

Nisqually State Park - Trail System
Public Meeting 10/23/25
Public Comments with Answers.

Recommendation for heavy re-vegetation/ area closures: include signage about re-vegetation area/rehabilitation. In my experience, it is more effective than a fence or closure signs.

American Trails has a nice write-up on horse manure on trails & trailheads. Great job on the presentation tonight!

Answer: We will be working with State Park Stewardship Staff, Washington Trails Association and Contractors to block trailheads with logs and establish a restoration plan that includes planting.

How will you help stop park visitors from coming down to the residential homes?

Answer: A sign plan was designed into planning showing information on how to access park. We have also provided a turnaround at the administration building so that RV's, and really all vehicles, have room to turn around easily within the state park, instead of utilizing any residential driveways.

Will there be a gate or fence in place?

Answer: State Parks cannot install a gate across a county road. A fence may be used in some areas but is not feasible over long borders. We ask that visitors use the designated Park entrances to eliminate social trails onto neighboring properties.

What grants have we received and where are they coming from?

Answer: To date, we have received 2 grants:

- 1) \$500,000 from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) to help fund the construction and restoration of phase 2.
- 2) \$2,999,000 from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to fund the construction of the Mashel Valley Overlook and Multi-use Loop Trail (part of phase 3B).

What are the possible funding sources for this project that go beyond the Capital budget?

Answer: In addition to the grants mentioned above, State Parks intends to apply for another WWRP grant to fund phase 5B of the trails plan. Additional grants may be written in the future.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe has also contributed approximately \$1,000,000 to date to help fund art and interpretation.

Are the Master Plan and construction phases/documents online somewhere? If so, what is the website?

Answer: The master plan and phasing document has been posted to the project website.

[Nisqually State Park Development | Washington State Parks](#)

Is there any linkage of trails from the Pack Forest? Is there any plan to link the park's trail system with it in the future? If the answer is 'no,' can you explain why?

Answer: The focus of the current trail plan effort is to develop and improve trails within the existing park boundary. The master plan envisioned multiple trail links to Pack Forest, however this is not included in the current effort. A future planning effort will be needed for this.

For example: there is a bridge near the Mashel/Nisqually confluence that could be an access point for pedestrians. Connectivity with other trails should be considered. If steep slopes or ecological conditions are a concern, can there be any mitigation to reconsider?

Answer: The focus of the current construction plans and planning effort for trails are within the state parks boundaries. Meaning that a full analysis of feasibility, and mitigation for the existing bridge, or

other potential crossings have not taken place. These can all be considered, inspected, and planned in future phases but are not in the current planning scope or focus.
When will trails be open for horses? Answer: We expect a partial opening of the park early 2026. Currently, phases 3A and 3B and the Eatonville landfill clean up are impacting what trails are safe and accessible to the public this coming year.
If Phase 5A/5B begin in July 2027, how long will it take to complete? Answer: If successful, funding would be acquired in July of 2027. We would then expect both 5A and 5B to be completed by Summer of 2028.
When will the park reopen? Answer: Same answer as the equestrian trail question above.
What phases of this project are currently funded? Answer: All phases have been funded for design and permitting. Construction is funded through phase 3C. The campground (Phase 3D), trail system (Phase 5) and the village center (Phase 6) are not funded for construction.
Who will be cleaning up after the horses? Answer: We ask that visitors clean up after themselves as much as possible. Understanding that may not be feasible all the time along trails we have installed equestrian facilities into the design on day use parking areas as well as the campgrounds, and Administration building.
Will the landfill cleanup affect the park opening? Answer: Landfill cleanup is currently happening and is affecting trail access. When this is complete State Parks will evaluate how to safely re-open this area back up to the public.
Will there be more cycling trails planned in the future? Answer: The master plan envisioned a trail connection to the Town of Eatonville. This will need to be a future planning effort between State Parks, DOT, Pierce County and Eatonville. A bike trail that crosses the Mashel River was included in the master plan and would also need to be a future effort.
Regarding the pump track and bike skills course that was mentioned – the town of Eatonville received a COAF grant to build the same in town (FY 26). Answer: State Parks team is aware of the track. The gravel pit area is suited for a pump track and wider bike skills area. And just as separate towns have different abilities of skate parks this track will be a more permanent installation with a different skillset than Eatonville's.
How wide are wetland buffers for planning and construction? Answer: Wetland buffers vary depending on the wetlands classification, Nisqually State Park has many wetlands with buffers ranging from 75' to 150' Are there wetland impacts with this project, and if yes, what is being done to mitigate? Answer: While direct wetland impacts have been limited, there are multiple locations of wetland buffer impacts. In these areas we utilize buffer averaging of the wetland buffers. In some areas existing logging roads are directly abutting or even splitting existing wetlands. Some of these trails are being removed to restore the wetland, others will remain in place with improvements planned alongside protections to remove direct impacts to the wetlands. In all areas within wetland buffers where we are disturbing natural vegetation for construction those disturbances are restored with appropriate plant species for the sites ecological conditions. The wetland reports have been posted to this project page.