



Commission Meeting May 29, 2024

E-1: Bridle Trails State Park Land Classification Update - RA



Presented by:
Matt Birkliid, Park Ranger
Nikki Fields, Planning & Real Estate Program Manager



Presentation Agenda:

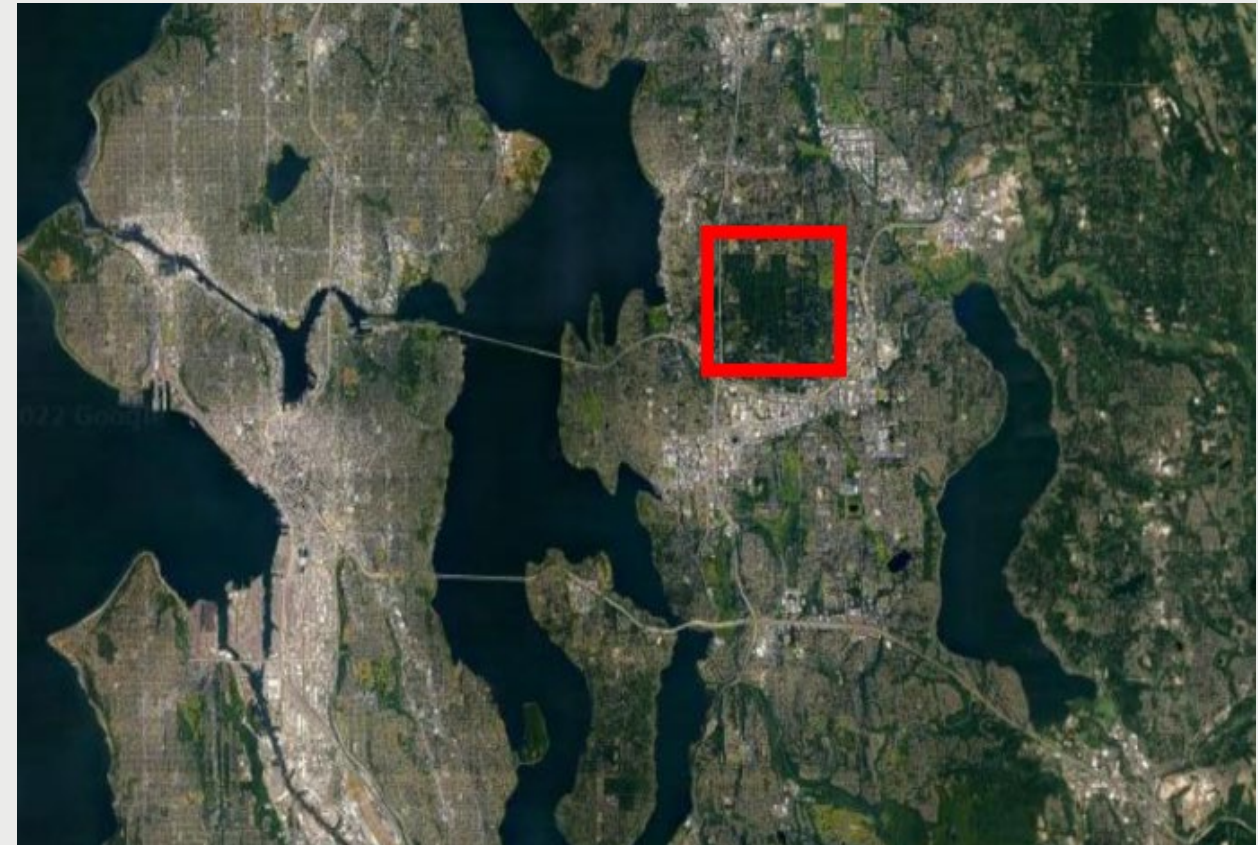
- Park Context
- Proposed Buildings to be Donated
- Land Classification Update
- Partners
- Community Feedback & Support
- Requested Action
- Questions?



Park Context



BRIDLE TRAILS STATE PARK

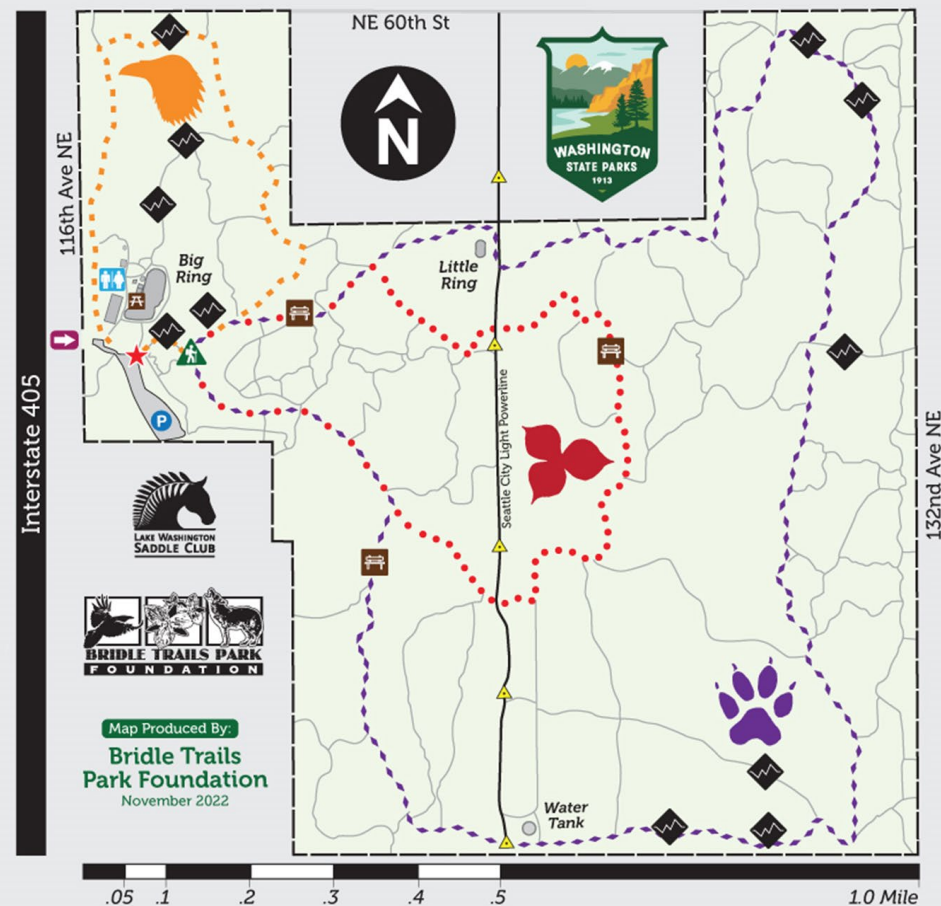


One of the largest remaining lowland forests in the metropolitan King County Area.



THE PARK TODAY

- 489 acres
- 28 miles of trails
- Equestrian event grounds
- Picnic area
- Home to 100+ animal species, 170+ plant species, 250+ fungi species
- Visitation: 162,000 (2023)
 - Bridle Trails Park Foundation Engagements (Year-Round): 2,000+
 - Lake Washington Saddle Club Engagements (April-Sept) : 2,000+



Map Produced By:
Bridle Trails Park Foundation
 November 2022

Trillium Loop (1.7mi)	Raven Loop (1.0mi)	Coyote Loop (3.5mi)	You Are Here	Park Entrance	Parking Lot	Trailhead	Restrooms	Picnic Area	Powerline Towers	Trail Bench	Steep Trail Area
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Markers placed along trail loops indicate direction of travel. BROWN indicates clockwise travel. GREEN indicates counter-clockwise travel.

Proposed Buildings to be Donated





Bridle Trails Environmental Education Classroom & Welcome Station



Building Site

Location chosen for:

- **Equestrian Safety**
- **Trail System & ADA Access to Forest Experience** (currently none)
- **Proximity to Other Facilities**
- **Greater Access to Park Staff**



EQUESTRIAN ACCESS AND USE OF EEC

- Equestrian access to Welcome Station and classroom via new trail from main trail system
- ADA trail to provide first and only access for disabled into the forest in manner safe for equestrians and disabled (restricted trail)
- Hitching posts and ample space for riders to mount/dismount and gather
- Indoor education space for equestrian education and event planning



EFFECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT ON EQUESTRIAN USE AND PARK TRAILS

- Major factor in site location is for equestrian safety, not adding more people in and around showgrounds
- Goal to provide environmental education in manner safe for equestrians on trails
- Indoor activities
- Small groups on trails led and accompanied by educators, as practiced today
- Education classroom open only for scheduled programs, otherwise closed to public



SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide office for staff to connect with park visitors.
- Meet community demand for environmental and equestrian programming.
- Provide forest accessibility for mobility challenged.
- Dedicated indoor space for park partners with shared missions and different perspectives to deliver environmental, land, park, and equestrian programming.

Conceptual Model | Interior of Gathering Space



Bridle Trails Environmental Education Classroom

Concept Design
12/20/2023

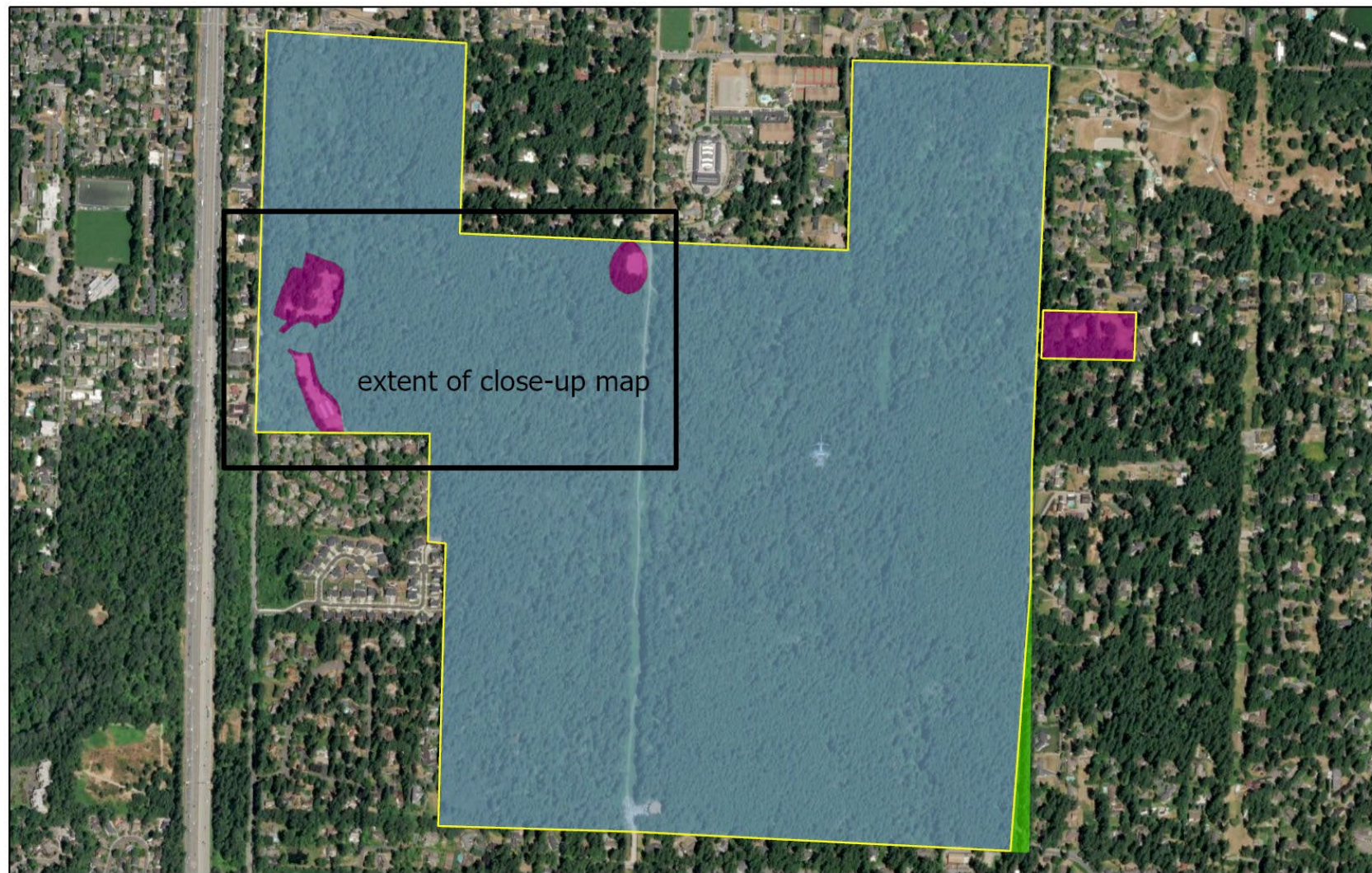
Hoshide Wanzer
Architects + Interiors

Land Classification Update



CURRENT LAND CLASSIFICATION ACREAGE

Bridle Trails State Park



Bridle Trails State Park:
Overview with Existing Land Classification

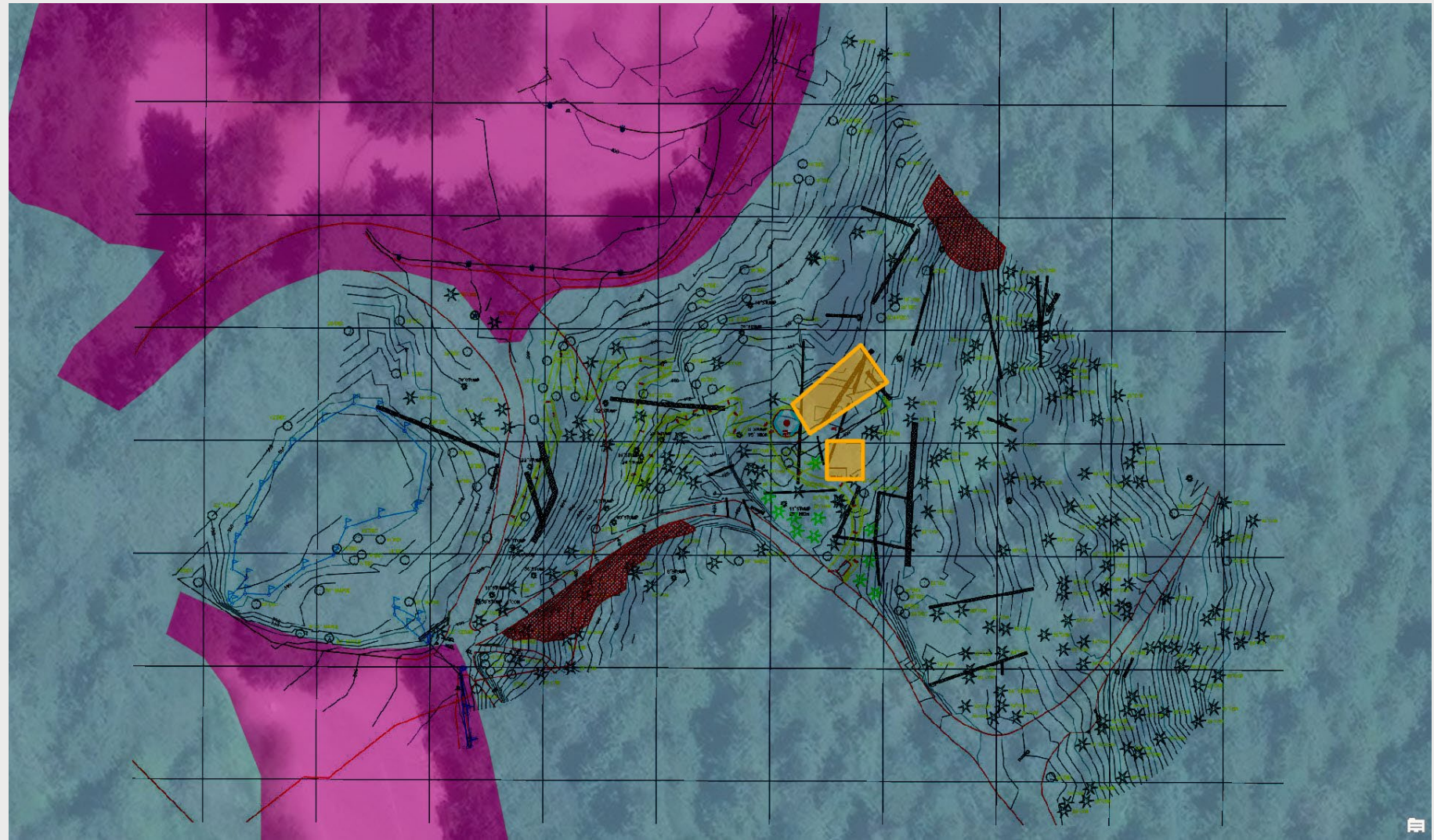
- Recreation (12.4 acres)
- Resource Recreation (476.7 acres)
- Unclassified for surplus / exchange (2.6 acres)
- Park Boundaries







**CURRENT
LAND
CLASSIFICATION**

**Recreation Area
Boundary
Proximity
to
Building Site**



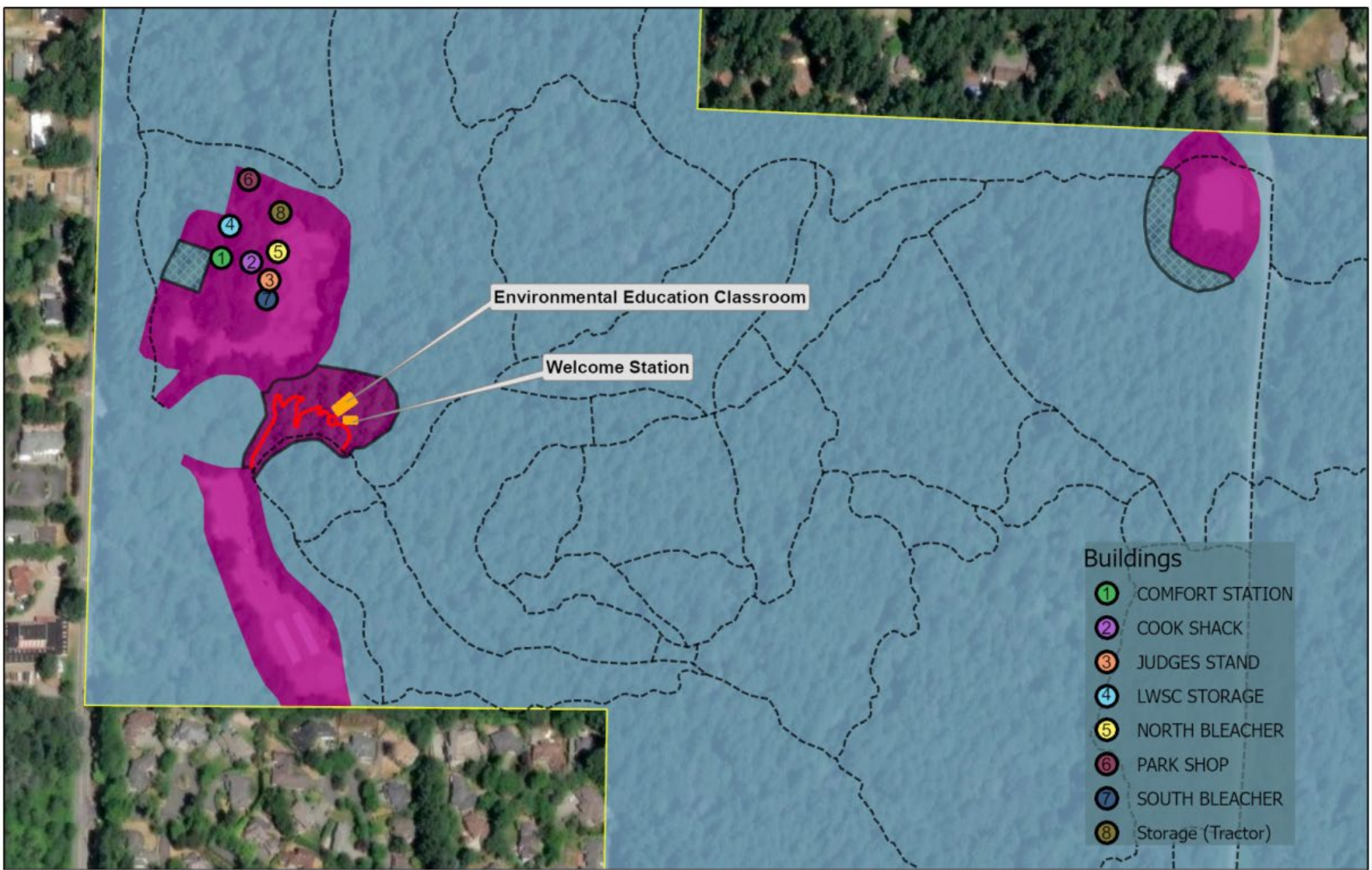
 Recreation
 Resource Recreation





LAND CLASSIFICATION Proposed Changes


New Buildings
&
ADA Trail



Bridle Trails State Park:
Changes Between Existing
Land Classification and
Proposed Land Classification

Classification	Existing	Proposed	Difference
Recreation	12.42	12.94	0.52
Resource Recreation	476.75	476.23	-0.52
Unclassified	2.6	2.6	0

Resource Recreation to Recreation New Trail
 Recreation to Resource Recreation Existing Trail
 Recreation
 Resource Recreation
 Park Boundaries

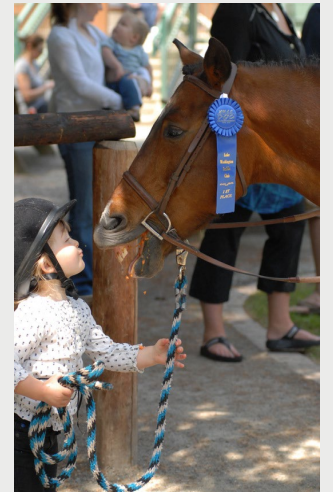
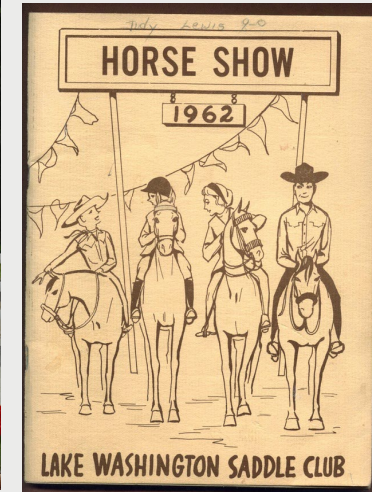



Partners



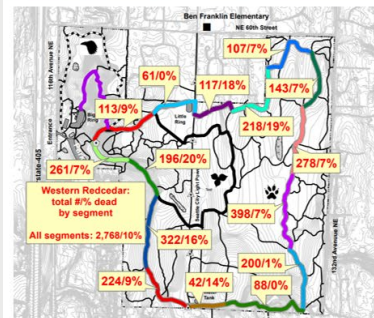
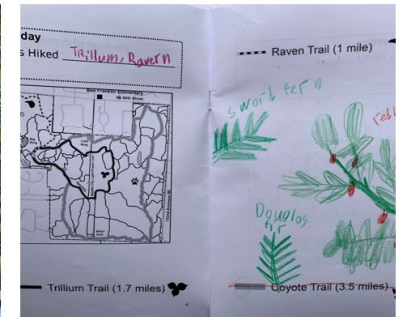
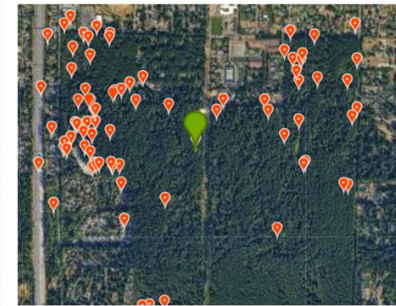


- Formed by local equestrians in 1945
- Friends Agreement with State Parks that works to help maintain and enhance the Park and its equestrian facilities.
- Partner with BTPF in protecting and supporting the park.
- Engage PNW equestrians with hunter jumper classics, clinics & academy events, dressage, English/Western and prize rides on park trails.





- 2023 marked 20 years of financial support
- Early focus was on fundraising.
- Foundation funds:
 - Park enhancement projects
 - Equipment purchases
 - Engagement with the community through events, environmental education, and stewardship projects.
 - Contributes funding for a year-round Senior Park Aide
 - Committed to funding the design and construction of the EEC and Welcome Station project, as well as the facility maintenance and education staffing costs.



Public Feedback

- **Webpage/Email**
 - www.Parks.wa.gov/BridleTrailsClassroom
- **Mailings**
- **In-person and phone calls**



BRIDLE TRAILS STATE PARK

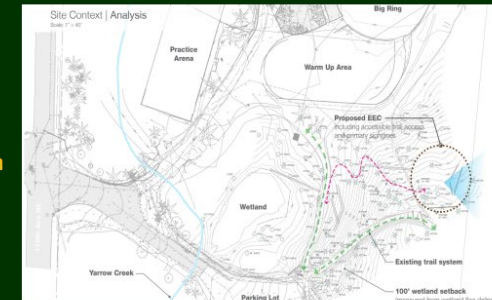
Land Classification Update for Environmental Education Classroom

[Project Summary](#)
[Project History](#)
[Community Participation Documents](#)

Information:



Contact :
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Bridle Trails Park Ranger
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The proposed project is two buildings: one classroom and one office for the Park Ranger and interpretive staff. The total current footprint of both buildings combined is 1432 square feet. There will be an outdoor deck area, approximately 488 square feet, between the two buildings to be used for outdoor education. The project includes a permeable ADA interpretive trail to create equitable access for all mobility types to experience the park/forest.



www.parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input





Public Feedback

Concerns

- Parking
- Impact to equestrians
- Leading to future facilities
- Disturbance of natural state of the park

Support

- Increases availability of staff
- Promotes good behavior
- Builds community through programming
- Increases public access to outdoor and equestrian education
- Follows the BTPF-WA State Parks mission to “protect, maintain, and enhance the park”



Requested Action:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Adopt revised land classifications for Bridle Trails State Park, as recommended by staff in Appendix 2.



Questions?

