recreational facilities outside of existing developed footprint.</li> <li>• Remove non-native plant species from undeveloped areas and rehabilitate natural plant communities.</li> <li>• Consider “restoration” of some developed landscapes.</li> </ul>
Collection of Natural Resource Inventories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Clallam County as it updates the critical areas element of its comprehensive plan.</li> <li>• Collect anecdotal information from local flora/fauna enthusiasts, local chapters of Audubon Society, Native Plant Society, and like organizations (on-going).</li> </ul>
Interpretive Approaches for Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnership with local natural resource groups and tribes to coordinate on-site park interpretation and links to other related sites in the region.</li> <li>• Prepare an interpretive master plan for the park.</li> </ul>
Management of Eagles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Tribes and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to update eagle management plan.</li> </ul>
Forest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a forest management plan for all forested areas with the park.</li> </ul>
County Designated Critical Areas & Shorelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Clallam County to address all critical area and shoreline related issues within the park with the goal of avoidance or minimizing of potential impacts as a result of park improvements.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</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).

<b>Cultural Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Management Approach</b>
Providing cultural/environmental education programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research regional/local educational programs and seek to provide opportunities that are not currently provided.</li> <li>• Incorporate use of education programs to conduct shell fishing-related monitoring on park shorelines and creek.</li> </ul>
Natural/Cultural resource interpretation/environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a park interpretive master plan using primarily park staff and volunteers to complete.</li> <li>• As part of park interpretive master plan, design and construct a modest interpretive network for the park utilizing at most interpretive kiosks, signs, and non-facilities oriented programming (brochures etc.).</li> <li>• Actively solicit partnerships with local school districts to provide environmental education opportunities.</li> </ul>

<b>Recreational Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Management Approach</b>
Desired recreational experience/allowed recreational uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize recreational use policies and facilities developments that result in lower use intensities than present and favor individual and small group use of the park.</li> <li>• Classifying currently undeveloped areas and some developed areas as a combination of Recreation and Resource Recreation thereby limiting recreational use and development to medium-intensity in those areas.</li> <li>• Focus on park vision and guiding principles developed as part of the Miller Peninsula planning process in 2007 for any facility improvements/ park redevelopment at Sequim Bay.</li> </ul>
Recreational Facilities Development – Visitor Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelop main entrance to park to address safety issues related to the highway. As part of development, consider new welcome center to include visitor orientation, modest interpretive programming, park store, public restrooms, administrative and other visitor service oriented programming.</li> <li>• Pursue property acquisition of Dawley property from U.S.F.W. for recreational purposes. Consider property residence for staff housing.</li> </ul>
Recreational Facilities Development - Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelop the existing camping facilities by focusing on a limited number of high quality standard and small RV sites in the lower portions of the existing campground. Remove all existing RV sites in existing RV loop.</li> <li>• Redevelop the upper loop to include hiker/ biker sites, standard camp sites and a modest amount of cabins to serve the Olympic Discovery Trail.</li> <li>• Consider noise abatement improvements (vegetation, earth berms, sound walls, etc.) to minimize highway noise.</li> <li>• Redevelop group camp facility incorporating geotechnical investigation results and recommendations. Consider cabins and new comfort station as part of development.</li> <li>• Consider the addition of group tour (trek) camp sites as part of park-wide re-development.</li> <li>• Consider acquisition north of park for campground buffer and possible walk-in campsites.</li> </ul>
Recreational Facilities Development - Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the partnership with Clallam County to pursue a permanent alignment of the Olympic Discovery Trail including the replacement of the pedestrian bridge along the railroad grade over the ravine.</li> <li>• Redevelop existing RV camping loop area to serve as day-use</li> </ul>

	<p>parking and picnicking to serve the Olympic Discovery Trail and Sports fields/ playground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue property acquisition of Dawley property from U.S.F.W. for recreational purposes Consider trail oriented development (picnic, restroom, interpretation) as part of Dawley property redevelopment.</li> </ul>
Recreational Facilities Development – Water Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-develop the existing moorage facilities with consideration given to maintain or increase the existing moorage capacity as demand is identified.</li> <li>• Re-develop the boat launch facility with the goal to maintain or decrease the existing capacity but improve the parking configuration as the site allows.</li> <li>• Consider the development of a water trails site.</li> <li>• Pursue property acquisition of Dawley property from U.S.F.W. for recreational purposes. Consider water access facilities as part of Dawley property redevelopment.</li> </ul>
Recreational Facilities Development – Overnight Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider expansion of the existing retreat center facilities and programming to increase capacity and opportunities.</li> <li>• Consider long-term development of group camping area as part of environmental education/interpretive programming.</li> <li>• Consider recreation supporting commercial development as part of park wide re-development.</li> <li>• Consider property acquisitions to the south of park boundary adjacent to retreat center for possible expansion.</li> </ul>
Recreational Facilities Development – Interpretation & Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with agency staff, volunteers and interested groups to develop and implement a park-wide interpretive plan.</li> <li>• Actively solicit partnerships to provide educational opportunities.</li> <li>• Pursue property acquisition of Dawley property from U.S.F.W. for recreational purposes Consider partnership opportunities as part of Dawley property re-development and programming.</li> </ul>
Recreational Facilities Development – Sports fields & playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain existing athletic facilities (sport courts, ball fields, etc.) as informal facilities with improvements necessary to keep the facilities operable.</li> </ul>

**SECTION 5: OTHER PARK PLANS AND DOCUMENTS**

- Agenda Item E-6 :Sequim Bay Park- Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) - Requested Action, August 7, 2008
- SEPA Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance, May 16, 2008
- Agenda Item E-4: Miller Peninsula and Sequim Bay State Park Concept – Requested Action, April 26, 2007
- Agenda Item E-10: Miller Peninsula Vision – Report, January 11, 2007
- Miller Peninsula Park Development - Predesign Study, August 1, 2006