

AGENCY OVERVIEW AND FACTS

REFERENCE DOCUMENT



Washington State Parks and Recreation manages one of the largest, most diverse—and most beautiful—parks systems in the country.

OUR BEGINNING

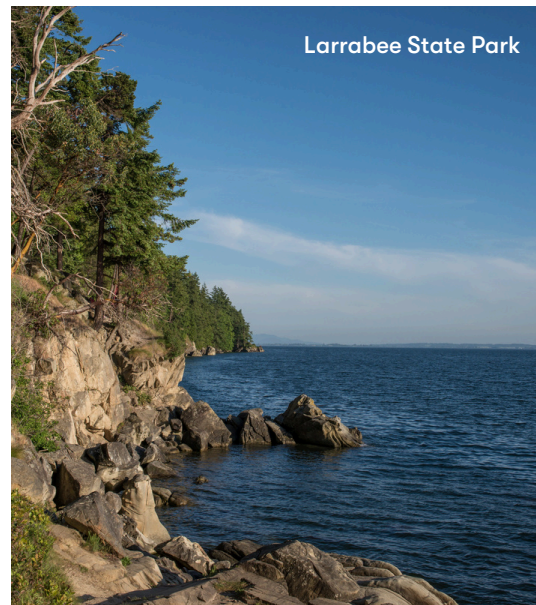
- Agency founded in 1913 – predates the National Park Service
- First state park: Larrabee State Park in Whatcom County

Mission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

Vision

Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic, and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate, and proudly support.



AGENCY OVERVIEW

From ocean beaches to mountain waterfalls, hiking trails to swimming areas, Washington's state parks provide access to many outdoor recreational experiences across the state. Some of the most iconic and significant natural and cultural heritage sites for outdoor recreation and education are proudly stewarded by the agency.

124
PARKS

124

DEVELOPED PARKS

122K

ACRES OF LAND

1.3K

MILES OF TRAILS

+800

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

PROPERTY DATA:

- Owns or leases 122,000 acres
- 124 developed parks
- 1,300 miles of trails
- 19 marine parks
- 11 historical parks
- 17 heritage sites
- 6,186 traditional campsites and 67 group camps
- 67 yurts, platform tents, tee pees, and Adirondacks
- 273 cabins and vacation rentals

- 8 retreat centers
- 60 miles of ocean beaches
- 15,000 acres of natural habitat that preserves threatened, endangered, and rare plants and animals
- 87 boat launches
- 61 undeveloped properties
- Own 2,790 facilities with 3.2 million square feet
- 800+ are historic buildings (more than any other state agency)

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Comfort stations and toilet facilities
- Cabins, cottages, shelters
- Lighthouses
- Kitchen/mess
- Equipment storage
- Historic buildings
- Interpretive centers
- Office space, garages
- Utility buildings

VISITATION AND CAMPING DATA (2023)

- Annual visitors: 41+ million—leveled out higher than the pre-pandemic visitation
- Most visited state park (2023): Deception Pass 3.44 million visitors
 - Long Beach is next at 3.34 million
- Day-use only visitors: 39,040,365
- Overnight campers: 2,362,199
- 86 parks with reservable facilities

OVERNIGHT CAMPERS BY RATE TYPE

- Full rate: 61% (414,000 nights)
- Disabled Veteran: 5% (34,245 nights)
- Disability: 3% (21,815 nights)
- Senior Limited Income: 0.8% (5,391 nights)
- Foster Family: 0.25% (1,531 nights)



+41M
ANNUAL
VISITORS

+39M
DAYTIME
VISITORS

+2.3M
OVERNIGHT
CAMPERS

STAFF DATA

- 860 FTE, 1,100 positions
- 55% of positions are seasonal
- Staff costs make up 60% of agency appropriations

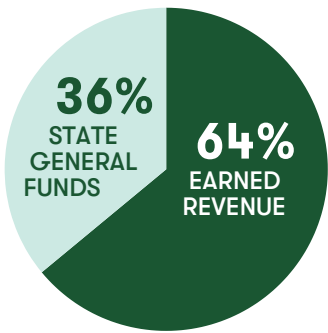
OUR VOLUNTEERS (2023)

- Active volunteers: 6,193
- Volunteer hours: 196,000
- Camp hosts: 589
- Friends Groups volunteer hours: 10,000

AGENCY BUDGET

Operating budget (2023-25):	Capital budget:
\$272.3M	\$197.8M

- Funded mostly from earned revenue – 64%
 - 40% Camping & Roofed (23% of agency total)
 - 37% Discover Pass (21% of agency total)
 - 23% Other revenue and donations
- 36% General Fund – State



ECONOMIC IMPACT (2019*)

- Washington State Parks supported \$1.6 billion in direct and indirect spending.
- Parks supported over 10,000 full-time and seasonal jobs.

PARKS ADDS
+\$786M
TO THE STATE'S GDP

* UPDATED DATA EXPECTED IN Q1 2025

AGENCY CONTACTS

- Website: [Parks.wa.gov](https://parks.wa.gov)
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