



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Northwest Region Parks Development Services

220 N. Walnut Street • Burlington, Washington 98233 • (360) 755-5262 • Fax (360) 428-1094

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal:

Currently two footbridges span Terrell Creek at Birch Bay State Park. The wooden footbridges have reached the end of their lifespan and need to be replaced. The footbridges connect pedestrian paths in the upper campground area to the beach. Replacement of these bridges is necessary for maintaining pedestrian beach access. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission proposes to replace these footbridges in order to maintain park functions.

Footbridge One

Footbridge one is located in the southwest portion of the park and is adjacent to the restroom. The failing wooden creosote bridge will be replaced with a new aluminum bridge. Creosote piles and abutments will also be removed as part of this project and replaced with concrete abutments. In order to improve ecosystem functions and meet updated regulatory requirements, the replacement bridges will be extended to span the length of the creek from bank to bank. Footbridge one is approximately 65 feet long and 7 feet wide. The length of the proposed footbridge will be extended to approximately 76 feet (78 feet with railing) and the width will be reduced to 6 feet 8 inches. The creosote abutments will be replaced with concrete abutments that are at the top of the bank above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). Because the aluminum bridges have the strength to span the creek, no new pilings will be installed.

Footbridge 2

Footbridge two is located in the northwest portion of the park and is adjacent to the restroom and Heron Center. This bridge is currently failing due to a broken stringer. Half of this bridge has been closed to the public for safety reasons. The failing wooden creosote bridge will be replaced with a new aluminum bridge. Creosote piles and abutments will also be removed as part of this project and replaced with concrete abutments. In order to improve ecosystem functions and meet updated regulatory requirements, the replacement bridges will be extended to span the length of the creek from bank to bank. Footbridge two is approximately 54 feet long and 7 feet wide. The length of the proposed footbridge is approximately 70 feet (72 feet with railing) and the width will be reduced to 6 feet 8 inches. The creosote abutments will be replaced with concrete abutments that are at the top of the bank above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). Because the aluminum bridges have the strength to span the creek, no new pilings will be installed.

Proponent: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Birch Bay State Park: 5105 Helwig Road, Blaine, WA 98230-9625; Whatcom County, Section 1, Township 39N, Range 1W.

Lead agency: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

- This DNS is issued under 197-11-340 (2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by **July 8, 2014** or they may not be considered.

Responsible Official: Tom Murley
Position/Title: NW Region Environmental Specialist
Phone (360)755-2827; FAX (360) 428-1094
E-mail tom.murley@parks.wa.gov

Address: 220 N. Walnut Street
Burlington, WA 98233-1138

Date June 19, 2014

Signature



"All Washington State Parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all persons regardless of age, sex, creed, ethnic origin, or physical limitations."

There is no agency SEPA appeal; however all comments are welcome and will be thoroughly considered.

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

UPDATED 2014

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants: [\[help\]](#)

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals: [\[help\]](#)

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. background [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#) Birch Bay State Park Footbridge Replacement
2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#) Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, ATTN: Kira Swanson

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#) 220 N Walnut Street
Burlington, WA 98233-1138
(360) 755-2835
4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#) June 10, 2014
5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#) Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#) Replacement of footbridge one will take place during the in-water work window which is open from July 1 to October 15 of 2015. Replacement of footbridge two will take place during the in-water work window which is open from July 1 to October 15 of 2014 if all necessary permits can be obtained. If permits cannot be obtained in time to complete the project in 2014, the project will be completed during the in-water work window in 2015.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)
Currently there are no plans for further activities, expansions or additions related to the project proposal.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)
Birch Bay State Park Cultural Resource Management Plan, 2003

Archaeological Assessment for the Heron Center Project, Birch Bay State Park, Whatcom County Washington; Drayton Archaeology, LLC., Blaine Washington: November 2011

Birch Bay State Park: Revised Terrell Creek Wetland Rating; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; October 2007
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)
There are no other pending government approvals associated with the project. Permits will be required from local and state regulatory agencies (see question 10).
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)
The project will require a Shoreline Exemption and building permit from Whatcom County and Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The project will also involve consultation with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and affected tribes as required under Executive Order 05-05.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

Currently two footbridges span Terrell Creek at Birch Bay State Park (see Exhibit A: Vicinity Map). The wooden footbridges have reached the end of their lifespan and need to be replaced. The footbridges connect pedestrian paths in the upper campground area to the beach. Replacement of these bridges is necessary for maintaining pedestrian beach access. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission proposes to replace these footbridges in order to maintain park functions. Detailed descriptions of the proposed footbridge replacement projects can be found below.

Footbridge One

Footbridge one is located in the southwest portion of the park and is adjacent to the restroom (see attached Exhibit A: Vicinity Map). The failing wooden creosote bridge will be replaced with a new aluminum bridge. Creosote piles and abutments will also be removed as part of this project and replaced with concrete abutments. This footbridge is scheduled for replacement in 2015 during the fish window which is open from July 1 to October 15.

In order to improve ecosystem functions and meet updated regulatory requirements, the replacement bridges will span the length of the creek from bank to bank. As a result, the replacement bridge will be longer than the existing bridge. Footbridge one is approximately 65 feet long and 7 feet wide (although the width extends to approximately 9 feet where beams extend to support the rail). The length of the proposed footbridge will be extended to approximately 76 feet (78 feet with railing) and the width will be reduced to 6 feet 8 inches (including the railing) (see Exhibit C: Footbridge One Design). The creosote abutments will be replaced with concrete abutments that are approximately 8 feet wide, 4 feet long, and 4 feet deep (see Exhibit E: Site Plan and Exhibit F: Footing Design). Because the aluminum bridges have the strength to span the creek, no new pilings will be installed.

A crane and backhoe will be brought into the site to carry out demolition and construction. In order to demolish the existing footbridges, the hand railings and decking will be removed by hand. No material will be allowed to enter the creek. The paved walkway which runs to the bridge will be cut and a backhoe will be used to remove the pavement and soils on top of the abutments. The bridge stringers will then be removed using a crane which will be staged along the trail west of the bridge.

In order to remove the piles, a chain will be wrapped around the pilings. The chain will be attached to a crane which will pull the pilings back and forth, loosening them from their current position. When sufficiently free, the crane will be used to pull the piling from the creek. Two piles will be removed from this site.

A waterline is attached to footbridge one (see Exhibit B: Photos). Prior to demolition of the bridge, a wooden crib will be constructed and placed in and/or across the creek to support the waterline during removal of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge. Once the bridge is constructed, the waterline will be attached to the new bridge and the cribbing will be removed. No ground disturbance is anticipated with the waterline.

After the existing bridge is removed then the bank will be re-contoured to a stable 2:1 or 3:1, consistent with the adjacent slopes. Next, a backhoe will be used to excavate the site for the new abutments. The frames will be constructed in the excavated holes and the concrete abutments will be poured on site. Silt fences and other necessary BMPs will be implemented to ensure no concrete enters the creek. Once the concrete has formed, the aluminum bridges will be lifted into place using the crane and attached to the abutments.

After construction is complete, all areas where soils were disturbed will be seeded with an approved grass mix and planted with native tree and shrub species.

Footbridge Two

Footbridge two is located in the northwest portion of the park and is adjacent to the restroom and Heron Center (see Exhibit A: Vicinity Map). This bridge is currently failing due to a broken stringer. If the necessary permits can be obtained, this bridge is scheduled for replacement during the in-water work window from July 1 through October 15, 2014. If permits cannot be obtained the bridge will be replaced during the in-water work window of 2015.

The failing wooden creosote bridge will be replaced with a new aluminum bridge. Creosote piles and abutments will also be removed as part of this project and replaced with concrete abutments. In order to improve ecosystem functions and meet updated regulatory requirements, the replacement bridges will span the length of the creek from bank to bank. As a result, the replacement bridge will be longer than the existing bridge. Footbridge two is approximately 54 feet long and 7 feet wide (although the width extends to approximately 9 feet where beams extend to support the rail). The length of the proposed footbridge will be extended to approximately 70 feet (72 feet with railing) and the width will be reduced to 6 feet 8 inches (including the railing) (see Exhibit D: Footbridge Two Design). The creosote abutments will be replaced with concrete abutments that are approximately 8 feet wide, 4 feet long, and 4 feet deep (see Exhibit E: Site Plan and Exhibit F: Footing Design). Because the aluminum bridges have the strength to span the creek, no new pilings will be installed.

A crane and backhoe will be brought into the site to carry out demolition and construction. This equipment will parallel the trail that runs from the road to the bridge and stage south of the trail. The staging area will cover an area approximately 100 feet long and 50 feet wide to the southwest of the bridge.

In order to demolish the existing footbridges, the railings and decking will be removed by hand. No material will be allowed to enter the creek. The paved walkway which runs to the bridge will be cut and a backhoe will be used to remove the pavement and soils on top of the abutments. The bridge stringers will then be removed using the crane.

In order to remove the piles, a chain will be wrapped around the pilings. The chain will be attached to a crane which will pull the pilings back and forth, loosening them from their current position. When sufficiently free, the crane will be used to pull the piling from the creek. Two piles will be removed from this site.

An electric line is attached to footbridge two (see Exhibit B: Photos). Prior to demolition of the bridge, a wooden crib will be constructed and placed in and/or across the creek to support the electric line during removal of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge. Once the bridge is constructed, the

electric line will be attached to the new bridge and the cribbing will be removed. Currently, no ground disturbance is anticipated with the electric line.

After the existing bridge is removed, the bank will be re-contoured to a stable 2:1 or 3:1 slope, consistent with the adjacent slopes. Next, a backhoe will be used to excavate the site for the new abutments. The frames will be constructed in the excavated holes and the concrete abutments will be poured on site. Silt fences and other necessary BMPs will be implemented to ensure no concrete enters the creek. Once the concrete has formed, the aluminum bridges will be lifted into place using the crane and attached to the abutments. After construction is complete, all areas where soils were disturbed will be seeded with an approved grass mix and planted with native tree and shrub species.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)

The project is located in Birch Bay State Park, south of Birch Bay Drive (see Exhibit A: Vicinity Map) in the NW quarter of Section 1, Township 39 North, Range 1 West, W.M., Whatcom County, Washington; Assessor parcel No. 395101152375.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

1. Earth

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other: [Stream banks](#)

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

The USDA online soil survey classifies the slopes onsite as 0-2 percent slopes and 3-8 percent slopes.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [\[help\]](#)

The USDA online soil survey classifies the soil at the site as: Bellingham silty clay loam 0-2 percent slopes and Laxton loam 3-8 percent slopes.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Whatcom County Critical Area maps indicate there are no unstable soils in the vicinity of the project.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)

No fill will take place as a result of this project. Once the existing abutments are removed, the area will be graded to create a stable 2:1 or 3:1 slope, consistent with the adjacent slopes. The grading will take place above OHWM (see Exhibit G: Profile Sketch).

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

There is the possibility that minor erosion may occur as a result of clearing and construction. Best management practices (BMPs), such as silt fences, will be implemented to control erosion and prevent sediments from entering Terrell Creek. After the project is completed, cleared areas will be hydro-seeded and planted with native tree and shrub species.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)

The proposed project will slightly reduce the amount of impervious surface at the project site. The current bridges are 7-9 feet wide while the proposed bridges are 6 feet 8 inches wide.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)
Disturbance at the site will be limited to that necessary to complete the bridge replacement. Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent and control erosion.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

There is the potential for some dust and machine exhaust to be temporarily generated during the construction phase of the project. The completed project should not produce any new emissions.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No off-site sources of emissions or odors are expected to affect the project.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Dust abatement will be provided as needed.

3. Water

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)

Terrell Creek formed a long linear spit which parallels the shore of Birch Bay. The creek flows west through the park until it reaches the end of this spit where it veers Northwest, and enters Birch Bay approximately one mile north of the project site.

The proposed footbridges will span Terrell Creek. The footbridges are located 150 - 300 feet from Birch Bay.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [\[help\]](#)

Yes, the proposed project will span Terrell Creek. Footbridge one is located within 200 feet of the shoreline of Birch Bay.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)

No fill material would be removed from surface waters or placed in surface waters. The existing creosote piling would be removed and no new pilings will be installed because the proposed aluminum bridges have the strength to span the creek.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

Yes.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

No.

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

The existing Stormwater drainage patterns in the vicinity of the project will not be changed. The project will not result in any new pollution generating surfaces.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

As stated in 3.c.(1) above, existing storm water drainage patterns in the vicinity of the project will not be changed by the proposed project. As a result, no water resource impacts are anticipated as a part of this project. Disturbed areas will be replanted with native vegetation.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

Approximately 200 square feet of vegetation will be removed. This disturbance will occur as a result of excavation along the upland portion of the existing bridge abutments and trails to allow demolition of the existing bridge and construction of the proposed bridges. The vegetation consists of herbaceous plants and shrubs.

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

The Washington Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Program indicates that there may be occurrences lowland toothcup (*Rotala ramosior*) over 1000 feet from the project areas and Paper Birch/Red Alder/Sword Fern communities approximately 3000 feet from the project areas.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Vegetation disturbance will be limited to that necessary to demolish the existing bridge and construct the proposed bridge. Once construction is complete, disturbed areas will be hydroseeded and planted with native plants.

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Invasive Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) is located adjacent of the project site.

5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)

birds:
 mammals:
 fish: bass, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Priority Habitats and Species data indicates: there is a Bald Eagle occurrence and Great Blue Heron occurrences approximately 3,500 feet from the project site and there are waterfowl and shorebird concentrations, wetlands, and biodiversity corridors within the vicinity of the project site. The proposed footbridge replacement projects are not anticipated to have any impact on these species.

NOAA Fisheries has listed 8 species of marine mammals under the Endangered Species Act which are found in the West Coast Region including: Blue Whales, Fin Whales, Guadalupe Fur Seals, Humpback Whales, Northern Pacific Right Whales, Sei Whales, Southern Resident Killer Whales, Sperm Whales, Steller Seal Lions. Listed West Coast Salmon and Steelhead include: Puget Sound Chinook, Hood Canal Summer Chum, Ozette Lake Sockeye, Puget Sound Steelhead. Essential Fish Habitat (ESH) for Freshwater Salmon, Coho Salmon, Puget Sound

Pink Salmon, and Chinook Salmon were identified at or in the vicinity of the project site. Other ESA listed species in the West coast region include: Black Abalone, White Abalone, bocaccio, canary rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, eulochon, North American green sturgeon, leatherback sea turtle, green sea turtle, olive ridley sea turtle, and loggerhead sea turtle. The proposed footbridge replacement projects are not anticipated to have any impact on these species or habitats.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicates the following listed species may occur in Whatcom County: Oregon Spotted frog, Brown Pelican, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, Whitebark Pine, Bull Trout, Dolly Varden, Grizzly Bear, Gray Wolf, Canada Lynx, North American Wolverine. These species have not been observed within vicinity of the project and the proposed project is not anticipated to have any impact on these species.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

Yes, Birch Bay State Park is located in the Pacific Flyway and adjacent wetlands are an important waterfowl wintering area. Terrell Creek is utilized as a migration route for salmon.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The existing footbridges contain creosote. Habitat conditions will be slightly improved by the removal of creosote from the project sites.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)

There will be no energy needs beyond what is required for construction of the footbridges.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No energy conservation features are proposed because the footbridges will have no energy needs.

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this

proposal?

If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

None anticipated.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

There are no know sources of contamination at the site.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

The existing bridges contain creosote. The creosote will be disposed of at an approved off-site location.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

None anticipated.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The proposed project will not require any special emergency services.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Not applicable. No environmental health hazards are expected to be generated by this project.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)

Noise in the area is minimal and will not affect the project.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)

No increase in noise is expected as a result of this project. Typical construction noise is expected during development of the project. These noise levels will be temporary and limited to daylight hours.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Construction activity will be limited to daylight hours.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

The site is part of Birch Bay State Park and is used for recreation. Park visitors use the park for camping, hiking, picnicking, bird watching, shellfish harvesting (prior to shellfish bed closures) and beach combing.

The project site is surrounded by Birch Bay State Park. North of Birch Bay State Park is a large mobile home park which is used for residential purposes. There are also residential properties to the south of park. The Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and British Petroleum own several large properties to the south east of the park.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)

No

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No

- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)

Birch Bay State Park contains recreational facilities including a boat launch, campground, restrooms, and park staff residences.

The project sites contain asphalt paths and wooden creosote footbridges. A waterline is connected to footbridge one and an electrical line is connected to footbridge two.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)

Yes, the two existing footbridges and their abutments will be demolished and replaced. Utilities which run under the bridge will be disconnected and reconnected to the new footbridges.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)

The site is zoned URM6.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

The site is designated as Urban Growth Area and is zoned URM6.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Terrell Creek is designated as Natural and Birch Bay is designated as Conservancy.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)

Yes, the project sites take place over a stream which is a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable. No people will be displaced as a result of the project.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Removal of the wooden creosote bridges will remove two sources of pollution and help improve aquatic habitat. Replacement of the bridges with aluminum bridges which meet current standards will also help maintain park functions by allowing pedestrian access from the park campground to the day use area and beach.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not applicable.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable. The project will not provide any housing.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable. The project will not remove any housing.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable. There will be no impacts to housing.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)

The height of the bridge of footbridge one is approximately 5 feet 2 inches (from the base of the bridge to the top of the railing). The height of footbridge two is approximately 5 feet (from the base of the bridge to the top of the siding). Both bridges will be constructed of aluminum with concrete footings and will be similar in dimension to existing bridges.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

No views would be altered or obstructed.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None proposed. The current bridges have reached the end of their life span and footbridge two is currently failing. The proposed bridges are typical of other bridges in parks and shoreline areas.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

No light or glare is anticipated with this project.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable. No light or glare impacts are anticipated with this project.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

The site is part of Birch Bay State Park and is used for recreation. Birch Bay State Park is a 194 acre park which includes 8,255 feet of saltwater shoreline on Birch Bay and 14,923 feet of freshwater shoreline on Terrell Creek. Day use areas are located near the beach and include picnic tables, fire pits, parking areas and restrooms. The park includes 167 campsites. Park visitors use the park for camping, hiking, picnicking, bird watching, and beach combing.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No, the project is designed to maintain recreational infrastructure.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

During construction, park visitors will be redirected to use alternative trails. No long term recreational impacts are anticipated.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)

No historic structures are located within the project area. Footbridge two and footbridge one were constructed in approximately 1978 making them 36 years old.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)

No archaeological sites are located within the project area of footbridge two. Near footbridge two is a recorded archaeological site, a prehistoric shell midden, (45WH9).

The northwestern abutment of footbridge one extends into recorded site 45WH9, where it meets Terrell Creek.

There are numerous archaeological surveys and site assessments associated with development activities with Birch Bay State Park.

Arthur, Ed P. and Camille A. Mather

2013 Results of Pre-construction Archaeological Testing and Archaeological Monitoring During Boat Launch Development, Birch Bay State Park, Whatcom County, Washington. Report prepared for Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia, Washington.

Baldwin, Garth

2008 *Archaeological Monitoring of the Wastewater Pump Station Upgrade, Birch Bay State Park, Whatcom County.* Prepared for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission by Drayton Archaeological Research. Blaine, Washington.

Baldwin, Garth, Brett Meidinger, and Edward Arthur

2012 *Birch Bay Water and Sewer District's Force Main Replacement Project: Monitoring and Excavation at Archaeological Site 45WH9 Birch Bay State Park, Whatcom County, Washington.* Drayton Archaeological Research Report No. 2010-08, prepared for Widener and Associates, Everett, WA.

Gaston, Jeanna and Garland Grabert

1975 *Salvage Archaeology at Birch Bay Washington: 45-WH-9 South Birch Bay.* Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Western Washington State College, Bellingham, Washington.

Grabert, Garland and Robert Spear

1976 *Archaeological Investigation at Birch Bay State Park, 1976: A Report on Testing and Salvage Archaeology of 45-WH-9 and Surrounding Area.* Department of Anthropology, Western Washington State College, Bellingham, Washington.

Griffin, Gene and G. F. Grabert

1982 *Assessment and Evaluation of Erosion Damage to 45-WH-9, Birch Bay, Washington.* Report on file at DAHP, Olympia.

Kelley, Lisa

2004 *Cultural Resources Survey of the Water Line Replacement Project at Birch Bay State Park.* Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia, Washington.

2005 *Cultural Resource Monitoring of the Water Renovation Project at Birch Bay State Park.* Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olympia, Washington.

Kenady, Stephen M and Carol Schultze

2009 *Archaeological Survey and Recommendations for Waterline Replacement in Birch Bay State Park, Washington.* Cascadia Archaeology Report, prepared for WSPRC, Olympia.

Meidinger, Brett N and Garth L. Baldwin

2011 *Archaeological Assessment for the Heron Center, Birch Bay State Park, Whatcom County, Washington.* Prepared for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission by Drayton Archaeological Research. Blaine, Washington.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)

This project is subject to the Governor's Executive Order 05-05 on Cultural Resources. State Parks has notified the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and interested tribal governments about this project.

An on-site meeting with an interested tribal government has been conducted. State Parks is conducting cultural resource assessments at both footbridge locations. Results will be shared with DAHP and interested tribal governments.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Bridge replacement will occur in phases. Footbridge two will be replaced in the fall of 2014 if the necessary permits can be obtained. If the permits cannot be obtained, the work will take place during the in-water work window of 2015 (July 1 – October 15). Footbridge one is slated for replacement during the in-water work window of 2015 (July 1 – October 15). The cultural resource assessment at footbridge two is complete. Results were negative with no additional recommendations provided (letter to Dr. Rob Whitlam, DAHP, dated June 13, 2014, from Dan Meatte, State Parks archaeologist).

The cultural resource assessment for footbridge one is scheduled for July 2014. Results and recommendations of the cultural resource assessment will dictate the specific treatments needed to insure archaeological resources are avoided (protected) during construction.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)

The site is accessed via Birch Bay Drive.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)

Public transit is not available at the site. The closest transit stop is located approximately two miles north of the park.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)

No new parking will be created or eliminated as part of the proposed project.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)

No, the project will not require any new roads or streets.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

The proposal will not utilize water, rail or air transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)

None, the project will not generate additional vehicular trips.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable, the project will not result in additional vehicle trips.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No, the project will not generate any additional need for public services.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
 electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

No new utilities are proposed as part of this project. A waterline is attached to footbridge one and an electric line is attached to footbridge two. Prior to demolition of the bridges, wooden cribs will be constructed and placed across the creek to support the waterline/electric line during removal of the existing bridges and construction of the new bridges. Once the bridges are constructed, the waterline/electric line will be attached to the new bridges and the cribbing will be removed.

C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee Kira Swanson

Position and Agency/Organization Environmental Planner, State Parks

Date Submitted: 6/16/14

Exhibit A: Vicinity Map

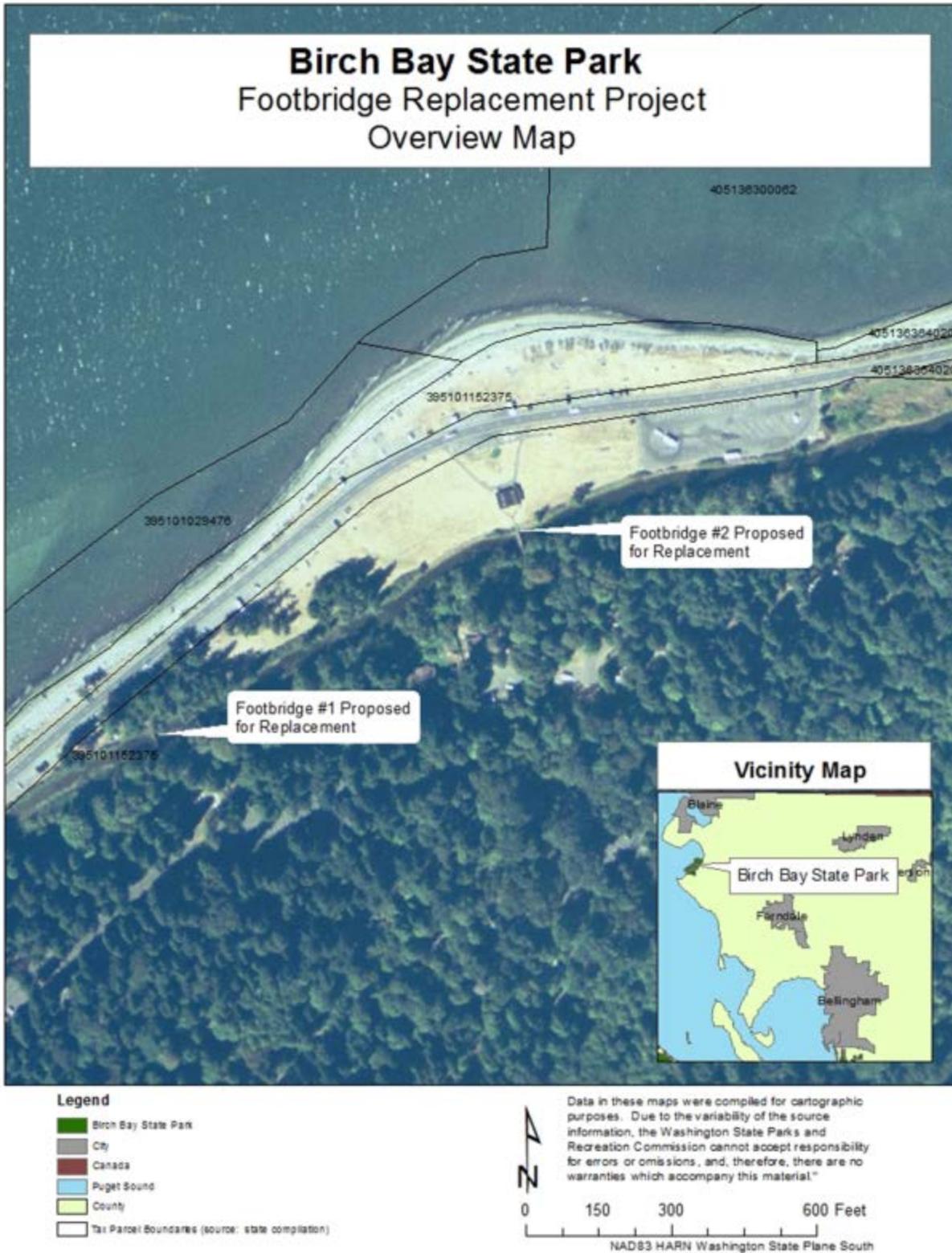


Exhibit B: Project Photos

Footbridge One (Facing west – the white line marks the center of the new concrete abutment)



Footbridge One (Facing east – the white line marks the center of the new concrete abutment)



Footbridge One Waterline



Footbridge Two (Facing west – the white line marks the center of the new concrete abutment)



Footbridge Two (Facing east – the white line marks the center of the new concrete abutment)



Footbridge Two Electric Line



Footbridge Two Electric Line

