West Day Use Area

The West Day Use Area will be expanded into the area vacated by the campsites removed from the West Campground. This beautiful riverside area will be restored to a riparian day use area with enhanced wildlife habitat, a river gravel bar gathering area with stone amphitheater seating and a fire pit, two fully accessible river view decks, riparian plantings, trails and a historic interpretive gathering plaza. A historic interpretive pole, located in the gathering plaza, creates a focal point and location for display of images of the many historic events that took place at this site.

Picnic Shelter Restoration

The existing park office will be returned to its original use as a picnic shelter in the west campground. The wood-framed walls will be removed, while the original partial height stone walls and masonry chimney will remain.

Gathering Area

This gathering area on the East Fork Satsop River is located at an existing gravel bar just downstream of the roadway bridge. It is a popular gravel bar/beach which will be enhanced by carefully sculpting the river bank to create a stone amphitheater seating area focused around a large central fire pit. These features will be incorporated into existing eroded bank areas and extend further upland, thereby avoiding new impacts to the river floodplain. Boulders and habitat logs placed between the river edge and the stone seating area will aid in slowing the annual flood waters, thereby protecting the stone seating amphitheater from major impacts.
Natural boulders and cut stone seats, embedded into the beach gravels and site soils (12”-18” depth) will withstand most floods and provide an attractive gathering area on the river, without migrating down-river.

**Plaza**

The West Day Use Plaza is located between the newly renovated west picnic shelter, riverside picnic areas and the river West Day Use Gathering Area. The plaza includes a historic pole focal point which displays historic images and photographs from the Schafer family and other local influential landowners that frequented Schafer State Park. It memorializes the many special events that took place at the park, making it an important focal point for the local community and region.
Discovery Landscape
The new Discovery Landscape will occupy the frequently flooded area formerly in the west campground. It offers a natural area, inviting to children, with opportunities for exploring marsh habitats with frogs, toads, salamanders, sedges, rushes, and boulders and logs on which to hop, balance, and explore. A series of channels in the onsite gravel will create seasonally flooded areas where a variety of native plants will thrive, supporting birds and small mammals. Boardwalks and viewpoints provide opportunities to explore interesting micro-habitats in this dynamic riparian area.

Backwater Habitat
Backwater habitat for fish rearing is scarce and will provide an ecological enhancement to the river. These habitats will be located within the existing river buffer areas with separation from existing or proposed development, to make the overall ecological lift apparent to regulators and to avoid significant expansion of critical area buffers.
East Day Use Area

The East Day Use Area of the park is the current primary day use area in the park. Its open meadows provide opportunities for picnicking and informal play. The renovated East Day Use Area is expanded with the removal of some parking and roads closest to the river. New access is limited to a loop drive with parking south of an expanded informal play and picnic meadow.

**Kitchen Shelters**
The two existing kitchen shelters, currently undergoing renovations, are each enhanced with new picnic plazas with outdoor picnic tables. These historic structures, along with the existing restroom, set the character of the park with their use of wood and local cobble-stone. They are beautiful examples of the National Parks Service Rustic Architecture style, constructed by the WPA. Several accessible parking spaces are provided in close proximity to the kitchen shelters.

**River Beach Access**
An existing large gravel bar is located just upstream of the East Satsop River Bridge. This popular gathering area is fringed with tall willows and provides an opportunity for inner-tubing access, wading and fishing. It remains a natural gravel bar with logs and boulders for informal seating on the beach. Trails along the river provide several connections to the river back, a boardwalk across wetlands and a connection to a potential future pedestrian bridge connecting to the North Day Use Area trails.

**Playground**
A nature play area with play surfacing and a teen play area with a climbing net structure are located on the wooded knoll area between the two kitchen shelters and near the existing restroom.

**Trails**
Loop trails lead to the riverfront and river beach/gravel bar gathering areas, gathering and use areas, while also providing opportunities to explore the park. The majority of trails are 4 foot wide crushed rock trails, while the trails to the central river beach and eastern-most gravel bar are 8 foot wide paved paths allowing maintenance vehicle access for Fish and Wildlife Department and Parks’ maintenance.

**Historic Monument Plaza**
The existing Schafer Family historic monument with existing flagpole is enhanced with a pedestrian plaza and seat walls. This former vehicular entry to the park is renovated into a pedestrian gateway to the East Day Use Area.

**Bridge View Deck**
A view deck at the southeast end of the bridge creates improved visibility of pedestrian access to the bridge and connection to trails north of the river. It also creates a viewpoint of the river which is universally accessible and provides memorial benches and interpretive panels highlighting the fisheries and natural history of East Fork Satsop River.
West River Access Day Use Area

The West River Access Day Use Area includes a hand-carry boat launch that serves all types of boaters, including pontoon boats. It is also a take-out location for inner-tubers on the park’s inner-tubing water trail. The existing road is widened and paved and a turnaround with 16 parking spaces is created at the existing maintenance area. A small picnic meadow with picnic tables is created between the existing gravel bar at the river bend and the turnaround. A universally accessible path leads to the gravel bar for fishing, boating and swimming access.

- Since launch is mainly used in winter, there is minimal traffic conflict with summer camping
- Design to accommodate pontoon boats does not require much river bank modification. A gravel slope to the river is adequate.
- Create ADA access as 5% sloped pedestrian path to river (likely concrete) designed to withstand dynamic river conditions
- Use WDFW guidelines for hand-carry boat ramps and ADA access

Riverbend Day Use Area

The Riverbend Day Use Area is located at the farthest southwest corner of the park. A forest trail (native soil) is proposed to lengthen the inner-tubing water trail route and allow enjoyment of this quiet, natural part of the river and riparian corridor for strolling and bird watching.

North Day Use Area

The North Day Use Area includes extensive mature forest, including Garry Oaks on the top of the ridge, approximately 70 feet above the river. An existing forest loop trail follows along the river and loops up into the forest on the top of the ridge. A new forest trail, bisecting the larger loop trail, is proposed, in addition to a loop through the riparian forest west of W. Schafer Park Road and several river overlooks.

- Expansion of forest trails
- Viewpoint development along the river
- Connection to a potential future pedestrian bridge
- Interpretation of rare oak forest
- Bank protection with logs and boulders
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