

MILLER PENINSULA STATE PARK

❖ Interim Memorandum - Draft

To: Washington State Parks Date: 6/30/2023
 From: J.A. Brennan Associates, PLLC Project: Miller Peninsula State Park
 Re: Interim Memorandum

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PURPOSE OF INTERIM MEMORANDUM

This Interim Memorandum for Miller Peninsula State Park documents the design process to date, consolidates information on the site, and summarizes public input. The purpose is to capture a project snapshot before a temporary hold in the winter and spring of 2023. The design is expected to move forward as early as July 2023. This memo will also be valuable for Park Staff, the Director, and the Commission as they consider funding levels and upcoming decisions for the project.

❖ Action Items for Commissioners

- Park name
- Long-term park boundary
- Land Classification
- Adoption of the preferred plan

❖ Project Status

- Concept design is partially complete
- Alternatives have been identified but may be refined for SEPA and the Predesign process
- Some work has been completed on a draft preferred plan; however, it is not complete

BACKGROUND

❖ Planning Process

Miller Peninsula State Park is a 2,884 +/- acre forest with approximately three miles of saltwater shoreline on the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Discovery Bay. It is on the north side of the Olympic Peninsula, east of the City of Sequim and north of Highway 101 in Clallam County. The property was acquired to meet the need for additional recreation resources to serve the state's growing population.

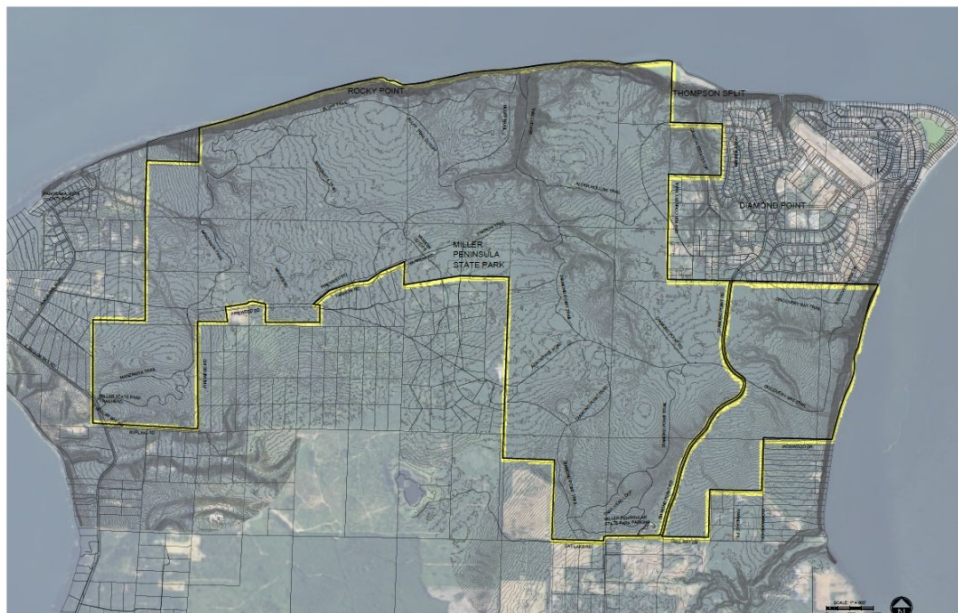


Figure 1 Existing Park Boundary Map

The purpose for the park's acquisition and development was clearly stated in the excerpt below from the 1992 Commission Meeting:

1. 1992 – State Parks staff recommend the acquisition of 710 acres for a full-service state park at Diamond Point. The acquisition was well-received by the public at a public meeting on October 14, 1992. The recommendation explains that:

"With such a large acreage, the opportunity exists to preserve undisturbed habitat areas while providing for a wide variety of uses without conflict because they could be easily separated. These uses could include day-use areas for picnicking, trails for nature walks and interpretation of the forest and improved trail access to the beach. Overnight facilities could be included to accommodate those traveling long distances to experience the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Peninsula."

The development of the park would also meet other goals outlined in the State Parks mission statement. The site comprises second and third-growth forests and includes day-use parking areas and a trail system for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The saltwater shoreline on the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Discovery Bay is high bank, so beach access is limited. The project considers changes to the nearby Sequim Bay State Park so that the two parks can provide complimentary experiences.

In 2005, State Parks began a visioning process as a first step in preparing a master plan for Miller Peninsula State Park Property. Due to the Great Recession, anticipated funding was not received, and master planning and development were put on hold.

From past land use and partial implementation of the Interim Trail Plan, the property has three trailheads, an existing trail system composed of gravel, two-track roads, and narrower, more primitive trails. These trails attract equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers. No camping is allowed within the park property since facilities have not been developed yet.

Volunteers from the Peninsula Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Washington Trails Association and other volunteers have been helping to maintain and improve the trail network. Not all improvements were formally approved, and inconsistencies in trail standards raised concerns among volunteers and park staff.

In 2013, State Parks received a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Grant to construct a much-needed trailhead parking lot and restroom accessed from Diamond Point Road at the southern end of the park. These facilities were completed in 2015 and are now open to the public. During the permitting process, it was determined that the park property needed to be formally designated for hiking, horse, and bicycle use.

On December 8, 2014, Don Hoch, Director of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, approved the Miller Peninsula State Park Property Initial Trail Identification and Designation. Hiking, equestrian and mountain biking uses were determined to be appropriate. The report directs that an Interim Trail Plan be developed and maintained until a park master plan or other development plans can be completed. Further guidance was provided for the establishment of a Trail Advisory Group.

In July 2016, the Commission adopted a Statewide Acquisition and Development Strategy to guide the agency's decision-making on land acquisition and park development. The Strategy indicated that the

first implementation effort would be to identify a property for new park development from among those that were being held for future development. The Commission narrowed the list of candidate parks in 2018 to Fisk State Park Property, Westport Light State Parks, and Miller Peninsula State Park Property. In November 2019, the Commission selected Miller Peninsula for development of a new full-service state park.

Master Planning began in 2020 and is expected to result in several products:

- Land classifications for the park
- A long-term park boundary
- A park master plan
- A non-project SEPA
- A predesign report providing detail on the first phase of development
- An official park name

The planning process has included multiple opportunities for the public to provide input on the project. To date, there have been eight public meetings. Community members have expressed numerous concerns about the development of improvements at the park. Support for park development also exists in the community – for recreation use and stewardship of the site.

By 2022, it became apparent that additional environmental review would be necessary to complete the master planning effort. There was insufficient funding for the capital project to complete this review, the master planning, and the predesign report. State Parks decided to put the project on hold pending efforts to secure additional funding.

SITE HISTORY

Miller Peninsula State Park is currently comprised of +/- 2,884 acres. In 1993, WSPRC acquired a parcel from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as part of the Trust Land Transfer Program. Later, RCO grants funded the acquisition of additional properties to improve park accessibility. These actions fit well within the agency's mission of furthering care for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places by protecting the intact habitat associated with the park. It also removes the threat of development, which could irrevocably change the park's character. Together, the properties provide Washingtonians greater exposure to diverse natural and cultural heritage by providing more trail features, shoreline, and potential waterfront access.

There is a long history associated with the Miller Peninsula property and the acquisition of the various parcels by State Parks. The movement to expand the park to its current size by State Parks and local advocates for open space conservation dates back to the 1970s. For more information, see 1992 Commission Meeting minutes Diamond Point – Clallam County – Department of Natural Resources Trust Land Expansion Requested Action in Appendix.

Site Timeline:

1. In the early 1900s, the site was heavily logged for timber.
2. 1970s – Clallam PUD proposed a nuclear power plant at the site; this plan was abandoned.
3. 1985 – Legislature directs DNR and State Parks to perform a statewide study to recommend trust lands suitable for park purposes. The study identified 22 properties, including approximately 1,695 acres of trust lands on Miller Peninsula near Diamond Point. The Diamond

Point property was found suitable due to over two miles of accessible saltwater frontage on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Saltwater access was a high priority for recreational purposes, but very little public access was available along the Strait. The study lands included the waterfront properties and additional DNR lands on the east and west ends of the property for access corridors to county roads.

4. 1988 – the Legislature authorized State Parks to negotiate the purchase of 1,695 acres.
5. 1990 – the Mitsubishi Corporation, Shimizu Corporation and a local northwest developer, Peninsula Partners, identified part of the property as a critical piece to a proposed 650-acre golf course resort. State Parks agreed that this land area would be available for purchase from DNR in exchange for park development funds, access, utilities, and additional land.
6. August 1992 – With legal delays and an uncertain investment climate, Peninsula Partners abandons the proposal to construct a major destination resort.
7. 1992 – State Parks staff recommend the acquisition of 710 acres for a full-service state park at Diamond Point. The acquisition was well received by the public at a public meeting on October 14, 1992.
8. Washington State Parks acquires property from DNR from 1993-1994
9. 2006 – Opportunities and Constraints assessment
10. 2007 – Vision Report
11. 2015 – Trailhead day-use area open
12. 2016 – Interim Trail Plan Completed
13. 2020 – Preliminary Concept Design work begins

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS MISSION STATEMENT

When acquiring the property, the Miller Peninsula State Park was anticipated to meet the key State Park Commission's mission, vision, and core values outlined below.

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.

CORE VALUES

The agency has adopted the following core values:

- Commitment to stewardship that transmits high-quality park assets to future generations
- Dedication to outdoor recreation and public enjoyment that welcomes all our citizens to their public parks
- Excellence in all we do
- Involving the public in our policy development and decision-making
- Support for one another as we translate our mission into reality

PROJECT GOAL

The Miller Peninsula Park project goal is to create a compelling modern design that promotes diversity, accessibility, and inclusion in a destination park. This park plan advances nearly all of the Commission's strategic goals. It is most closely aligned with Customer Experience: Provide exceptional recreation, cultural, and interpretive opportunities that all visitors enjoy and support.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDS FOR PARKS

Population Growth Statewide

As Washington's population is forecast to grow from 7.4 million in 2019 to 9 million in 2040¹, the State will need to increase investment in outdoor recreation to accommodate these new residents. Investments should be made to maintain residents' relatively high satisfaction with their recreational opportunities (74 percent were satisfied, according to a 2017 study).² Because population growth will largely be driven by people moving to Washington, there is also a need to strengthen programs that support these new residents' appreciation of the State's heritage. Population growth will pressure local parks and recreation agencies to maintain and redevelop sites to accommodate increasing use. For example, trail corridors and open space facilities must be secured to meet future needs.

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan is a strategic guide for determining how agencies and their partners decide how to invest funding for creation and conservation needs. The overall goal of the 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan is to identify the near and long-term priorities to meet the needs of residents for outdoor recreation and conservation in Washington State.

The five priorities identified include the following:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

The figure below from the State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report shows the top 10 activities of Washington's designated Peninsulas Region, where Miller Peninsula State Park is located. The overall top activities based on the survey participants of the Peninsula Region include walking, visiting a beach or tide pools, and visiting rivers or streams. These top three activities are consistent with the overall top three activities based on the overall participation throughout the state's ten regions.



¹ Office of Financial Management (OFM) Population Forecast 2010-2040, OFM Forecasting and Research Division, State of Washington, 2019

² State of Washington Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report, Prepared for RCO by Eastern Washington University, 2017, p47-52

Top-10 Activities for the Peninsulas Region³

	Activity	Category	%
1	Walking in a park or trail setting	Walking	85%
2	Visiting a beach or tide pools	Nature Activities	75%
3	Visiting rivers or streams	Nature Activities	64%
4	Gather or collect things in a nature setting (e.g., rocks, shells, plants)	Nature Activities	59%
5	Attending an outdoor concert or event (e.g., farmer's market, fairs, sporting events)	Leisure activities at a park	57%
6	Scenic or wilderness area	Sightseeing	57%
7	Day-hiking	Hiking	54%
8	Wildlife or nature viewing	Nature Activities	54%
9	Swimming/wading at a beach - saltwater	Swimming	49%
10	Driving or motorcycling for pleasure (note: this is on a paved surface and does not include WATV or off-roading)	Sightseeing	48%

Figure 3 Top-10 Activities for the Peninsulas Region

Clallam County Needs assessment from the 2016 – 2026 Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan

The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan clearly shows the need for additional camping and park resources. A portion of the public survey on park and recreation needs is provided below.

Question #5: What facilities or equipment would you like to see added to the County park system?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Hiking trails	57.8%	361
Picnic areas	38.4%	240
More restrooms	37.9%	237
More campsites	36.3%	227
Dog run area	24.6%	154
Cabins	23.4%	146
Children's play equipment	18.1%	113
Dispersed fields	15.2%	95
Organized sports fields	10.9%	68
Exercise areas	10.1%	63
More horse trails	8.5%	53
Other (please specify)	18.3%	177

The 177 "Other" written responses are available through the Parks Department. 625 answered the question and 114 skipped the question

Figure 4 Public Survey on Park and Recreation – Facilities or Equipment

³ (Jostad, Schultz, & Chase, State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report, 2017)

Question #6: Rank your household's need of the following park and recreation facilities. The highest need is number 1 and the lowest need is number 28. The list below represents the overall order the facilities were ranked by the survey responders.

Rank	Facility
1	Waterfront parks
2	Pedestrian paths
3	Biking trails
4	Picnic facilities and shelters
5	Campsites
6	Small neighborhood parks
7	Large community or regional parks
8	Nature center and interpretive trails
9	Viewpoints
10	Pier or dock over water
11	Outdoor gardens
12	Playground equipment
13	Cabins/yurts
14	Salt water boat ramps
15	Raised birding platforms
16	Outdoor tennis courts
17	Water or spray park
18	Equestrian trails and facilities
19	Youth baseball/softball fields
20	Exercise or stretching equipment
21	Outdoor basketball courts
22	Horseshoe courts
23	Outdoor volleyball courts
24	Climbing wall
25	Adult softball fields
26	Disc golf course
27	Shooting range
28	Skate park

9 answered "None of the above"
721 answered the question and 18 skipped the question

Figure 5 Public Survey on Park and Recreation – Household's Needs Ranking

In another question, 56 percent would like to see cabins at Salt Creek County Park, indicating that cabins at Miller Peninsula State Park would be well used.

MILLER PENNINSULA STATE PARK REPORT SUMMARIES

❖ Completed Work: (what has been done so far)

- 2004 Vegetation Studies
- 2006 Opportunities and Constraints Report
- 2007 Vision and Concept
- 2016 Interim Trail Plan
- Wetland Reconnaissance
- Draft Predesign Geotechnical Report
- Ecological Integrity Assessment
- Wildlife Summary
- Potential Development Areas
- Traffic Summary and Access

The following summaries of the site's observed existing conditions are appropriate for this document's planning level. Team members contributed data to assess wetlands, steep slope and soil conditions, vegetation, and wildlife.

❖ Vegetation Summary

Excerpt from: Rare Plant Survey Report; 2004 by Pacific Biodiversity Institute

See Bibliography and Appendix for more information.

In 2004, the Pacific Biodiversity Institute prepared a Rare Plant Survey Report. It summarizes that logging has significantly affected the site over the years and that a high percentage of the site is new-growth young forest stands.

Rare and high-quality plant communities were mapped by State Parks staff, highlighting five key zones within the property. These areas reflect a diversity of plant communities and habitat types and should generally be avoided for significant park development. Trail systems already exist within the framework of these areas.

Mature conifer stands exist within these five zones with a higher-rated habitat value and are recommended to be avoided for any significant development. Given the site's historical nature and apparent logging use, development should be limited to areas with younger forests, wherever possible.

❖ 2006 Opportunities and Constraints

Opportunities and constraints were originally prepared in September 2006 by Adolfson Associates, Inc., and State Parks staff. This document and the January 2007 vision document were referenced as a resource for this phase of the planning work.

Summary from the 2006 Document:

Based on the data collected, the Miller Peninsula property appears to be undeveloped and composed of conifer forest managed for timber with smaller areas of open landscape. The forest occurs in patches of various ages due to the previous logging. Most younger patches are located along existing logging roads on the property's southern boundary. Logging or unimproved roads are present throughout the property. Not all the roads are visible from aerial photographs. High bluffs above rocky beaches characterize the beach along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Discovery Bay. It does not appear that there

are any low-bank beaches on the property except where the gulch meets the beach on the north part of the site.

In general, opportunities for park facility development are recommended for areas with disturbed

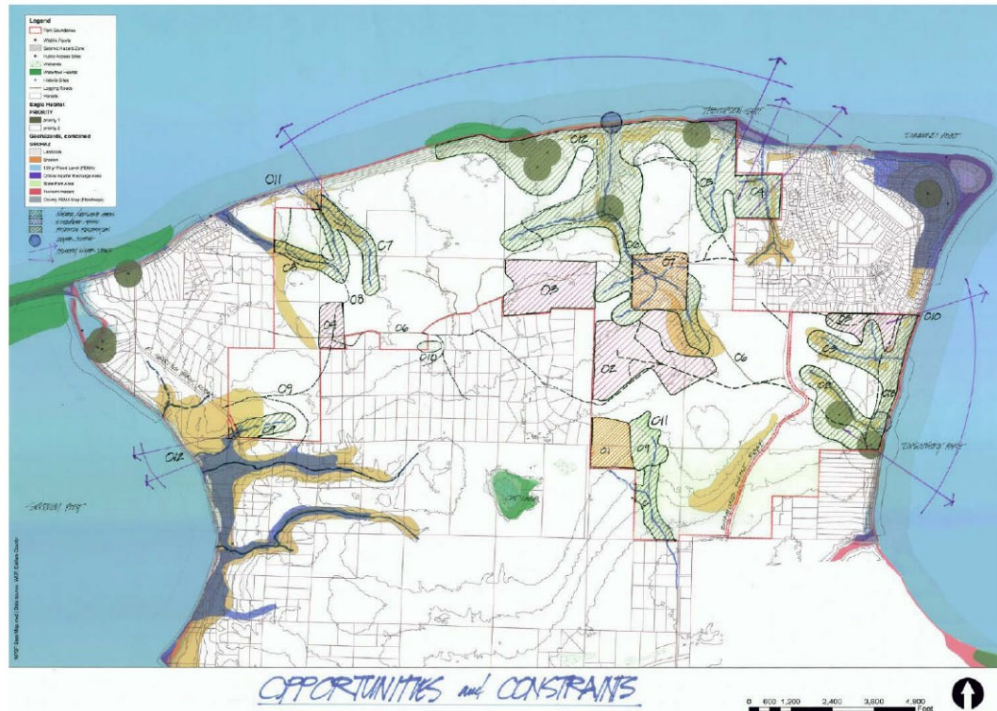


Figure 6 Opportunities and Constraints Map

natural resources, existing infrastructure, and/or potential access. Areas that present constraints to development are typically the least disturbed, have difficult topography or are on or near documented sensitive natural resources.

❖ 2007 Vision Report Summary

In 2007, the Commission approved a vision for the park:

Nature Within Reach

A central village of lodging and amenities in a Pacific Northwest destination park features interpretation, exploration, recreation, and relaxation.

- Hiking
- Biking
- Horseback riding
- Wildlife viewing
- Interpretation
- Learning
- Discovery
- Lodging & camping

Guiding Principles

Collected from the Miller Peninsula Vision Report – prepared in January 2007

“To help inform public expectations on park development, agency staff created six guiding principles. These principles will guide staff’s work throughout the park planning and development process.”

Create a park "with" the North Olympic Peninsula community – State Parks hopes to engage local governments, Tribes, non-profit organizations, businesses, and local community members to jointly plan, construct, and operate an extraordinary park oriented towards visitors from throughout the state.

Build on a foundation of public participation – State Parks will seek inspiration and counsel from the public during each planning step. The agency planning team will foster two-way dialogue by establishing a temporary community exploratory committee, holding public workshops, meeting with interested organizations, providing timely information, and soliciting input from individual stakeholders.

Develop the park's niche – The Miller Peninsula property and Sequim Bay State Park should be seen as parts of a larger network of recreation, education, and conservation opportunities on the northern Olympic Peninsula. It should seek to complement existing opportunities and enhance the region's tourism economy.

Explore the full range of possibilities – This planning exercise aims to explore a wide range of potential visitor experiences, conservation activities, and types and intensities of facilities suited to the Miller Peninsula property and Sequim Bay State Park. Subsequent planning steps will craft a park vision and narrow the spectrum of development and conservation possibilities to those the agency considers most appropriate and worthy of further study. Major planning activity is expected to culminate in preparing a park master development plan during the 2007-09 biennium.

Expect excellence – Park planning and development should embrace excellence as the standard for all work. Excellence is infectious and will attract other organizations to participate in the creation and operation of the park. Work should create a park legacy the next generation will choose to preserve and protect.

Plan for financial sustainability – Park planning will explore a full range of models to finance and operate the park. This may include developing partnerships with other government agencies, tribes, non-profit organizations, foundations, and private investors in addition to employing traditional state and federal funding sources.

❖ Interim Trail Plan Summary

Various reports have been prepared for the site as part of the previous planning work. The 2007 Vision Report and the 2016 Interim Trail Plan are two documents used as the foundation to guide the preliminary concept development.

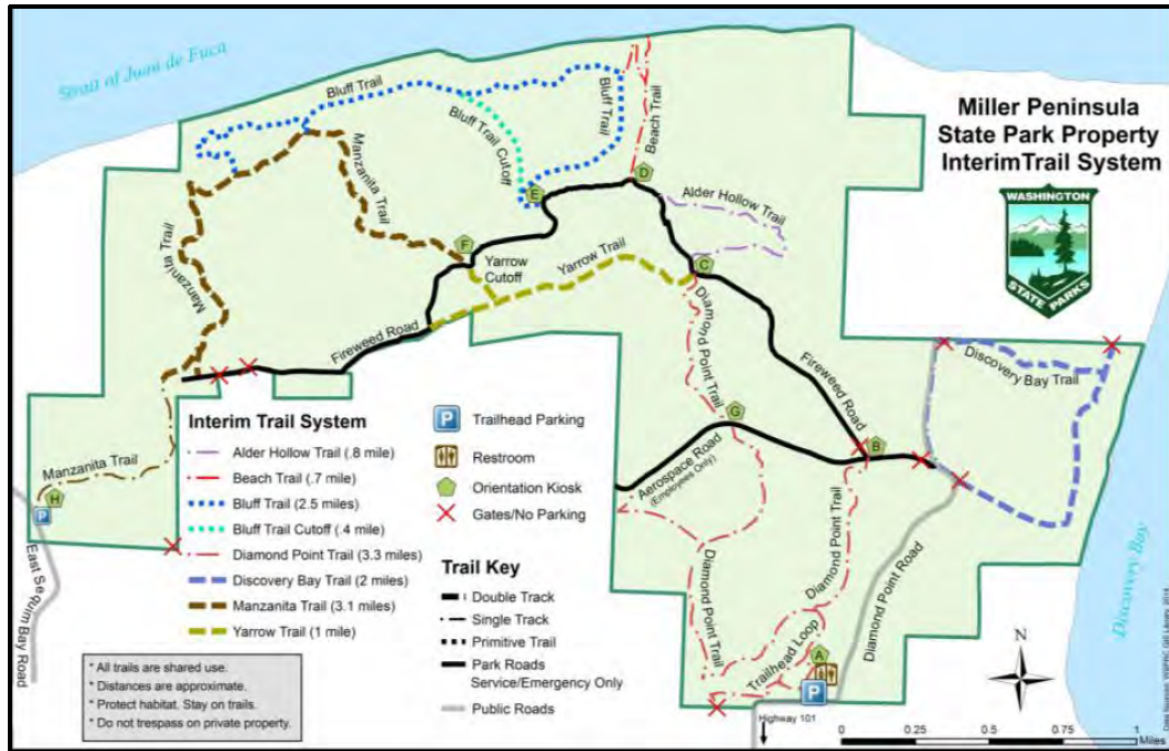


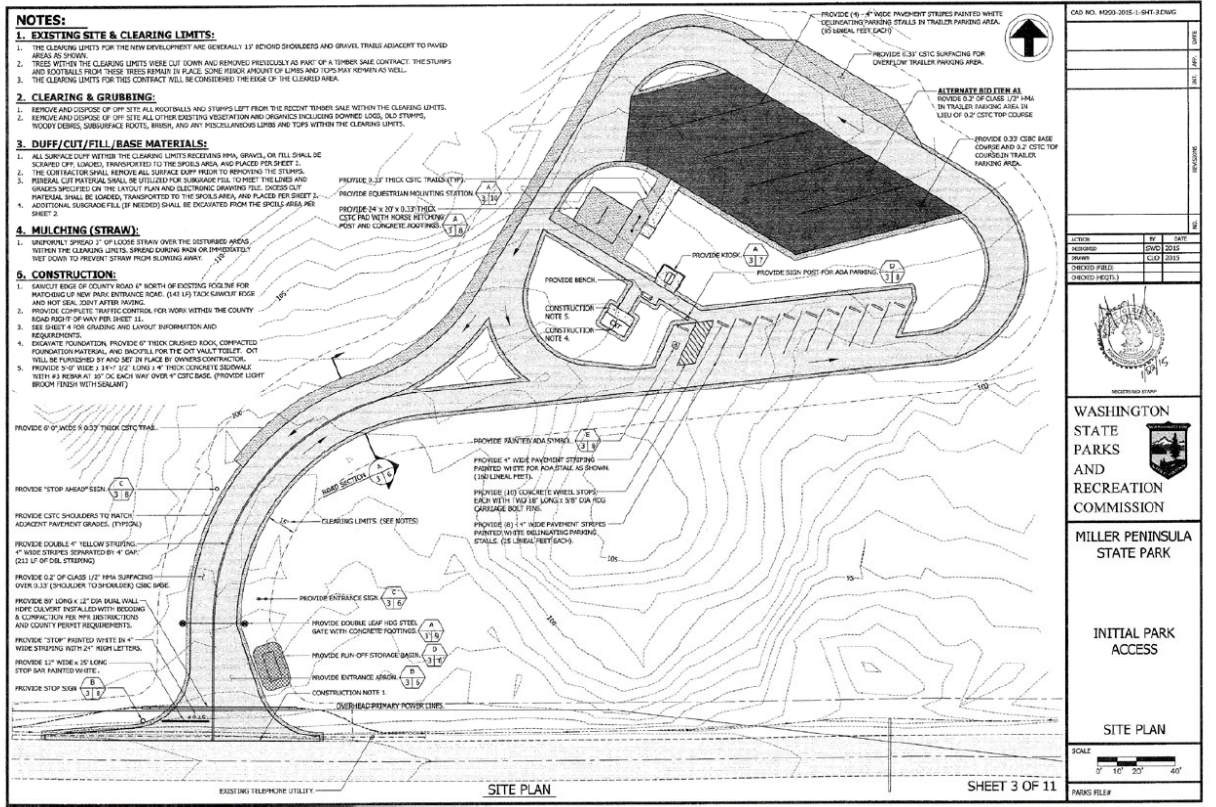
Figure 7 Interim Trail System Map

The Interim Trail Plan recommends designating 19.3 miles of existing trails into four trail classes: Service Road, Double Track, Single Track and Primitive. The plan establishes trail management objectives for each trail class, including vegetation clearances, trail width, trail surface and maintenance equipment. All trails are to be shared use, meaning that all non-motorized recreation is allowed on all trails. A signage plan includes trail maps, directional signage, public safety, and information intended to educate park visitors about shared-use trails.

The plan recommends rerouting several trail sections to reduce potential conflicts between user groups. These sections are straight and steep, which creates an opportunity for high downhill speeds for cyclists. Cyclists that rapidly overtake horses and hikers can result in potential user conflicts and safety concerns. The plan recommends removing two sections of the trail based on safety concerns and trespassing on private property.

The planning process identified a route for a new connector trail that links the existing trailhead parking lot on Diamond Point Road to the trail system. It was the highest priority trail improvement in the park.

Appendix A - Initial Park Access – Trailhead Parking Lot - Diamond Point Road



8 Initial Park Access - Trailhead Parking Lot Diamond Point Road

Volunteer Maintenance

For the trail system to be sustainable, it was determined that volunteers conduct maintenance and help build the proposed connector trail and reroutes. Volunteers, including Back Country Horsemen of Washington and Washington Trails Association, have volunteered and are committed to future trail work. Park Staff will approve and coordinate all trail projects.

Initial Day-use access design

Phase 1 of the trail improvements included implementing a trailhead parking area off Diamond Point Road in 2015. This site improvement included ten parking stalls, including one ADA stall, five stalls for trucks and trailers for equestrian use, a CXT restroom, a kiosk, a horse hitching area, and an ADA equestrian mounting station.

Wetlands Summary

*Excerpt from: Wetland Reconnaissance Memo and Figure Prepared by the Watershed Group
See Bibliography and Appendix for more information.*

The purpose of the reconnaissance was to assist the WSPRC with planning for future park improvements. A field investigation was conducted over five days in May 2020.

In total, 112 wetlands and two streams were identified in Miller Peninsula State Park Property. Many areas lacking wetlands and stream encumbrances were also identified that could support potential park

development. Much of the park was visually assessed. However, given the limited authorized field time and consistency with the approved scope of work, not all of the park was screened.

Wetlands

Wetlands range from very small to approximately ten acres in size. Of these, most are located within hydrologically isolated depressions and are generally found within topographic low points within the hydrologic gradient.

All wetland features are variable in form and function; however, they can be generally described within a few categories, as discussed below. This report provides these categories for discussion but does not represent regulatory classifications. Wetlands are regulated as separate classes.

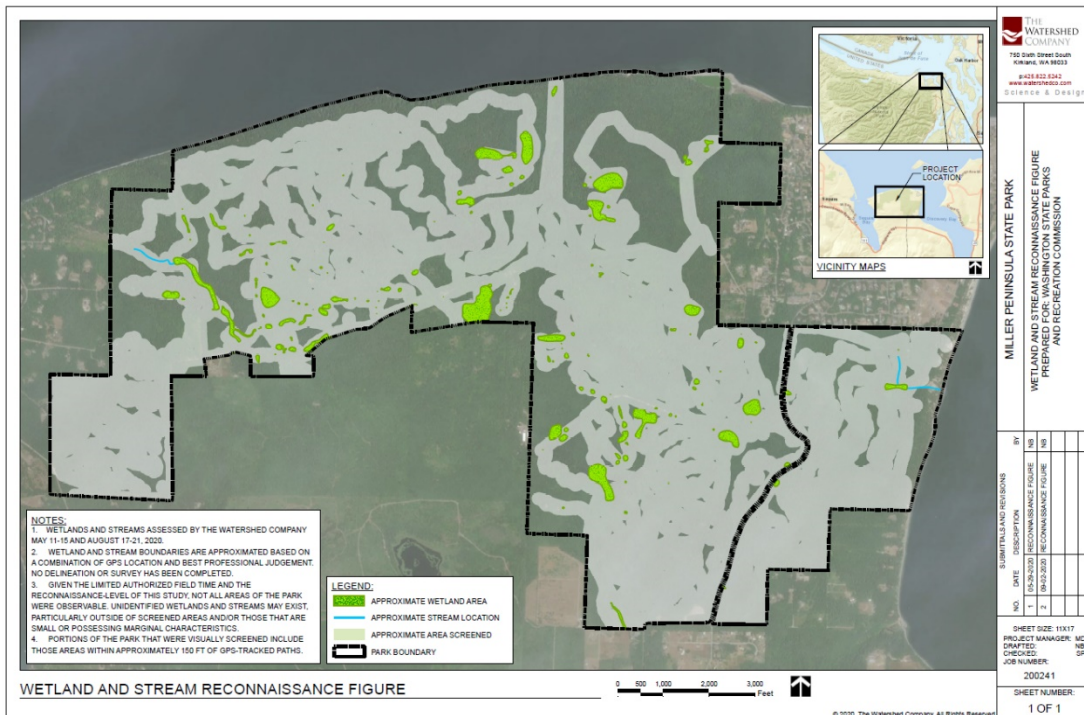


Figure 9 Wetland and Stream Reconnaissance Map

Observed wetland Categories:

Palustrine Forested:

- Palustrine forested wetlands are the most common wetland type in the study area and characterized by a plant assemblage of primarily red alder (*Alnus rubra*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), sedges (*Carex spp.*), and grasses (family – *Poaceae*). These wetland features are typically hydrologically isolated with a depressional hydrogeomorphic classification. Many larger wetlands include palustrine emergent and scrub-shrub components.

Palustrine Emergent:

- Palustrine emergent wetlands, such as meadow wetlands, are numerous within the park and consist of an herbaceous plant assemblage dominated by sedges and grasses and generally are located within forest openings. They typically have a depressional hydrogeomorphic classification.

Sparingly Vegetated Depressional Wetlands

- A few wetlands were observed within sparsely vegetated depressions. They are typically very small but can be numerous and constitute a mosaic or wetland-complex pattern. They are frequently but not exclusively found near other larger wetlands.

Road/Trail Wetlands

- Road and trail wetlands are those located on trails, roads, or abandoned logging roads; and/or appear to be associated with localized soil compaction and concentration of runoff.

Non-wetland Areas

- Miller Peninsula State Park is primarily vegetated with second-growth forests in various stages of regeneration. Although vegetation composition and structure occur on a gradient throughout the property, two general plant assemblages were observed. These include Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) dominant mixed-conifer forest and Douglas-fir and Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) forest.

Streams

Various mapping resources identify streams throughout many of the ravines and valleys within Miller Peninsula State Park. Field investigation determined that nearly all on-site mapped streams do not show the requisite bed, bank and sorted sediment characteristics of jurisdictional streams. Two streams have been identified that meet the criteria for ordinary high-water mark based on indicators such as scour, a defined channel, sorted sediments and changes in vegetation.

Local Regulations

Wetlands and streams in Clallam County are regulated under Chapter 27.12, Critical Areas, of the Clallam County Code (CCC).

Buffers will range in size, but the wetland buffer will generally be 50' – 200', depending on the development type. For streams, the buffer will be 50'.

State and Federal Regulations

Most wetlands and streams are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Any proposed filling or other direct impacts to the Waters of the U.S., including wetlands (except isolated wetlands), would require notification and permits from the Corps. Most of the wetlands on the property appear to be isolated; however, any determination would require additional investigation and be made case-by-case.

A more comprehensive wetland delineation of areas proposed for development will be required when the phased implementation of development is determined.

❖ Preliminary Geotechnical Summary

Excerpt from: Draft Predesign Geotechnical Report Prepared by Aspect Consulting

See Bibliography and Appendix for more information

Site Conditions and Topography

The site reaches the shoreline of Discovery Bay to the east and the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the north. Most of the surrounding properties are developed for residential use or are undeveloped. Diamond Point Road cuts north-south along the eastern portion, and East Sequim Bay Road cuts to the southwestern corner. Trail access is provided from both roadways. The main parking area is in the southern area of the site and is developed with an asphalt parking area and restrooms. Gravel roadways, Aerospace Road, and Fireweed Road provide east-west access through the site.

Most of the site is relatively level, with some gentle undulations and a few drainage ravines cut into it (Figure 10). The areas lining the shoreline on the north and east sides of the site are steep slopes down from this upper level to the shoreline. Both slopes along the shoreline are similar in height and stand about 200 to 230 feet tall.

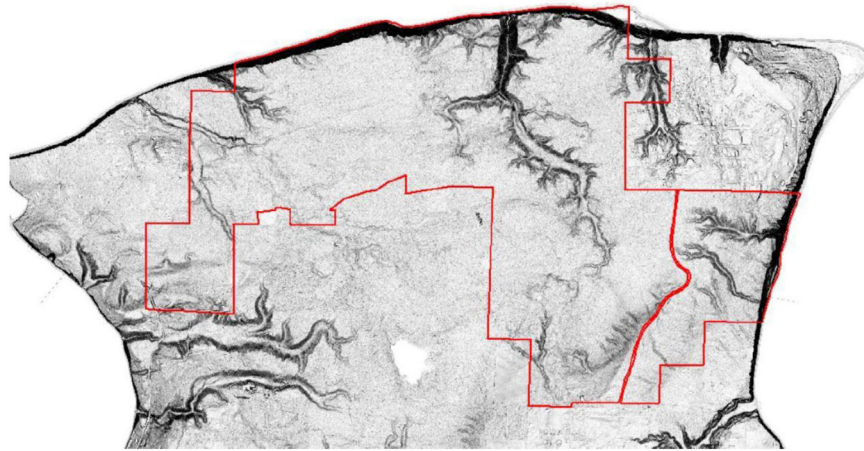


Figure 10 Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) map showing drainage features within the site

Surface Water

Observed water seepage is on the face of the slopes along the northern shoreline. A few other areas of standing water were observed in the main drainage feature to the north, near the central area of the site and in other areas on the site (Figure 11). Surface drainage and groundwater conditions at the site will vary with fluctuations in precipitation, site usage (such as irrigation), and off-site land use.



Figure 11 Minor standing water on a trail near the central area of the site

Subsurface Conditions

"Subsurface conditions at the site were inferred from observations of outcrops, along with a review of applicable geologic literature and our experience with the local geology. The following is a summary of the characterization of subsurface conditions at the site.

Geologic and hydrogeologic maps indicate that the site is underlain by at least 1,500 feet of glacial and nonglacial deposits (Pessl Jr. et al., 1989; Vacarro et al., 1998). From the ground surface downwards, the characteristics and distribution of each of the units are described as follows:

- **Recent landslide (Qls)** – The landslide deposits are described as a loose or soft diamicton of sand, gravel, silt, and soil transported in deep-seated landslides.
- **Vashon recessional outwash and ice-contact stratified drift (Qvr)** – Present along the southern margin and edges of the peninsula, this unit is the result of deposition from, on, or near stagnant ice. This unit comprises stratified sands and gravels and follows drainage patterns of once-active streams.
- **Glacial till (Qvt)** – Surface geology over much of the site is mapped as Pleistocene-aged glacial till, a compact, glacially consolidated, poorly sorted mix of sand, gravel, and boulders in a silty matrix.
- **Vashon advance outwash (Qva)** – This unit underlies the till across the peninsula. It is composed of glacially consolidated sand and gravel and results from melt-water deposits from the advancing front of the glacier. Due to its high permeability, this unit is widely targeted by wells on the peninsula for its ability to yield substantial water.
- **Pre-Vashon-till sands (Qps)** – This unit underlies outwash across portions of the peninsula. It is composed of pebbly to silty sands of unknown origin.
- **Pre-Vashon gravels (Qpg)** – This unit locally underlies Pre-Vashon sands on some parts of the peninsula. It comprises sandy pebble to cobble-sized gravels from various origins, including glacially derived outwash, fluvial gravels, and gravels of unknown origin. Interbeds of sand and silt are common throughout this unit."

Groundwater

"In general, groundwater was determined to be in the aquifer about 150 feet below ground surface and generally follows the site topography, with flow radially outward from the center of the peninsula and discharging to Sequim Bay to the west, the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the North, and Discovery Bay to the east.

Groundwater recharge is chiefly sourced by precipitation and downward percolation of irrigation return flows or leakage from surface water drainages with headwaters in the foothills of the Olympics.

Perched groundwater conditions can develop, primarily during wet winter months. A perched groundwater condition occurs when water percolates into the shallow subsurface and collects on relatively impermeable materials. Surface and subsurface drainage and groundwater conditions will vary with precipitation, site usage (such as irrigation), and off-site land use."

Geologic Hazards

The outer bluff and stream ravines have steep apparent slope conditions. "The County's geologically hazardous areas mapping indicates erosion and landslide hazards on the site but no seismic hazards."

"Development standards require a minimum buffer of 50 feet from the top, toe, and all edges of a landslide hazard area (County, 2021a). The buffer may be reduced to not less than 20 feet upon approval of a geotechnical report. Trails and trail-related facilities, including platforms, can be placed in the critical area and associated buffers by issuing a compliance certificate. This approval can be obtained with a geotechnical assessment if the structure does not exacerbate the hazard and the disturbance area is limited. The County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) also outlines requirements for the beach access structures (SMP, 2019)."

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on observations of the site and the immediate surrounding areas, data review, and the results of the geotechnical engineering assessment, it is Aspect Consultant's opinion that the project is feasible. The project will not negatively affect the stability of the geologically hazardous areas located at and near the site, provided the recommendations contained herein are incorporated into the design and construction of the project.

❖ Water Utility Investigation

In 2022, Parks worked with Aspect Consulting to perform a field investigation to assess water availability for a well system.

Excerpt from: Draft Well investigation

See Bibliography and Appendix for more information

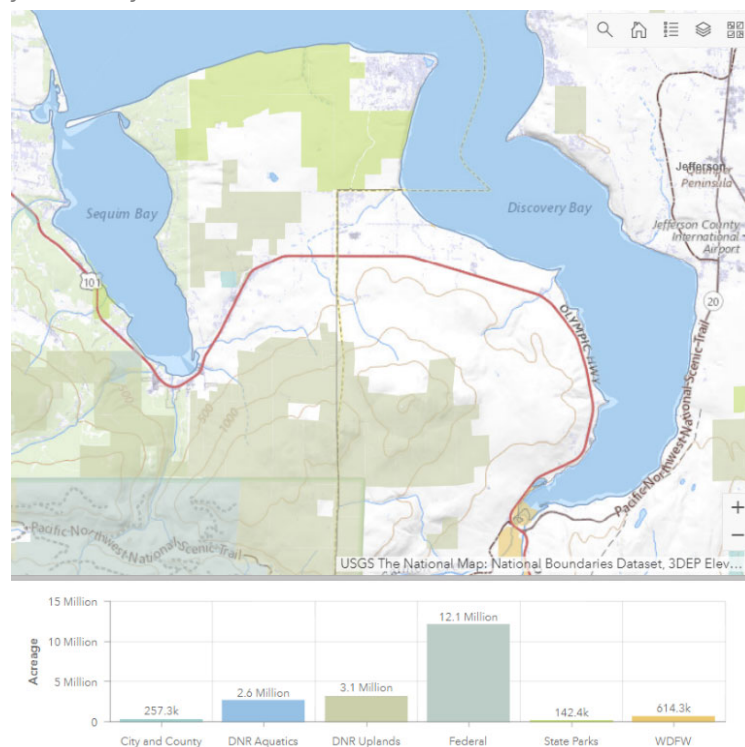


Figure 12 Wildlife Corridor Map

❖ Wildlife Summary

Wildlife Corridors

In considering possible long-term boundaries for the park, the design team assessed that currently, there is a decent amount of undeveloped land between the park and the State and National Forest lands to the south. With a growing community in the Olympic Peninsula, these undeveloped lands won't remain this way. Over time, the park may become an island of wildlife habitat, disconnected from other public lands.

The Wildlife Program staff from the Point No Point Treaty Council, the North Olympic Land Trust, the Jefferson Land Trust, and Panthera have discussed the feasibility of developing a wildlife corridor connecting the state park to the forests south of highway SR 101. Park staff began investigating the area's wildlife patterns and possible highway crossing locations. See Village Center alternative map.

This work is in the early stages and would need buy-in from multiple agencies and organizations. The groups that have been engaged are interested in investigating this potential corridor.

Potential Partnerships:

- Point No Point Treaty Council
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- North Olympic Land Trust
- Jefferson Land Trust
- Panthera
- DNR
- DOT

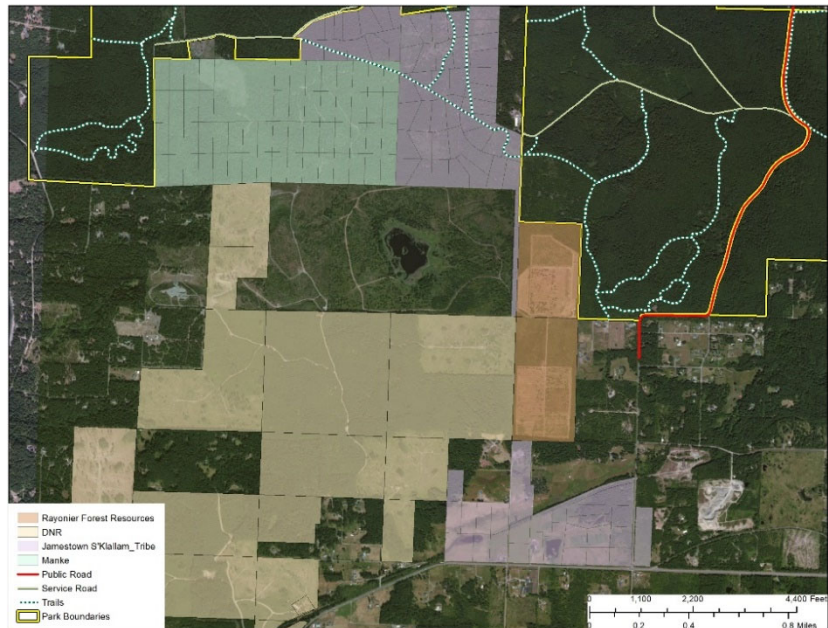


Figure 13 Village Center Alternative showing alternative long-term boundary for wildlife corridor

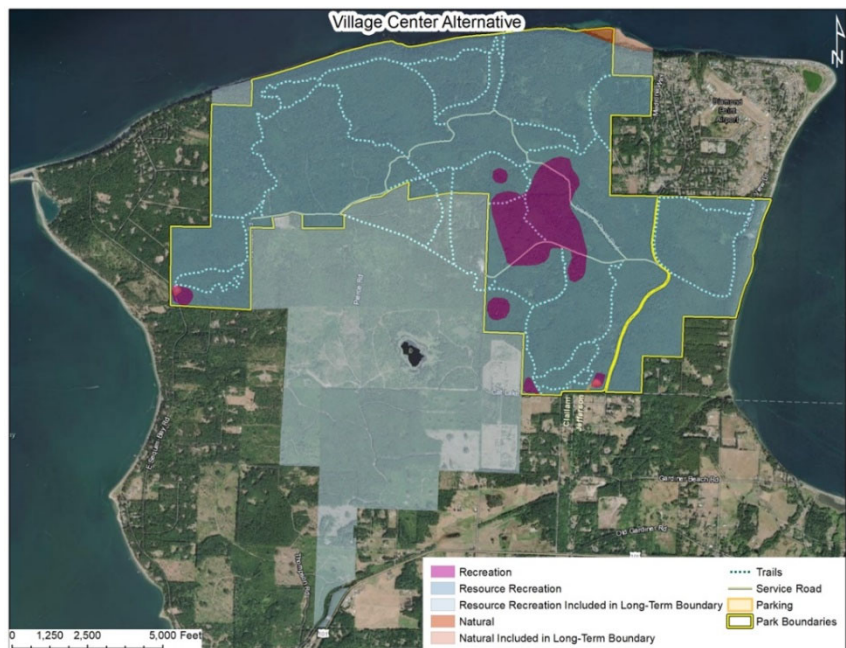


Figure 14 Potential Partnership Map

❖ Potential Development Areas (Linda Kunze, State Parks Southwest Region Steward)

In collaboration with WDFW biologists, Parks Staff prepared an initial high-level assessment of vegetation types to assess further the most appropriate allocation of development on the site. Potential development areas in the core area of Miller Peninsula were identified by stand age, whether they were planted or developed through natural regeneration, structural and species complexity, and the presence of large woody debris. WSFW biologists provided initial input; additional information will be incorporated as available.

The most likely preferred development areas are young clear-cuts or young plantations (red areas in the map below). Young to moderately aged clear-cuts with mixed species were identified as potential development areas (turquoise areas in the map below). Areas not highlighted in the map below are Element Occurrences, or older mixed species stands with high wildlife values. Development should try to provide wildlife corridors between undeveloped areas.

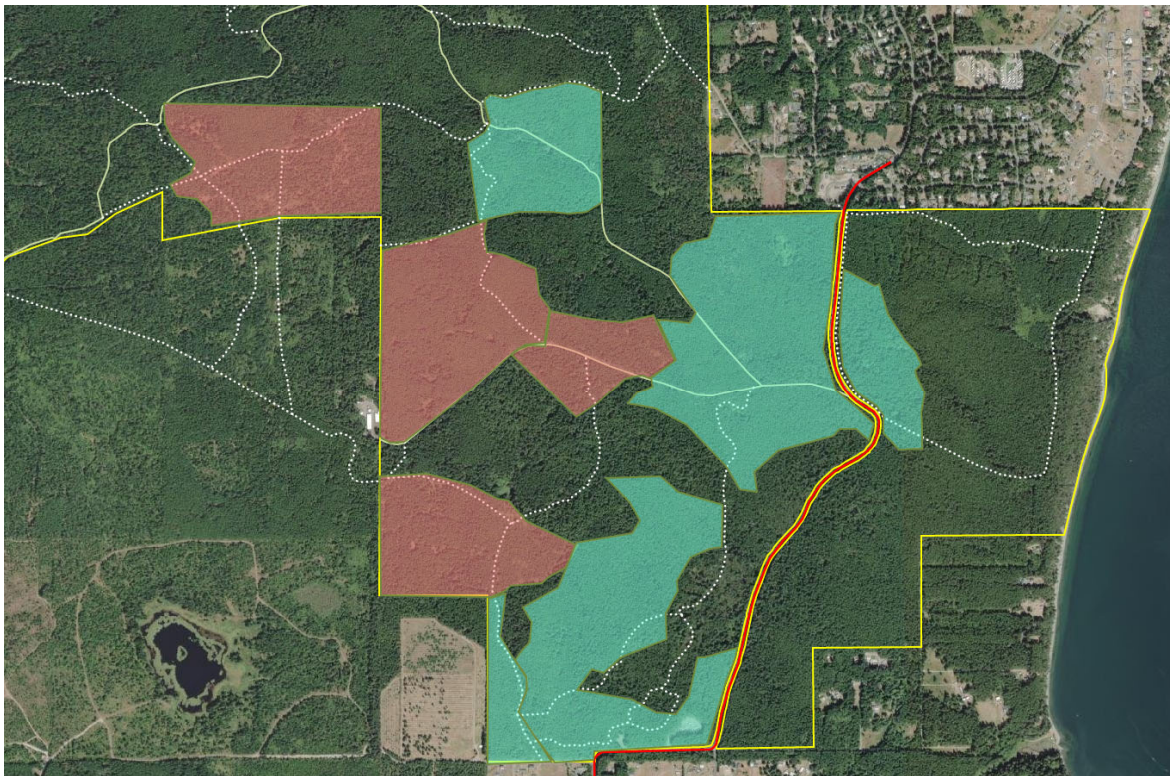


Figure 15 Vegetation Mapping Preferences

Red = young plantations and clear-cuts most appropriate for development

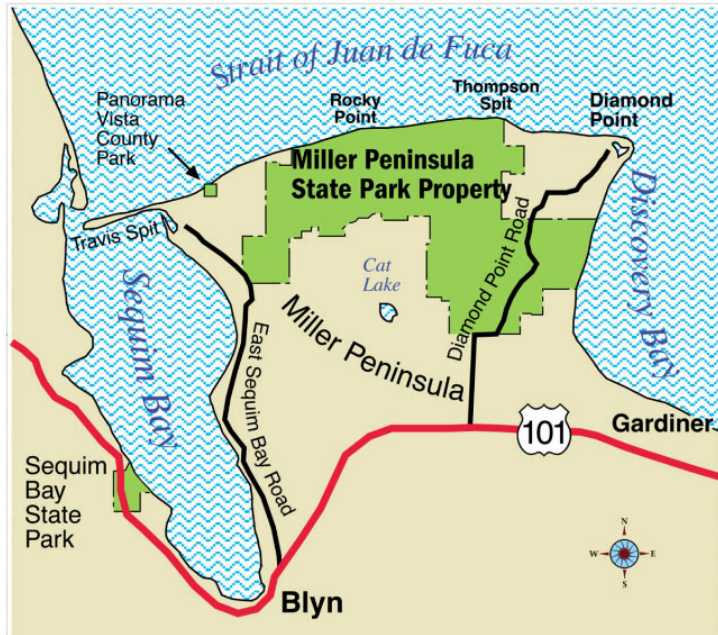
Turquoise = logged areas with younger forests and natural regeneration or mixed species potentially appropriate for development

❖ Traffic and Access Summary

Excerpt from: Miller Peninsula State Park Traffic Memo; by Heath & Associates, Inc.
See Bibliography and Appendix for more information.

The primary site access route is via SR 101 to Diamond Point Road/Chicken Coop Road. This access brings park users to the recently developed day-use parking area for the Miller Peninsula trail network, offering hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use.

Diamond Point Road also serves the adjacent Diamond Point Residential community, primarily a single-family residential neighborhood, providing access to Discovery Bay. This community also has a small private airport, an RV campground offering 100 sites with 70 full hook-up sites (Diamond Point Resort – operated by KM Resorts) and a fire station, Clallam County Fire District #3 – Station 35.



(Graphic by Keith Thorpe/Peninsula Daily News)

Figure 16 Major Roads

Secondary access exists on the southwest portion of the site off E Sequim Road. This access is a narrow road that leads to a small informal parking area for approximately 5-6 cars, providing access to the trail network for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use.

Heath & Associates, Inc. Transportation and Civil Engineering created a preliminary traffic memo to provide a performance analysis of baseline conditions pertaining to the intersection of SR-101 and Diamond Point Road/Chicken Coop Road.

“The study intersection is shown to operate with LOS E conditions for the Friday peak hour. With higher overall volumes, the Saturday peak hour is shown to operate with failing LOS F conditions for both the northbound and southbound approaches. Potential mitigation strategies include but are not limited to constructing separate left & right-turn lanes on the minor approach, constructing a traffic signal, or constructing a roundabout. Further evaluation would be conducted once further site plans are developed for Miller Peninsula State Park, and forecasts of future traffic volumes are assessed.”

The entry sequence off Diamond Point Road must be considered as campground improvements occur. Site lines and safe vehicular turning movements will need to be addressed. Additional traffic analysis will need to be performed to understand the traffic sequence where the main entry off of Diamond Point Rd enters the site near Cat Lake Road.

SITE DATA

❖ GIS Mapping

GIS mapping was the basis for the base maps created for the alternatives and draft plan. No project site survey has been completed yet.

❖ Alternative Concept Environmental Analysis Matrix

Park staff developed an Environmental Implications document for the alternatives to assess the possible environmental impacts of each of the facilities considered in the three alternatives. The impacts are categorized as green, yellow, orange, or red, with green having a lower potential impact and red having a higher potential impact. The document should inform the development of a Draft Plan and assist in the environmental review of the planning project.

The matrix was used as a tool to develop a draft plan – the following summarizes the categories explored:

Miller Peninsula Summary of Alternative Concept Environmental Analysis Matrix							
Concepts Evaluated			Village Center	Immersed in Nature	Traditional		
Project Elements Considered							
Camping		Picnic shelter		Picnic areas		Environmental education center	
Cabins		Canopy walks		Pump track		Outdoor classroom	
Lodge		Zip lining		Parking - day use		Climbing wall	
Administrative area		Overlooks		Group camp		Tree Climbing	
Beach access		Ropes course		Horse camping		Equestrian Arena	
Trails		Playground		Play meadow/field			
Roads		Amphibian pond		Day-use areas' general impacts			
Trailheads		Amphitheater		Disc golf			
Environmental Qualities Considered							
Earth	Air	Energy	Water	Noise	Vegetation	Wildlife	Land Use
Bluffs/ geohazard	Air quality		Surface waters		Rare/high-quality plant communities	Edge effect	Recreation
Soils*			Shoreline/buffer		Forest health	Corridors/ Connectivity	Cultural Resources
Fill/impervious surfaces			Groundwater withdrawal		Vegetation removal	Common species	Transportation Park generated traffic Parking Road improvements Park generated traffic Parking Road improvements
			Groundwater discharges		Noxious weeds	Species of concern	Public Services
			Stormwater runoff			Problem wildlife	Utilities

Figure 17 Miller Peninsula Summary of Alternative Concept Environmental Analysis Matrix

See full matrix in Appendix.

CONNECTIONS

❖ Vehicular SR 101

SR 101 is the primary highway route that connects Miller Peninsula to the region and is a major route to the gateway of the west coast.

❖ Diamond Point Road

Diamond Point Road is the primary access of SR 101, serving the Miller Peninsula site and the Diamond Point community. It is the main access in the planning work being considered for traffic improvements.

❖ Burling Road

The most westerly public access to the site with a trailhead includes a vehicular swing gate and a small parking area for approximately five cars north of Burling Road. The parking lot is difficult with overgrown vegetation and poorly defined grades and edges. The planning process proposes to improve this trailhead and site access. It appears the lot is utilized more by locals, and no signage directs people to the access from S.R. 101.

❖ Fireweed Road

Burling Road and Fireweed Road is a secondary western access that could be considered in creating a third trailhead access. State Parks will need to determine whether they have or can get the rights to use these roads for public use.

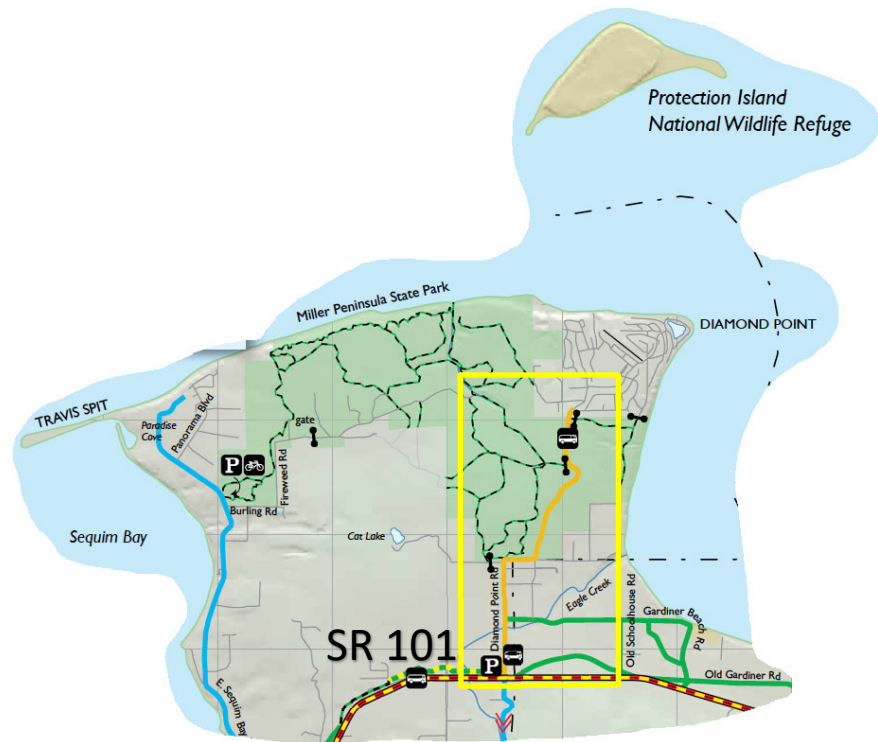


Figure 18 Eastern Route Connections – Diamond Point Road

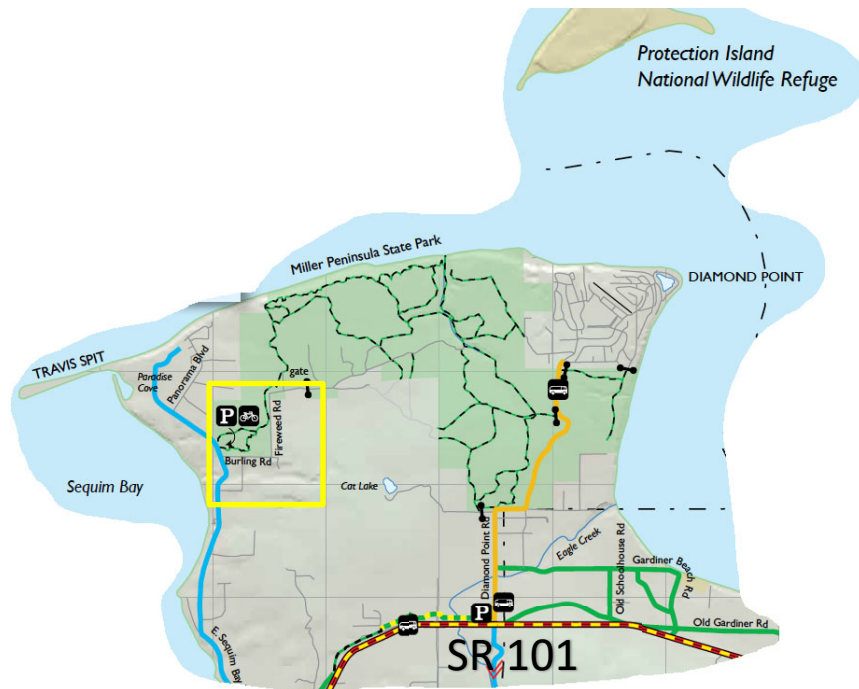


Figure 19 Western Connections - Burling and Fireweed Roads

❖ Adjacent Uses / Ownership/ Use Patterns

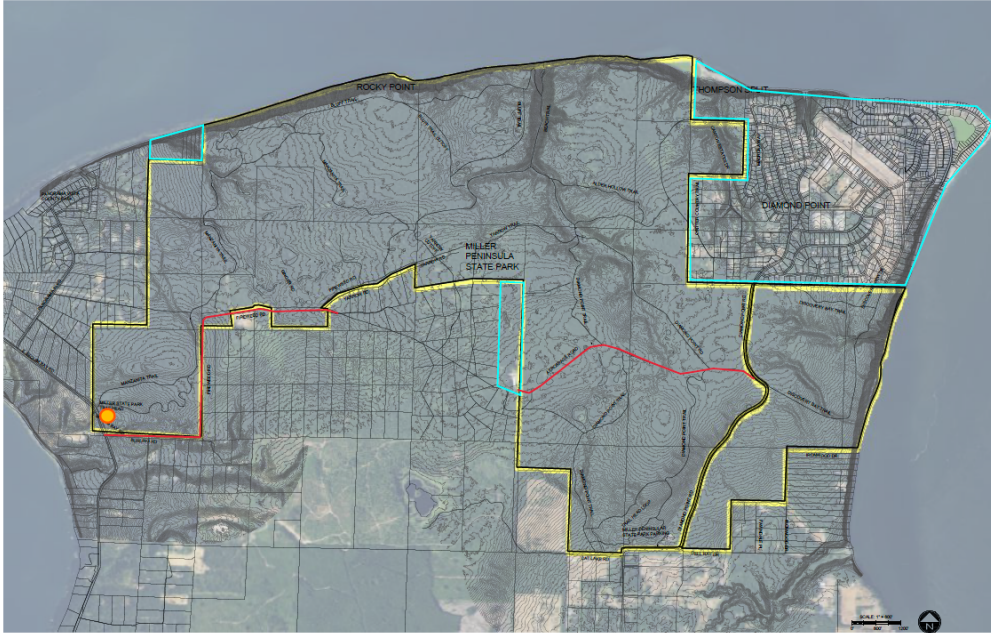


Figure 20 Overall Park Site

In September 2022, State Parks acquired/purchased the property on the northwest corner of the site known as the Jones Family Trust. This acquisition added approximately 20.45 acres to the property and the potential for another beach access.

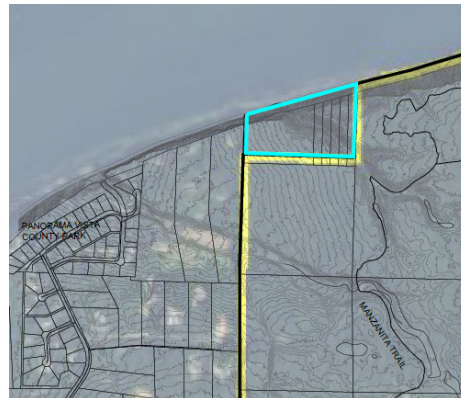


Figure 21 Jones Family Trust Property

Adjacent property to the east is a residential development known as the Diamond Point residential community, zoned as Urban Residential Low Density.

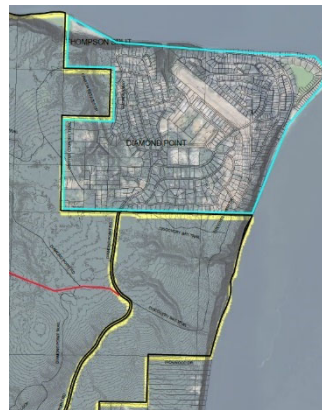


Figure 22 Diamond Point Residential Community

Adjacent property near the camping zone – NTI Inc aerospace group zoned Industrial – The Aerospace Rd that runs through the site is a permanent easement for the NTI group to access their facility. Parks will confirm the easement as the work progresses.

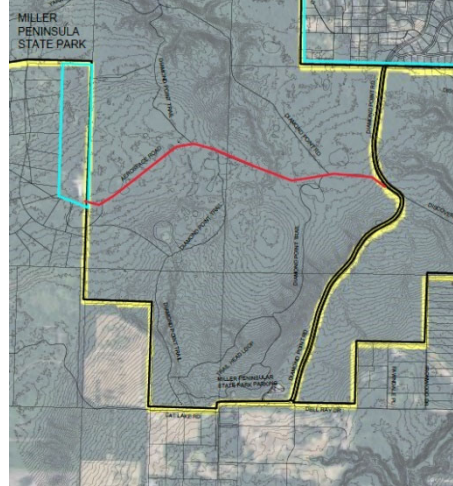


Figure 23 NTI Aerospace Property

Adjacent property to the Southwest is primarily residential with a Rural Low zoning.

Link to [Clallam County Tax Parcel](#)

Link to [Clallam County Zoning](#)

Miller Peninsula State Park Clallam County Web Map

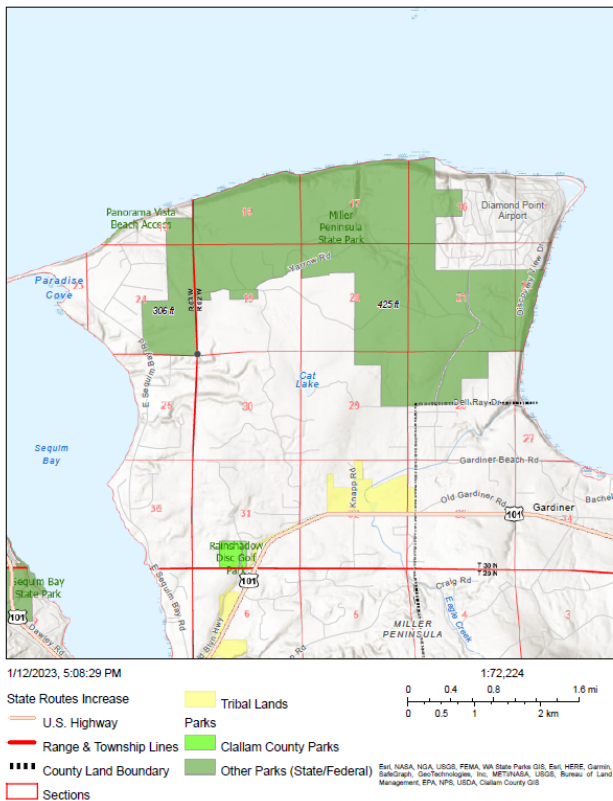


Figure 24 County Land Use Map

Miller Peninsula Clallam County Zoning Map

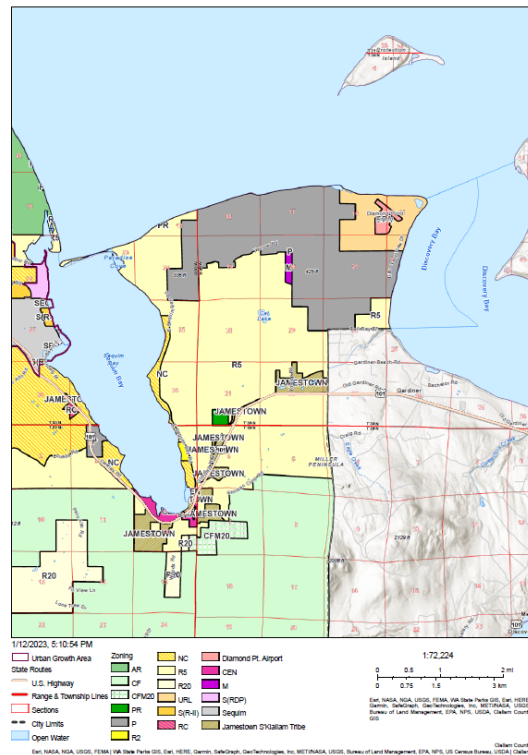


Figure 25 County Zoning Map

Adjacent County to SE side of the site:

- Jefferson County any future development in this SE edge will require coordination with Jefferson County

Link to [Jefferson County Tax Parcels](#)

Link to [Jefferson County Zoning](#)

EASEMENTS –As planning and design work progresses, easements will be reviewed and verified.

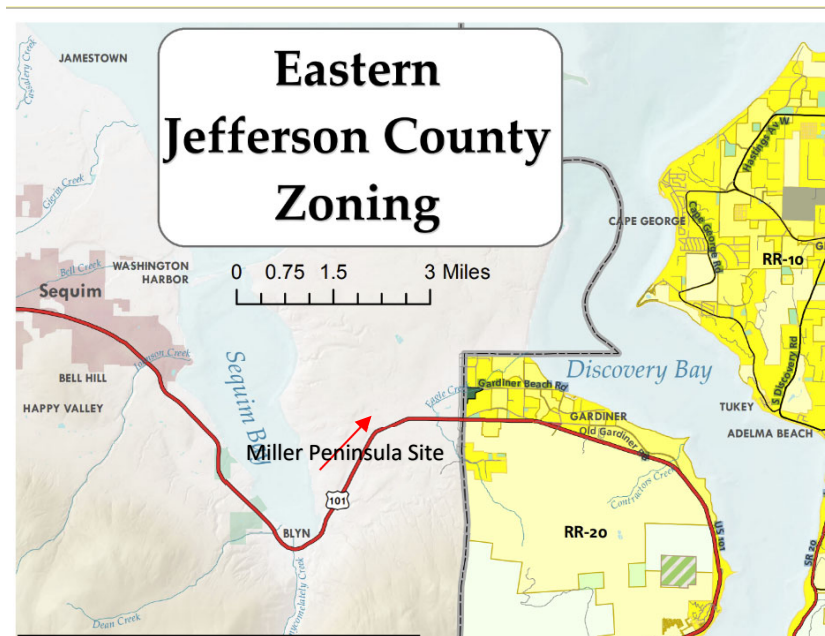


Figure 26 Eastern Jefferson County Zoning Map

❖ Bicycle Connections

Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) is a significant bike connector trail that connects Port Angeles and Sequim with Miller Peninsula. A trail route has been developed connecting the park to the ODT.

[Bike and Pedestrian Olympic Discovery Trail](#)

❖ Fire Concerns

The community has expressed concerns about the potential for increased fire hazards with the planned park development leading to wildfires in their neighborhood. Staff are considering design solutions that would minimize wildfire risk.

The project will be designed for active firefighting capacity and follow DNR guidelines for defensible space forest management.

Excerpt: "Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources Policy - proposed additions sept21 (1)."

See Bibliography and Appendix for more information

"Park fire management programs must be prepared to address individual park resource risks and management objectives while ensuring that firefighter and public safety are not compromised. In the absence of a Director (or designee)-approved fire management plan, park staff will develop an emergency fire response plan that focuses on the suppression of all human-ignited and naturally occurring wildland fires, taking into consideration park resources and values to be protected, firefighter and public safety, and costs. Suppression efforts will utilize BMP designed to minimize impacts to the resources of the park."

Forest Health

Excerpt: "Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources Policy - proposed additions Sept 21 (1)."

See Bibliography and Appendix for more information

"Past management practices, including fire suppression, have put Washington's forests at higher risk of damage by wildfire, disease, and insects. Climate change is expected to reduce ecosystem resilience, exacerbating these risks. As part of the broader forested landscape of the state, State Parks' 85,000 forested acres require active restoration and management to address the continued decline of forest health.

State Parks will use the best available science to plan and implement forest health treatments to improve the ecological functions of its forest ecosystems and to address other forest management issues. As appropriate, agency staff will collaborate with other state and federal land management agencies on forest health efforts.

All forest health treatments must be consistent with applicable federal, state, and local regulations, satisfy requirements for environmental review and permitting, and otherwise comply with Commission administrative rules and policies. "

The design process will include parks and county fire input at key review steps.

As feasible in the park planning process, consider the following:

1. Structure setbacks for defensible space
2. Appropriate vegetation management
3. Burn ban policies
4. Fire hydrants frequency

PUBLIC PROCESS SUMMARY

During this design process, several public and stakeholder meetings have been held. Many people have voiced concerns about overdevelopment at the park. Others have voiced support for recreational access and amenities.

A detailed summary of public input is included in the Appendix.

- Hopes & Concerns meeting
- Initial Public Survey

The site design will need to integrate the goals and mission statement of Washington State Parks.

As the project progresses, additional efforts will be made to bring in under-represented community voices. Meetings were typically held as online Teams meetings because much of the recent public outreach occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2022.

A preliminary design program has been created based on public and stakeholder input. The program outlines the facilities, amenities and activities that will be carefully integrated into the park site. The program is subject to modification as the design advances and the site planning is developed.

Alternative design concepts have been developed and shared with the public to show a range of possible park development options. A preferred park alternative has not been adopted; this will evolve as the design progresses with further public involvement. This document will serve as a starting point when the design work is remobilized in the next year or two.

As the public outreach work has been accomplished over the past two years, it has become clear that many in the local community desire a lighter development footprint. The input received has been heard, and the goal to establish a park for the greater community and the residents of Washington State can still be accomplished in a meaningful manner that balances outdoor recreation with preservation. This document compiles a summary of all the work accomplished to date and will help guide the next phase when the funding becomes available to reboot the work. Further discussions with the public are planned as the design advances.

Park staff, the community and the design team have put a substantial effort into investigating the property and analyzing the site's values and the opportunities to seek a balance to create needed recreation and preserve habitat. The design will need to consider the holistic intent and mission of state parks: *to create parks that connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.*

Over the last several years, there has been a growing demand to be outdoors and ensure that outdoor recreation provides opportunities to improve the equitable distribution of recreation.

"The 2021-31 strategic plan builds on decades of hard work and outlines the 'agency's goals and strategies for achieving a healthy, sustainable park system. The plan includes six principles and goals that set our strategic priorities for the next ten years to improve our park system for everyone."

Strategies include the following:

- Maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all visitors of all backgrounds
- Develop new parks and amenities, and improve trails and park services that meet the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse population
- Engage youth and diverse communities.

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT SUMMARY

Public Comments and surveys are included in the Appendix. Input includes statewide and County recreation surveys that highlight the needs of people statewide and go beyond the input of neighbors of the park. Broader outreach is important since the land was purchased with state funding for a public originating from across the state and beyond.

Extensive public outreach has been completed to date, and more will be integrated into the planning and design process. As noted above, many community members adjacent to the park are concerned about overdevelopment and environmental impacts.

Adjacent Residents' Concerns include to name a few:

- Loss of habitat
- Traffic
- Fire control

County and Statewide needs and desires:

- Added camping opportunities
- Cabins and lodging in natural areas
- Beach access

What We Have Heard

People love the trails

- Hikers
- Mountain bikers
- Equestrians
- Equestrians have expressed concern about the loss of trail opportunities in the area and requested that we do not limit equestrian use in the park
- Trail users have requested that park development not result in a net loss of trails

Fire Safety

- Consider design solutions to minimize risk

Intensity of development

- There are concerns that the development of a full-service state park will have traffic impacts on neighbors

Traffic

- Traffic consultant on board
- Traffic counts over Memorial Day weekend
- Improvements will be needed at the intersection of 101 and Diamond Point Road
- Park entry appears to be feasible

Tree removal

- Development focused on areas of younger forest stands
- Work with Stewardship

Trespassing

- Provide signage and wayfinding information to reduce the impact

Potable Water Supply

- Consultant on board to evaluate water availability
- Previous analysis of existing well in the park looks promising
- Possible purchase of water from the local water district

Wildlife

- Wildlife corridor possibility, consider expansion
- Most park facilities will be away from wetlands and in areas of younger forests with less habitat value

From Public Outreach Survey

Question: What experience do people want?

- People are interested in linking to the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT)
- The general population wants to "plugin" to amenities supporting recreation more than our campers
- Food availability within the park
- Recreation tours/rentals
- A connection to regional attractions such as Olympic National Park
- Modern camping experiences
- Events and festivals are of interest

Public Meetings Held:

Nov 2005	Explore Potential
Feb 2006	Workshop
Oct 2006	Workshop
Jan 2007	Workshop
Nov 2019	Commission Meeting
Oct 2020	Public Meeting (Virtual)
Sep 2021	Public Comments
June 2021	Stakeholders Meeting
June 2021	Public Meeting (Virtual)
August 2021	Diamond Point Community Meeting
August 2021	Stakeholders Tour
Jan 2022	Commission Meeting
March 2022	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council Meeting
Oct 2022	Public Open House

PARK PROGRAMMING

The program summarizes the uses, facilities, and specific actions to support the project goals. It is formed from site investigation, opportunities and constraints, the park vision, community, local, county, statewide, and Parks staff input. The program provides the basis for alternative design concepts and will be integrated into the preferred plan as appropriate.

Through the process, the design team prepared a program matrix with staff input (see Appendix). Program imagery was collected to share with the community to receive input on the potential program amenities (potential uses and facilities to consider). The program matrix defines a specific use pattern and summarizes potential parking needs associated with the activity.

The amenities include a range of passive, active and administrative and operational facilities.

Program elements shortlist:

Passive	Active	Camping and Buildings	Events and Revenue Producing	Trails	Educational and Cultural	Parks Utilities
Individual family Picnic Areas Viewing Picnic Plaza Open Lawn Sunning meadow Restroom Enclosable Shelter Picnic Shelter – Medium Size Extra Small Shelter View platforms and nodes Horseshoes	Children's playground High and Low Ropes course Pump track Children's nature/adventure play area Meadow	Individual Sites Group sites (92-person capacity) New Comfort stations Pinwheel Sites Back in sites Pull through sites Deluxe Cabins Standard cabins Large shelter Lodge	Amphitheater with power supply Event Overflow Parking Environmental Education center	Hiking trail Mountain Bike trails Back country horse trail	Outdoor Classroom Multi Use artist work area Educational nodes	Administration Building

Figure 27 Program Elements Shortlist

Programmatic activities that were eliminated through the public outreach and staff input process of the environmental implications' strategy:

1. Canopy walks
2. Zip lining
3. Disc golf
4. Climbing wall
5. Tree Climbing
6. Botanical garden

See Appendix for the program matrix with parking counts estimated.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGN CONCEPTS

The Parks staff and the J.A. Brennan Associates team (JAB) developed various alternatives to review and discuss. Each alternative was intended to be a different approach to meeting the park vision of Nature Within Reach. Alternatives are based on input from the community and stakeholders and the review of site opportunities and constraints. Input on the program, which identifies uses and activities for the site, is used in the design. Numerous adjacent community members have concerns about the density of use shown in the alternative designs and would prefer a design that focuses more on neighborhood use. County and statewide needs assessments show a large demand for camping and park amenities.

The alternatives provided are diagrammatic to keep the discussion focused on the big-picture site plan. It is anticipated that following a discussion of the alternative concepts, a draft preferred plan will be prepared. The draft concept plan may be a combination of the alternatives.

The alternatives explore clustered versus dispersed park development scenarios. Different campsite types are also explored. A range of trail layouts and densities are depicted. None of the options propose an exceptionally high density of park or trail development to ensure wildlife habitat preservation and to maintain a natural feel for the park. Conceptually all the alternatives have the same number of campsites. The Village Center adds a lodge to the program.

No Action Alternative

In this scenario, no improvements are proposed, and the site would remain as it is with no new facilities. The no-action alternative will not meet the goals established through the visioning process. The need for outdoor activity, connection, and camping is paramount in Washington.

Traditional Alternative

The Traditional alternative maximizes day-use and camping opportunities in the upland regions of the site, minimizing the impact on critical areas. This option explores using a combination of camping patterns dispersed throughout the forest. Options to consider include pull-through RV and tent campsites, back-in tent and RV sites, bike-in tent sites and up to 12 cabin sites.

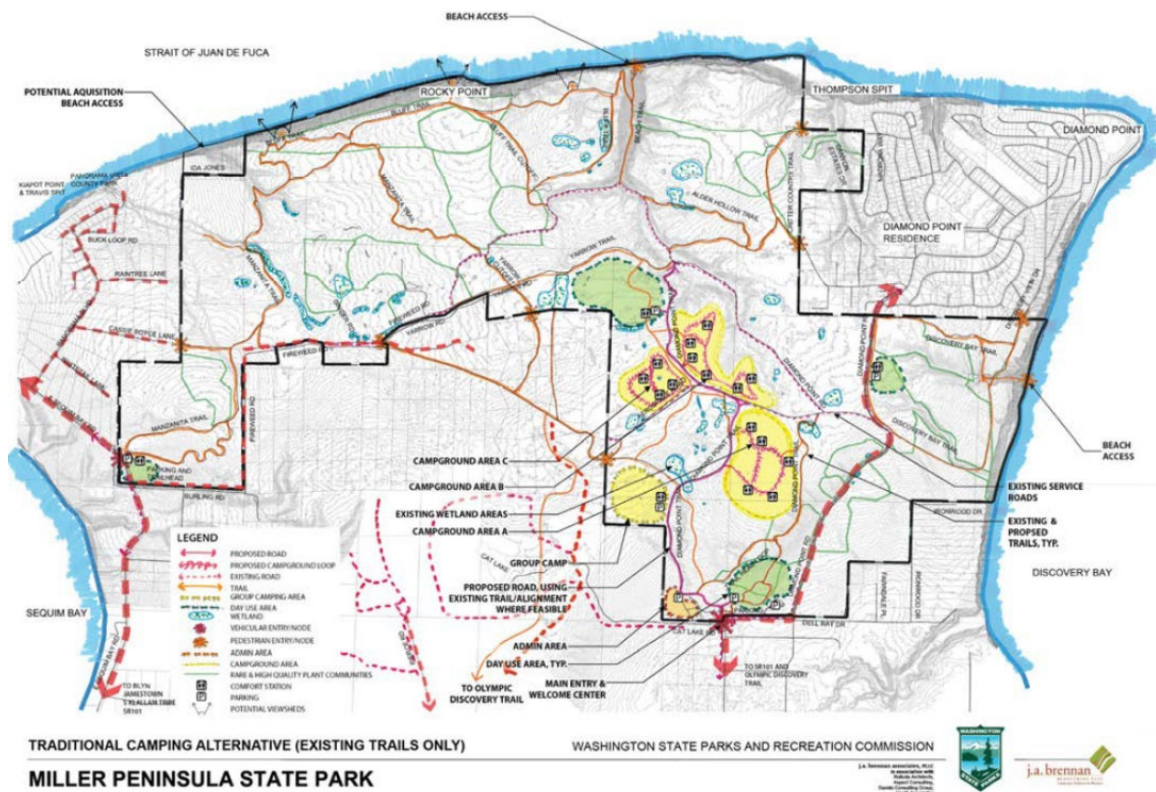


Figure 28 Traditional Alternative

A central two-lane drive spine enters the site from the south. The entry includes improved access at the intersection of Cat Lake Road and Diamond Point Road that leads to the Welcome Center and a small secondary day-use area with parking.

The central drive terminates to the north connecting park users to a primary day-use area that offers a variety of passive recreation, including bird watching, an amphibian and turtle discovery pond and trailhead access. The established trail network serves equestrians, mountain bikers and hikers to connect people to the bluff overlook region of the park to enjoy water views and gain water access. Three primary campground loops are provided off the central spine drive that separates campers from the main drive. Camp loops are sited to minimize intrusion into older forest stands and avoid impacts to the wetlands and steep slope regions. The dispersed camping offers a private setting where campsites are nestled into the existing tree canopy.

Trail improvements are mainly associated with the proposed new camping area providing connection between loops, a day-use area, a welcome center, and an administrative area, ultimately tying into the existing trail network maintained with minimal improvements outside the new camping areas.

The traditional camping concept creates equitable access to a limited area of the site's landscape types while seeking to protect the diversity of sensitive habitats.

1. Primary entry at Diamond Point Road and Cat Lake Road
2. Welcome Center and main entry improvements with parking
3. Central spine two-way drive that connects to loop sites and day-use areas
4. Dispersed camping with four primary loops comprised of back-in and pull-through sites (no pinwheels) (155 sites)
 - a. Combination of RVs, cabins (12 cabins) and tent sites
 - b. Primitive bike in sites
5. Group camping loop (20 sites)
6. Day-use activity areas with:
 - a. Parking
 - b. Comfort station
 - c. Trail access
 - d. See the program for other elements
7. No new trails – maximizes the preservation of rare and high-quality plant communities
8. Administration/maintenance yard area

Immersed In Nature Alternative

The Immersed in Nature Alternative proposes day-use and camping opportunities in the upland regions of the site but further integrates park users into the diverse nature of the park, creating more equitable access to a range of landscape types. A series of spaces are created that celebrate the outdoors with various dynamic park programs connecting users to older tree stands and diverse vegetation and creating views water ward while minimizing the impact on critical areas. This alternative aims to provide a natural experience wherever visitors are in the park, resulting in smaller, more dispersed developed areas. This approach does result in a larger developed footprint within the park.

Using a single camping pattern pinwheel system dispersed along a central drive and throughout the forest canopy reduces the sense of a central impact on the park. The immersed-in-nature option offers

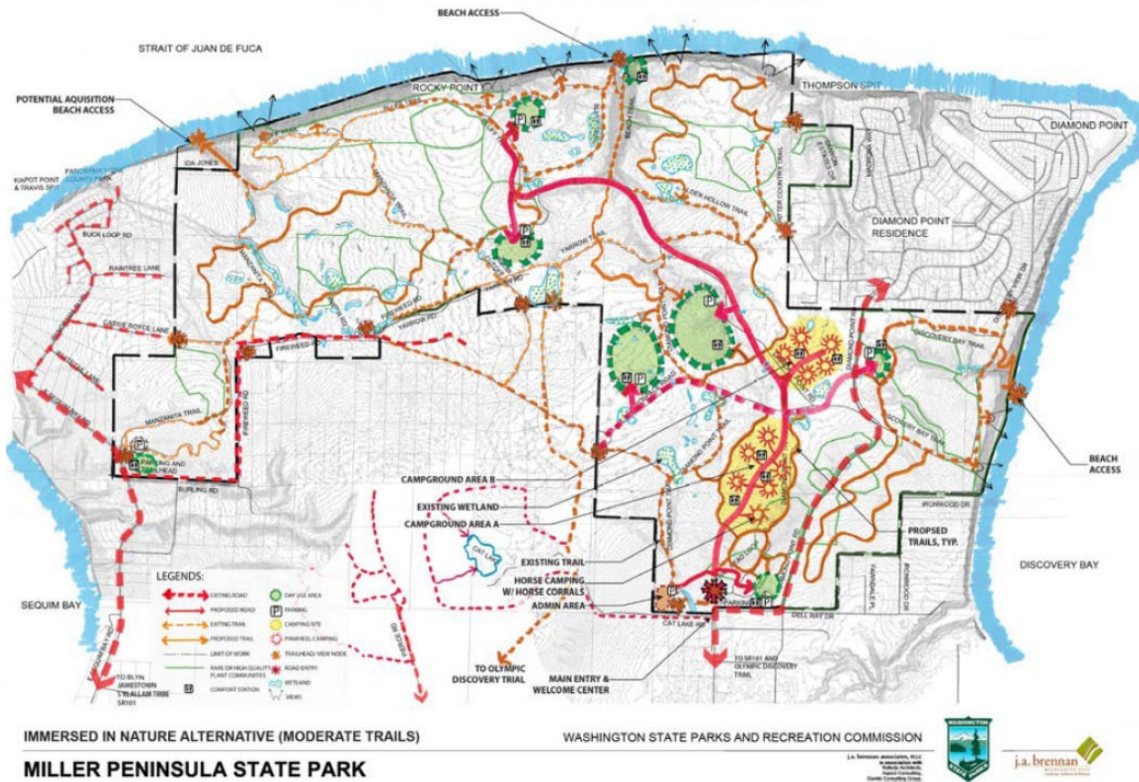


Figure 29 Immersed in Nature Alternative

sites, including bike-in-tent sites, eight horse camping sites, and up to eight cabin sites within the pinwheels' framework.

A central two-lane drive spine enters the site from the south. The entry includes improved access at the intersection of Cat Lake Road and Diamond Point Road that leads to the Welcome Center and a small secondary day-use area with parking. A secondary east-west drive that utilizes an existing crushed rock road is proposed to connect an easterly and the westerly day-use area to access Discovery Bay.

The central drive, repurposing an existing road grade, terminates to the north near Rocky Point, connecting park users to a series of small day-use areas connecting to nature, the bluff trail and water views. These day-use spaces offer a range of outdoor active and passive recreation opportunities, including zipline, ropes course and outdoor adventure play area.

The pinwheel back in the RV/tent sites system is the primary pattern off the central spine drive. The pinwheels create a series of mini-loop clusters off the primary drive. The pinwheel pattern works well for a group camping setup and provides a space for a particular user group, like a horse-riding group. A pinwheel area is set aside as a designated equestrian horse camping area with a space for a small horse corral. The dispersed quality of the pinwheel camping pattern creates a setting where campsites are nestled into the existing tree canopy creating a more private camping experience.

Trail improvements are moderate, offering improved accessible connections to the bluff and water access. The primary route to the water along the beach trail to the north is improved to create a more accessible path and offer an opportunity to access a pile-supported waterfront overlook with a viewing

platform and perhaps shelter. The trails associated with the proposed new camping area connect loops, a day-use area, a welcome center and an administrative area, ultimately tying into the existing and moderately expanded trail network. The established trail network serves equestrians, mountain bikers and hikers to connect people to the bluff overlook region of the park to enjoy water views and gain water access.

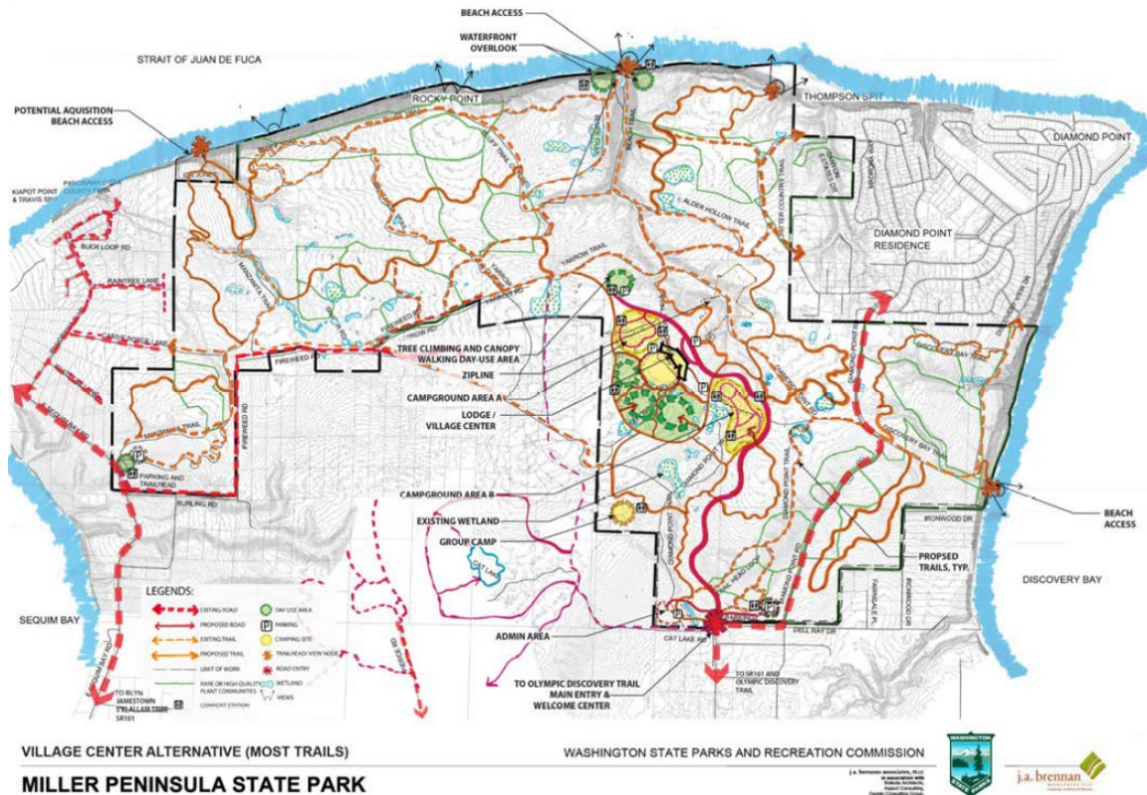


Figure 30 Village Center Alternative

The Immersion In Nature concept creates equitable access to the range of landscape types offered at this site while seeking to protect the diversity of sensitive habitats.

1. Primary entry at Diamond Point Road and Cat Lake Road
2. Welcome Center and main entry improvements with parking
3. Central spine two-way drive that connects to loop sites and day-use areas
4. Dispersed camping with two primary loops comprised of pinwheel arrangement 120 sites
 - a. Combination of RV, cabin (8 cabins), and tent sites
 - b. Primitive bike in sites
5. Horse Camping – eight sites with horse corrals
6. Develop an overlook at the bluff and beach trail
7. Day-use activity areas with:
 - a. Parking
 - b. Comfort station
 - c. Trail access
 - d. See the program for other amenities

8. Administration/maintenance yard area
9. Moderate trail development
 - a. On the west side of Diamond Point Road – maximizes the preservation of rare and high-quality plant communities
 - b. New trails on the east side of Diamond Point Road – offer day-use improvements with:
 - Parking area
 - Comfort station
 - Trail improvement for multi-use (hiking, running, biking)

Village Center Alternative

The Village Centre Alternative proposes a central overnight stay lodge with multiple cabins, day-use areas, and camping opportunities in the upland regions of the site. The village center creates a smaller development footprint by keeping all the proposed uses in a single region of the site. The village center concept creates a central activity hub that offers various uses for park visitors. The lodge could be a unique architectural structure that celebrates the region, offering a variety of spaces for overnight stays and dining. The primary camping pattern utilized is the pull-through RV sites, dispersed in two small loops off a central drive.

The village center option offers a lodge with 80-110 rooms, 90 campsites, including bike-in tent sites, and up to 16-20 cabin sites. A series of spaces are created that celebrate the outdoors with various dynamic park programs connecting users to older tree stands and diverse vegetation and creating views water ward while seeking to minimize impact to critical areas.

For the lodge, the design team has referenced the Lake Quinault Lodge in the Olympic National Park as a precedent for the scale and scope of the architectural footprint. The lodge options include a reception and lounge area, a central dining room with a kitchen, a smaller café with a gift shop, a game room, a multi-use event space, and an outdoor eating space. The outdoor plaza space and lawn could offer room for outdoor games.

The rooms to rent could be a range of sizes to accommodate small families, large families, couples and individuals.

Potential Lodge Program:

- Dining Room
- Outdoor eating space or deck
- Gift Shop
- Café/ Lounge/ Bar
- Sauna and hot tub
- Indoor or outdoor swimming pool
- Game Room
- Parking
- ADA Accessible Outdoor plaza
- Lawn area for outdoor games
- Bike rental facilities

Link: [Lake Quinault Lodge](#)

A central two-lane drive spine enters the site from the south. The entry includes improved access at the intersection of Cat Lake Road and Diamond Point Road that leads to the Welcome Center and a small secondary day-use area with parking. A secondary east-west drive that utilizes an existing crushed rock road is proposed to connect an easterly and the westerly day-use area that provides access to Discovery Bay.

The central drive, repurposing the existing road grade, terminates centrally connecting park users to a central day-use area that offers an amphitheater space, group and family picnic shelters, passive lawn areas, and other items identified in the program list.

Pull-through camping for RV/ tent sites is proposed off the central spine drive as the primary camping pattern. The dispersed quality of the pull-through camping pattern creates a setting where campsites are nestled into the existing tree canopy creating a more private camping experience.

Trail improvements are extensive, offering improved accessible connections to the bluff and water access. The primary route to the water along the beach trail to the north is improved to create a more accessible path and offer an opportunity to access a pile-supported waterfront overlook with a viewing platform. The trails associated with the proposed new camping area connect loops, a day-use area, a welcome center, and an administrative area, ultimately tying into the existing and expanded trail network. The established trail network serves equestrians, mountain bikers and hikers to connect people to the bluff overlook region of the park to enjoy water views and gain water access.

The Village Center concept creates equitable access to the range of landscape types of this site offers while seeking to protect the habitat diversity the site has to offer. The compact footprint and the density of development in a small central area significantly reduce overall site impacts compared to the two dispersed camping options.

1. Primary entry at Diamond Point Road and Cat Lake Road
2. Welcome Center and main entry improvements with parking
3. Central spine two-way drive to connect to loop sites and day-use areas. Drive is deeper into the site bringing park users to the day-use area closer to the bluff.
4. Lodge for an overnight stay – dining and approximately 80 rooms – With associated cabin facilities up to 16 – 20 cabins. The room count will need additional evaluation.
5. Dispersed camping with two primary loops comprised of standard arrangement with back-in and pull-through sites (no pinwheels) – 90 sites
 - a. Combination of RV and tent sites
 - b. Primitive bike in sites
6. Group camping
7. Develop an overlook at the bluff and beach trail
8. Day-use activity areas with:
 - a. Parking
 - b. Comfort station
 - c. Trail access
 - d. Interactive Amenities – see program
9. Administration/maintenance yard area
10. Extensive trail development
 - a. Preserve and enhance the existing trail system
 - b. Develop extensive accessible route ADA-compliant network

- c. New trails on the east side of Diamond Point Road – offer day-use improvements with:
- Parking area
 - Comfort station
 - Trail improvement for multi-use (hiking, running, biking)

❖ Public Input on Alternatives

There has been a desire from the local community and parks staff to ensure the preservation of the site vegetation and critical areas. The approach of clustering development ensures a compact footprint limiting overall impacts on the site.

The design team has worked closely with the community since the beginning of the planning work in 2007. Input has been received from the local community and continues to be heard. Community concerns have been expressed, and this input continues to shape the final plan. Input from County and State recreation surveys also captures the voice of the community, and from this input, there is a strong desire for additional recreation infrastructure. It needs to be restated that equitable and accessible outdoor spaces are needed in the State of Washington.

Aside from the initial online survey, Parks has not yet received much input from potential park users outside of the local community, and it has also not yet heard from more diverse communities or recreational user groups.

See the recreational development needs for parks above and the Appendix for more information on public input.

DRAFT PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION PLAN

While preparing this interim memo, when the project was paused, the design team began reviewing all the input and analyzing the site's various layers to start preparations for a recommended plan.

Given the analysis of the three alternatives, State Park staff suggests advancing a plan that aligns spatially with the Village Center concept. This concept highlights a plan that minimizes overall site impacts, keeping the development compact and balancing habitat conservation with camping and recreation goals. This concept also meets the State Parks Mission and Vision for this park.

The highlight of this plan is that it minimizes overall site impacts and ensures no net loss of the existing trail system. The higher-valued vegetation and critical areas are avoided.

The project area is +/- 2,884 acres, including the 2022 Jones property acquisition of +/- 20 acres. The area for potential development, as defined through the analysis process, is +/- 330 acres, approximately 11.4% of the project area. This area is proposed for recreation resources with variable intensity of development, which may include trails, open space, day-use amenities, roads, operation and maintenance facilities, a welcome center, parking, camping, cabins, and a lodge.

The preliminary draft plan proposes approximately 73 acres of intensive development within the 330 acres of potential development. Intensive development may include day-use amenities, roads, operation and maintenance facilities, a welcome center, parking, camping, and cabins, which is the development of only 2.5 percent of the site.

Summary of the development area to preservation of draft preliminary plan:

- Total project area +/- 2,884 Acres
- Potential development area = +/- 330 Acres (11.4% of site area)
- Potential Intensive development = +/- 73 Acres (2.5% of site area)
- Overall, the project will preserve approximately +/- 2,562 acres. (86.1% of site area preserved)

No decisions for the final park program have been made. As the process moves to a preferred design concept, the proposed amenities and activities will need to be further refined to ensure a park plan that aligns with the community's expectations and satisfies State Park's long-term goals.

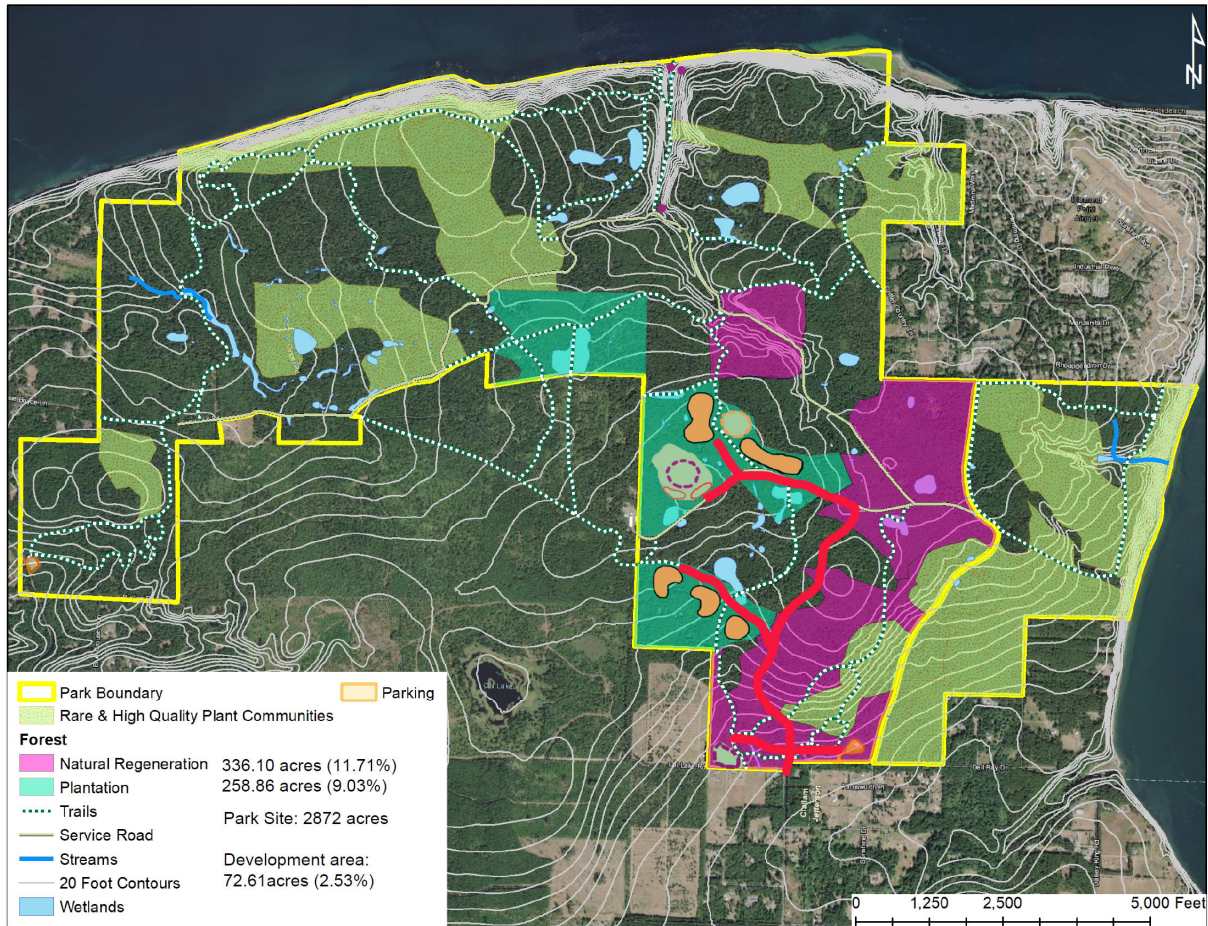


Figure 31 Draft Preliminary Recommendation Plan

RELATED POLICIES AND CODES

The project is feasible from a regulatory standpoint.

PARK NAMING

The public suggested these names. We will also communicate with the Tribes for park name suggestions.

- Salish Sea State Park
- Trails State Park
- Rain Shadow State Park
- Discover State Park
- Forest Discovery State Park
- Dr. Eloise Kailin State Park

NEXT STEPS

Bar Chart 1 – Timeline – Schedule Develop

1. Potential funding in July 2023
2. Preliminary recommendation – July 2023 Start
3. Draft Preferred Alternative Plan in December 2023
4. Public Meetings starting in July 2023 and potentially early 2024
5. Final Plan Prelim recommendation 2024
6. EIS Scoping – for EIS fall 2023 -
7. Analysis Start Spring 2024 – Finish End 2024
8. EIS Alternatives meeting – public process early 2024 –
9. Non-Project SEPA EIS – 2024
10. Camp classification and management plan, and master plan are to occur concurrently
11. Predesign 2025

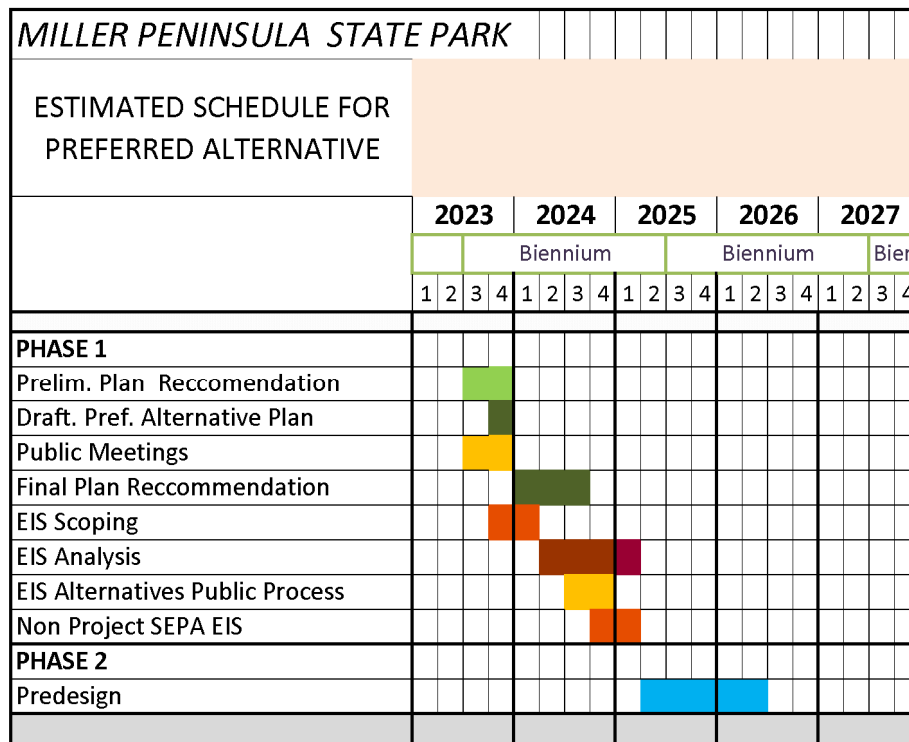


Figure 32 Estimated Schedule for Preferred Alternative

[Link to Miller Peninsula Website resources:](#)



**WASHINGTON
STATE PARKS**

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APPENDIX