



MINUTES:

Approved October 16, 2025

Commission Meeting Agenda

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

August 27, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual/WSPRC HQ, 300 Desmond Dr Se, Lacey, WA 98503

Commissioners: Chair Laurie Connelly, Vice Chair Holly Williams, Secretary Ali Raad, Michael Latimer, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Scott Merriman and Sophia Danenberg

Director: Diana Dupuis

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will be holding their regularly scheduled commission meeting and work session virtually on August 27, 2025. Please note that this is an online meeting. We will be providing a meeting space for the public to watch at the WSPRCHQ, 300 Desmond Dr Se, Lacey, WA 98503. Staff/commissioners will be attending virtually.

You may participate remotely by listening and/or watching using the following link:

Watch the meeting on TVW: <https://twv.org/watch/?eventID=2025081000>

You can find the agenda and presentations on our website:

<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission>

Public Comment: The public is invited to attend, but no verbal public comment will be taken at this meeting.

Written Public Comment:

Written public comments will be accepted for all agenda items until 5 p.m. on August 22 by email or mail. Any comments received after the cutoff will be given to the commission before its next meeting.

Email: Commission@parks.wa.gov

Mail: WSPRC, Attn: Becki Ellison, PO Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504.

You can find the agenda, agenda items and presentations on our website.

<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission/commission-meetings-agendas>

The meeting minutes and recording will be loaded within one week after the meeting.

Time: Opening session will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Connelly, Chair

- Call of the Roll
 - Chair Laurie Connelly, Vice Chair Holly Williams, Michael Latimer, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos and Scott Merriman
 - Sophia Danenberg joined meeting at 9:54 am
 - Absent: Ali Raad
- Introduction of Staff

- Director Diana Dupuis; Deputy Director Mike Sternback; Executive Assistant Becki Ellison; Business Support Services Division Director Laura Holmes; Workforce, Technology and Equity Division Director Amber Erdahl; Legislative Relations and Public Affairs Division Director Brian Considine; Operations Director Jon Crimmins; Parks Development Director Heather Saunders; Stewardship Director Lisa Lantz; DEI Director Janette Chien, and Communications Director Clare DeLong Tuminez
- Indigenous Land Acknowledgement
 - We respect and affirm tribal sovereignty and honor indigenous peoples whose traditional lands we occupy. The State Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to working with all Tribes to help preserve and restore a healthy natural environment for future generations.
- Changes to agenda
 - Swap item E-3 and Item E-1
 - **Motion** by Holly Williams approve the agenda as amended. Second by Scott Merriman. Approved unanimously as presented
- Logistics

9:03 a.m. REQUESTED ACTION

Item E-3: Agency Request Legislation for the 2026 Session

This item requests the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission approval of policy options and delegation of authority to the Director's Office and the Legislative Committee to finalize agency request legislation and to submit the proposals to the Governor's Office in September.

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Staff will present draft agency request legislation packets to the Commission for review and request the Commission to delegate to the Director the authority to pursue the development of two proposed agency request legislation for the 2026 session and submit one or both proposals for Governor's Office review for the 2026 session.
2. Authorize the Director and designees to work with the Legislative Committee, the Governor's policy and fiscal staff, and other interested parties, to further develop any Governor approved legislative request, as needed, prior to filing the bill for the 2026 session and as the agency works any bill during the 2026 session.

Motion by Scott Merriman to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Michael Latimer. **Approved unanimously as presented.** Commissioners Raad and Danenberg absent

9:16 a.m. REQUESTED ACTION

Item E-2: Commission Priorities 25/27

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to approve categorical Commission priorities for the 25-27 biennium.

REQUESTED ACTION FROM COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Adopt the 2025/2027 Commission Priorities.

Motion by Holly Williams to approve the staff recommendation as proposed with the Requested Action above. Second by Michael Latimer. **Approved unanimously as presented.** Commissioners Raad and Danenberg absent

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

9:23 a.m. REQUESTED ACTION

Item E-1: Proposed 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to approve the dates and locations for the 2026 year and delegate to the Director and/or their designee, the authority to adjust the meeting locations in consultation with the Commission Executive Committee.

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Adopt the 2026 meeting schedule as presented in Appendix 1
2. Delegate to the Director and/or their designee, the authority to adjust the meeting locations in consultation with the Commission Executive Committee.

Motion by Scott Merriman to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Michael Latimer. **Approved unanimously as presented.** Commissioners Raad and Danenberg absent

WORK SESSION

9:27 a.m. SCENIC BIKEWAYS ROUTE NOMINATION LAUNCH – Bryanna Osmonson, Trails Program and Paul Knowles, Trails Program Manager

- This item will provide an informational update on the Scenic Bikeways Program and the planned, upcoming Scenic Bikeways nomination pilot round.

9:55 a.m. FINANCIAL UPDATE – Laura Holmes, Business Services Division Director

- This item reports to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission an update on the biennial transition and budget outlook.

~~**11:05 a.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *If needed/Not needed*~~

10:11 a.m. ADJOURN

Submitted by Becki Ellison, Executive Assistant

August 27, 2025

A recording is retained by WSPRC as the formal record of meeting. The recording is accessible on the park's website approximately one week after the meeting - <https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission/commission-meetings-agendas>

The services, programs, and activities of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact the commission assistant Becki Ellison at (360) 902-8502 or becki.ellison@parks.wa.gov. Accommodation requests should be received at least five business days prior to the meeting to ensure availability. Please provide 7-day notice for requests to receive information in an alternative format and for ASL/ESL interpretation requests.