



## BEACH

In addition to the same ADA deficiencies noted for the day use area restroom, this restroom, constructed in 1972, also shows non-repairable settling and considerable wood deterioration along the base of the walls. Due to these deficiencies and deteriorated sewer line conditions, State Parks staff should remove the building in order to protect public safety and water quality.



## GROUP CAMP

This building is a precast concrete vault toilet structure. Due to the potential risk of falling trees, this restroom is also closed and it is unlikely that it will be used in the future so long as the risk of falling trees remains. Previous research by Parks staff indicated that the building cannot be reused to replace the beach restroom because of turning radii difficulties for a truck sufficiently large enough to haul the building in one piece as it cannot be disassembled. The restroom has been used as a back-up when the day use restroom was shut down for repairs.



## CAMPGROUND

This building, constructed in 1967, is currently closed and is intended to remain closed because of the risk of falling trees due to laminated root rot. Because of that risk and because it is unlikely that trees will be removed in sufficient number and distance to protect the building, the building should be removed as it does not meet ADA requirements and will continue to deteriorate over time.

## Open-Sided Picnic Shelters

There are four open-sided, wood picnic shelters (approximately 10' x 20'). With their pole supports and shingle roofs, these structures are the appropriate character and scale for Kopachuck State Park. They should be relocated, if practical, within the site. The structures are currently located at the day use area adjacent to the top of the slope, the beach area, the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite, and the former group campsite.

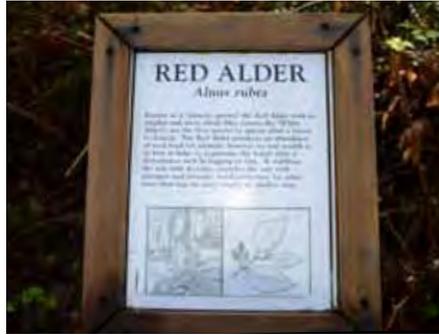


## Marine Campsite

The single remaining camping opportunity in the park is a small campsite on the Cascadia Marine Trail circuit for visitors who approach via human powered beachable watercraft only. The campsite consists of an open-sided picnic shelter, a boat rack, and a small, level area for a tent. As the campsite is fairly high above the water, kayakers do not carry their boats up to the rack at the campsite but rather leave them near the shore. This poses a security concern for the kayakers as they cannot see their boats from the campsite. Furthermore, the steep bank next to the tent site poses a hazard to campers. Therefore, a safer, more accessible location with good visibility to boat storage is preferable.



# Trails



## INTERPRETIVE LOOP

Portions of this trail cross wetland areas. Recent improvements have included grated fiberglass decking which provides stable, dry access while allowing wetland vegetation to flourish. In some areas, log rounds covered with asphalt shingles have been placed as non-slippery stepping blocks. Other sections of the trail are steep and dry. There are several plant identification signs placed around the trail as part of an Eagle Scout project. There is a wood kiosk at the northeast corner of the trail in a roadside area frequently used for parking by trail visitors. It has a sign explaining laminated root rot.



## BEACH LOOP

The beach loop trail provides access from the day use parking lot and picnic area directly to the beach. Virtually all of the soil is poor draining and subject to erosion. Over the years, attempts to arrest the erosion and provide access in steep areas have resulted in a variety of materials and solutions throughout the length of the trail. A small bridge has an unsafe base and portions of the trail close to the beach are constantly shifting. Social trails that have evolved pose risks to visitors because of their precarious locations and conditions resulting from lack of maintenance.





## NORTH LOOP

This trail is on much more stable soil and is, therefore, not subject to the same erosion issues as the beach loop trail. Some portions are quite steep, but the trail provides excellent views of Cutts Island and Colvos Passage. There are several good examples of pistol butt trees resulting in some interesting shapes.



## MIDDLE LOOP

Like the north loop trail, this trail is also on stable soil and does not have the same drainage issues as the beach loop trail. It links with the former campground trail. It is mostly flat with some gently sloping areas.



## UPPER CAMPGROUND LOOP

The existing asphalt-paved surface of the former campground loop road is gradually being obscured by moss. Nevertheless, it still provides a suitable walking surface: the majority of the trail is less than 5% slope and could be considered wheelchair accessible.

## Sustainability Policy

This policy, enacted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, states that “the Commission hereby directs staff to develop a plan to make Washington State Parks the leading state parks system in the country for sustainability and being green.” Sustainability is defined as an ethic that guides individual and organizational decisions, resulting in the conservation of environmental, economic, and human resources for current and future generations. Being green is defined as following practices and actions that protect the environment and meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of those who come after us to meet their needs. The sustainability policy has been a guiding principle throughout the development of the master plan for Kopachuck State Park.

## Critical Areas Policy

Another guiding principle for the master plan is the critical areas policy which states that “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.” That policy advances a vision that will ensure that visitors to state parks will see the park system as an opportunity to appreciate Washington’s cultural and natural heritage. A goal and core value of the Commission is to be recognized for its leadership in outdoor recreation and stewardship of natural and cultural resources. The dual nature of cultural resources and the inseparable union of social and physical qualities lead directly to the three issues central to their management: “1) to discover the significance of meaning of each resource, in part to facilitate decisions regarding their treatment and care; 2) to arrest or slow the rate at which their essential qualities are lost; and 3) to support the use and enjoyment of cultural resources while minimizing negative impacts on them.”



## Classification and Management Plan (CAMP)

In 2009, the classification and management planning project C.A.M.P. was undertaken by State Parks to determine whether Kopachuck and other parks can become consistent with the State Parks and Recreation Commission's vision for parks in the system. Out of an extensive public involvement process that included public workshops, webpage postings, and e-mailed and mail-in public comments, a list of program elements to be included in a facilities concept plan was proposed. Those elements then became the preliminary program for the master planning effort.

Those elements include:

- New Kitchen and Picnic Shelter
- ADA-Compliant Trails
- Improved Access to and from the Water for Boaters
- Playground Equipment
- Interpretive Signs
- Replace the Antiquated Restroom Station
- Parking Lot Improvements
- Design Standards



## Introduction

Development of the master plan was accomplished through an extensive public involvement process that included formation of an ad hoc committee that met regularly, meetings with staff, and presentations to the public. This section describes that process.

## Ad Hoc Committee

A citizen's ad hoc committee was formed at the outset of the master planning process to guide the development of the master plan. This committee included representatives from a wide range of community interest groups:

- Bruce Brown, *Scoutmaster and Firefighter*
- Linda Gough, *Preserve Our Parks*
- Lt. Jerry Lawrence, *Pierce County Sheriffs Department*
- Joyce Murray, *Harbor WildWatch*
- Sherryl Peterson, *Kopachuck Middle School*
- Morgan Scherer, *Washington Water Trails Association*
- Steve Severin, *Park Neighbor*

The committee met a total of seven times between February and May 2014 in order to discuss the specific needs and concerns of their respective interest groups. The goal of these meetings was to formulate a program and the design criteria to help direct the development of the master plan.

## Public Meetings

During the project, two open public meetings were held to solicit feedback from citizens in the community. Citizen input was carefully considered in the different design alternatives and carried through the design process to the final master plan.

At the first public meeting, comments were gathered to formulate and prioritize a program for the park. This input was used in the development of a preliminary master plan which was presented to the public at the second meeting.



## Design Criteria

A list of design criteria was used to guide and evaluate the master plan as it was developed. These criteria were developed using input from the ad hoc committee, feedback from the initial public meeting and comments from staff. The following design criteria were established: