



Friends of Whidbey State Parks and Parks staff led volunteer day for 64 Sailors from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island at Joseph Whidbey State Park

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## Creating More Welcoming Parks Together

- Date: July 18
  - Mission: Ensuring a vibrant and inclusive parks system, providing all visitors with joyful and high-quality experiences.
  - Presented by: John Floberg (he/him), Executive Director
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# AGENDA



1. Annual Grant Program - PIPs
  2. Donor Designated Projects
  3. Recent efforts to support:
    - a) First-Time Park Users
    - b) Visitors with Disabilities
    - c) Agency Staff Development and Retention
    - d) Wildlife and Habitats
  4. New Office and Community Space in Ballard
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# Annual Grant– Park Improvement Projects (PIPs)



## Range of Projects Funded

PIP grants fund a range of infrastructure or program needs across the system.

## Number of Proposals

This year we received 24 PIP proposals from 24 parks and funded every one.

## Total Parks Benefited

Most parks have received PIP grants, with many parks receiving multiple grants.

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WASHINGTON STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

# PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



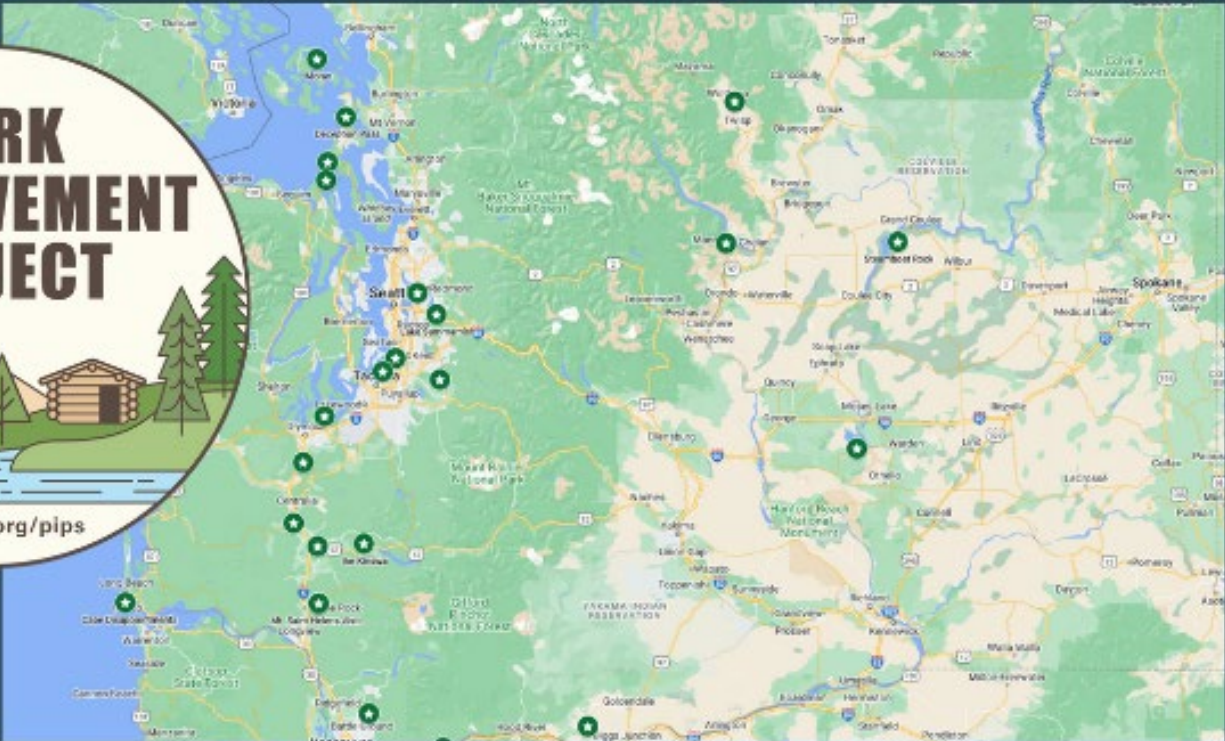
CREATED BY DONORS  
FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

Create your own at:  
[waparks.org/pips](https://waparks.org/pips)





# 2024 Proposals



- Project Type
- Facilities
- Trails
- Camping
- Habitat
- Historic
- Interpretive
- Energy & Climate
- Signage
- Sports

24 proposals

7 first-time park applicants



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# Donor Designated Projects - Playgrounds



## Last Year's Playground

- Funded Playground at Ike Kinswa for \$150K
- Improved recreational facilities for visitors
- Enhanced community engagement and park usage

## This Year's Playground

- \$100K Playground at Deception Pass
  - Ceremony in September for project completion
  - Invitation to Commission to attend the ceremony
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# Supporting First-Time Park Users



## Youth Camping Gear

Providing gear for youth camping efforts at Birch Bay and Larrabee State Parks to encourage outdoor activities among young visitors.

## Discover Passes

Offering Discover Passes to low-income visitors as part of the Everyone Outdoors Program, ensuring equitable access to state parks.

## Video Tutorials

Creating professional video tutorials for first-time users through a collaboration with Fridie Outdoors, making park visits more accessible.

## Transportation for Kids

Kids to Parks program providing transportation, facilitating park visits for children who otherwise might not have the opportunity.

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# Enabling More People with Disabilities to Visit Parks



## Pilot by Nonprofit Disabled Hikers

- Funding a pilot led by Disabled Hikers to guide the disabled.
- Focusing on creating accessible trails and providing necessary support.
- Improving park accessibility and inclusivity.

## Track Chair at Lake Sammamish with Trails Program

- Providing matching funds to pilot a Track Chair.
  - Track Chair improves mobility in rugged terrains.
  - Enhances the park experience for visitors with mobility challenges.
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# Supporting Staff Development and Retention



- Parks leadership program designed to enhance the skills, capabilities and diversity of state park staff.
- Intern support aimed at improving staff recruitment by providing hands-on experience and training to prospective employees.
- Focus on creating a supportive work environment to retain skilled staff and reduce turnover rates.

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# Supporting Wildlife and Habitats



## Study on Recreation Impacts

- Conducting a study on the impacts of recreation on wildlife.
- Guiding future park policies to ensure minimal disturbance.
- Ensuring the protection of natural habitats through data-driven decisions.

## Fundraising for Forest Restoration

- Aiming to rehabilitate degraded areas and promote biodiversity.
  - Hosting the Bob Ross 5K Run for the Trees fundraiser.
  - Securing support from family foundations to finance various conservation projects.
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# New Office and Community Space in Ballard



- Designed for small meetings and public presentations.
- Invitation to Commission and others to visit in the fall.

Ballard Ave. NW, Seattle

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**Thank you.**

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