Make a difference
There are many ways you can help park staff keep the Horan Natural Area as pristine as possible, including:

- Remain on gravel trails.
- Keep pets on leash at all times.
- Leave bikes locked up at designated trailheads.
- Practice pack-it-in, pack-it-out principles. Take any trash with you and dispose of it in containers provided at either end of the trail.
- Respect the rights of others who may be on the trail by staying to the right as you go around corners with limited visibility.
- Tell park staff about any hazards you may see such as a tree fallen across the trail or a washout in the trail.
- Obey all signs and rules.
- Remain out of the closed area from Dec. 1 through March 1. This is necessary to protect bald eagles.
- Leave the wildlife in the wild. Please do not take any flowers, plants, bird eggs or driftwood.
- Leave birdhouses untouched. These give researchers valuable information that can help the Natural Area in the future.

Information for groups or organizations
School groups and other organizations that would like to have a guided tour of the Horan Natural Area may contact Wenatchee Confluence State Park at (509) 664-6373. To organize a tour, a group must:
- Have at least 20 members.
- Have an agenda for its tour.
- Contact park staff at least 20 days before the desired tour date.

The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: $30
- One-day pass: $10
  (transaction and dealer fees may apply)

The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov or call (866) 320-9933.

Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.
History of the Horan Natural Area

The area's written history began in 1811 when explorer David Thompson paddled the Columbia River while trapping for the Northwest Fur Company. Many trappers and miners followed Thompson's first visit, leading to the establishment of the historic Horan family. In 1990, the Chelan County Public Utility District acquired about 100 acres of pear orchard from the Horan family for the purpose of building a manmade wetland. After construction, the wetland was given to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to administer and is now part of the Wenatchee Confluence State Park. The wetland was named the Horan Natural Area to honor the historic Horan family.

The Horan Natural Area consists of about 100 acres of wetlands. There are 2 miles of gravel trail that connect 15 viewing stations for walkers. These viewing stations allow individuals to learn about and experience a variety of habitats.

What to expect while on your walk

While taking your walk, try to use all of your senses. Each season brings new experiences.

Spring

In spring, the Horan Natural Area is used by numerous waterfowl, birds and mammals. Waterfowl use the tall green grass as a safe haven to lay their eggs and hatch their young. Song birds will build nests in the cottonwood trees and other high places so that predators like the skunk, raccoon or coyote don’t disturb the eggs. Mammals of all shapes and sizes will use the Horan Natural Area. They will raise their young in the tall grass or under the shade of a tree. After a few hours, the baby deer (called fawns) will be able to search for food on their own. The deer and other mammals start to grow their winter coats. Their coats will change from a reddish summer coat to a dark brown/gray winter coat. This also is the season the deer mate. If you listen, you may be able to hear two male deer (bucks) sparring in the brush. They will use their antlers and body size to win the courtship of the does.

Summer

Summer is a time for the wildlife to get fat and grow strong. The young birds need to develop strong muscles so that when fall arrives, they can fly south to their wintering grounds and be able to search for food on their own. The large mammals, such as skunks and deer, use this time to relax and eat. They don’t move south during the winter. They will winter right in the Horan Natural Area. The more they are able to eat during the summer, the larger their fat reserves will be. This will help them survive the frigid winter months. This also is the time the majestic cottonwood trees start to expel seeds in the air with white puffs. These white puffs enable the tiny seeds to travel far distances in the air and start a new forest of cottonwoods. If you watch, it looks as though it’s snowing.

Fall

Fall brings in the colder air from the north. The cooler temperatures start to turn the grasses from green to brown. The waterfowl start to band together in flocks and eventually they will move south to warmer climates. The deer and other mammals start to grow their winter coats. Their coats will change from a reddish summer coat to a dark brown/gray winter coat. This also is the season the deer mate. If you listen, you may be able to hear two male deer (bucks) sparring in the brush. They will use their antlers and body size to win the courtship of the does.

Winter

Winter in the Natural Area can be one of the most exciting times. Most trees, shrubs and other plants lose their leaves, so watching your favorite wildlife species will be easier. There are numerous species of mammals, song birds, waterfowl and even species that migrate hundreds of miles to survive the winter. All the plants play an important role in the survival of the wildlife who call this area home. Please help the wildlife survive by not picking plants, flowers or berries.

Use common sense and caution when walking through the Horan Natural Area as biting and stinging creatures do call this home. Ants, bees, snakes and other species may cause injury if disturbed.

Welcome. Please remember a Discover Pass is required to visit a state park or other state-managed recreation lands.

Revenue from Discover Pass sales replaces general fund tax funding no longer available to cover the cost of operations.