

STATE PARKS' 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND
RECREATION COMMISSION



OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

Fund shift to maintain services (\$10 million GF-S)

Our earned revenue is not keeping up with compensation increases and inflation. To maintain service levels, State Parks is requesting additional support from the state general fund to address inflationary impacts on the Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account. Without this funding adjustment, we anticipate impacts to future revenue and visitor satisfaction due to disruption of service expectations.

ADA compliance (3.4 FTE, \$943,000)

State Parks entered into a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice after an injury complaint at an ADA campsite. The agreement requires the agency to update ADA policies and procedures and to compile a remediation plan for all non-compliant facilities throughout the parks system.

Fort Worden campus operations (16.7 FTE, \$5.6 million GF-S)

The Fort Worden Public Development Authority, which has operated the upper campus since 2013, is in the process of dissolving. To minimize disruption to the public and avoid loss of services, State Parks is requesting funding and FTEs to reestablish its operation and maintenance of the campus.

Address visitor expectations (16.8 FTE, \$2.8 million GF-S)

Park Aide positions are critical to our customer service because they provide visitor support, fee collection, basic park maintenance and upkeep and promote outdoor education and safety. Some state parks are not adequately staffed to support the increasing demand for roofed accommodations.

Resource adaptation and management (3.4 FTE, \$1.6 million GF-S)

Stewardship of State Parks' diverse natural resources, including some of the state's rarest species and ecosystems, is increasingly impacted by invasive weeds and insects, climate change and increased recreation impacts. These staff positions would provide restoration support and expert technical management of these resources.

Responding to climate change (2.2 FTE, \$2.8 million Climate Commitment Act Accounts)

State parks are experiencing increases in the damaging effects of climate change through impacts like sea-level rise, winter flooding, heat waves and declining snowpack. Funding will allow the agency to address state-mandated greenhouse gas emission reductions and build climate resiliency by implementing the agency's Climate Adaptation Plan and establishing park-level plans.

Tribal state lands stewardship (1.8 FTE, \$818,000 GF-S)

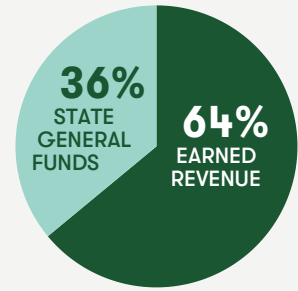
Co-developing an adaptive management framework with Tribal governments and state land management agencies will help us address Tribal concerns about recreation management on rights reserved by Tribes. Funding will support strengthened partnerships with Tribal governments, improve decision making and increase the effectiveness of recreation management.

DID YOU KNOW

State Parks agency budget

Over half of our operating budget funds come from self-generated revenue:

- 40% from camping and roofed accommodations
- 37% from Discover Pass sales
- 23% from other revenue and donations



CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY

\$128M Capital Budget Request (SBC)

We have identified 50 investment projects across the state that support new or renovated State Parks assets and infrastructure.

These investments will provide:

- Vibrant, accessible and well-maintained facilities and experiences that visitors want and expect from their state parks.
- New campground development at Nisqually State Park, new amenities across the state parks system and improved trails.
- Protection of natural resources and habitat, preservation of cultural heritage and responsiveness to climate change through improved sustainability.
- Investment in staff through improved staff housing and administrative spaces.

Approximately 80% of our request is designated for the replacement and renovation of our existing facilities. The remaining 20% will be invested in new recreational opportunities to meet growing demand and lessen the impact on existing parks and facilities.

AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATION

HB 1024: Leasing authority of State Parks at St. Edward State Park

This request would amend RCW 79A.05.025 and 79A.05.030 to require a vote from at least five members of the Commission to lease parkland or property for a period exceeding 20 years. It also limits concessions or leases in state parks and parkways to no longer than 80 years.

SB 5234: Snowmobile registration fees

The Winter Recreation Snowmobile program is facing a roughly 25% reduction in funds available to support the motorized part of the program. The number of registered snowmobiles has decreased by 52% over the past two decades. This bill increases snowmobile registration fees from \$50 to \$75.



Contact Information

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