

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Biennial Priorities: 2025-2027

About the Park Commission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is a citizen-led governing body responsible for policy oversight and strategic direction for the state's diverse and expansive park system. The Commission ensures that decisions reflect the public interest, reflect the agency's policies, procedures, and laws, and uphold standards of accountability and transparency.

Each biennium, the Commission identifies core priorities to focus the agency's energy, guide staff actions, and align resources with agency values. These priorities are aspirational and actionable, advancing the park system with an emphasis on equity and resilience.

2025-2027 Biennial Priorities

- **Commission Decision Making**
- **Budget Strategies**
- **Accessibility and Inclusion**
- **Reduce Deferred Maintenance and Facility Maintenance Backlog**
- **External Relations**

1. Commission Decision Making

Priority:

Develop a structured, transparent and value-based process to support Commission decision making. This process will ensure alignment with agency mission and legal requirements, while helping both Commissioners and staff navigate complex decisions with confidence and clarity. This framework is not simply a checklist, but ensures timely and well-informed decisions and should include:

- Timelines and milestones with built-in checkpoints to assess progress and viability
- Early identification of resources, regulatory requirements and public/stakeholder impacts

Outcomes:

- A Commission endorsed decision making protocol is developed and implemented.
- All major proposals brought before the commission follow a standardized briefing format.
- The framework becomes a core part of new Commissioner onboarding and is used to keep all Commissioners up to date on project progress.

2. Budget Strategies

Priority:

Strengthen existing revenue streams and explore new funding opportunities that support financial sustainability without compromising access or service quality. Focus areas include:

- Expansion of park use through targeted investment and innovation
- Long-term financial modeling and analysis

Outcomes:

- At least two improved revenue streams are identified and analyzed
- Public facing budget communications reflect clear, engaging narratives about park funding
- Financial models inform legislative and stakeholder engagement strategies

3. Accessibility and Inclusion

Priority:

Strengthen equity in the workplace and advance an equitable and welcoming park system by:

- Identifying and categorizing barriers to participation
- Building foundational tools to support engagement with historically excluded communities
- Embedding equity practices into hiring and workforce development

Outcomes:

- Develop community engagement handbook to establish strategies rooted in outreach efforts.
- Pilot inclusive redesign of public facing content
- Develop 1-3 core equity competencies for supervisors which are reflected in development plans and evaluation tools.
- Review Respectful Workplace Policy for gaps and opportunities to integrate equity language and guiding principles

4. Reduce Deferred Maintenance and Facility Maintenance Backlog

Priority:

Reduce the maintenance backlog through strategic investments and asset management by:

- Conducting a full inventory and condition assessment of facilities
- Aligning asset priorities with sustainability, operations and fiscal goals
- Developing standardized design options

Outcomes:

- A prioritized facility improvement plan is published
- Deferred maintenance is reduced by a measurable percentage across the biennium

5. External Relations

Priority:

Strengthen strategic relationships to advance the agency's mission and secure ongoing support. Emphasis areas include:

- Collaboration with sister agencies, stakeholders, partners
- Relationship building with the Legislature and Governor's office
- Continued development of government-to-government relationships with tribes
- Clear, values-based storytelling to build public trust and engagement

Outcomes:

- Legislative support for Commission priorities
- Stakeholder support for Commission priorities
- Effective relationship with Governor's office
- Formal tribal consultation protocols are developed and implemented