

Note: Responses from State Parks staff are included below the questions. Responses *in italics* were added after the meeting.

1. Eoin Doherty: How much increased road traffic are they foreseeing on Diamond Point Road with the projected new plans for Miller Bay State Park?
  - Todd Tatum: A traffic study will be part of this process. Since we are in the process of determining what will be built here, the answer to the increased traffic question will depend on what ultimately goes here.
2. Ellen Dikken: Will there be a stop light be put in at Highway 101 and Diamond Point Road?
  - *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning our planning for the park, so do not yet know specifics on how traffic will be handled, but we do anticipate there needing to be improvements at that intersection.*
3. Susan Clements: There are about 700 homes at the end of Diamond Point Road. About 95% of the homes are occupied year round. Diamond Point Road is a narrow, winding road with no edge. During rush hour or on Saturdays it generally takes 5 minutes to turn left from Diamond Point Road onto Highway 101. What is the Department's plan to provide reasonable access for home owners if park visitation increases due to development? What is the Department's transportation plan for high volume traffic on Highway 101?
  - *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and have not gotten to this level of detail yet. Please feel free to offer suggestions on how we might address your concerns.*
4. Susan Clements: There is currently adequate water for the homes already occupied on Diamond Point. Has the Department completed an environmental study showing availability of water and other environmental concerns? If so how can one get a copy of that study?
  - Todd Tatum: We are currently in the beginning stages of this study. As we move through this very strict process, both availability and environmental impacts will be thoroughly investigated
5. Anonymous: When would this park be built? Where will the main entrance be located?
  - *Nikki Fields: We are still several years out from any developments being completed and have not yet determined where the main entrance should be.*
6. Dave P.: Howdy. Can you say what happened to all the input from last time we did this? Thanks! I would add that every public comment meeting was jam packed. I'm sure there must be records somewhere.

- Melinda Posner: Yes, there will be discussion about what's been done so far later in the presentation
  - *Nikki Fields: Process documents are usually not retained for more than six years, and the earlier planning process was over 10 years ago. That said, the earlier input was used to inform the Commission-approved park vision and concept, and those are still available for your review on the project webpage.*
7. Ron Halpern: I'm concerned about potential trespassing by visitors seeking access to the Strait of Juan de Fuca through the Diamond Point community. There is no public beach access or boat launching, and the beachfront is private community property. How would the Park Service discourage visitors from coming into the community to find views of the Strait and beach access?
- *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and have not gotten to this level of detail yet. Please feel free to offer suggestions on how we might address your concerns*
8. Jeff Chapman: So we horseback riders won't be able to use our trails in Natural Area zones?
- Erik Plunkett: That would be correct if land was classified as Natural Heritage. However, traditional use weighs heavy in the classification of process. As of now, there is no plan or desire to change trail use
  - Michael Hankinson: According to the Commission approved management guidelines for Natural Areas: "Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, nordic track or other similar trails into a natural area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts." So I hope that addresses your concern.
  - Laura Moxham: During the process it will be determined what land classification makes sense. This will be done through this public process. If deemed appropriate for land to be classified as Natural Area then equestrian use would not be allowed. However, land classification is determined in the public process and is not pre-determined by State Parks staff. Hope this helps. Thank you
9. Anonymous: Will there be entrance/exits located in the residential area?
- Erik Plunkett: It is too early in the planning process to tell where there will be development. In these early discussions, we have recognized how it makes sense to keep entrances in areas not heavily populated. We are also aware of traffic impacts. But again, this is very early in the planning phase.
10. Eoin Doherty: What are the implications for residents buttressed up against the forest park area?
- *Nikki Fields: Please feel free to let us know what implications are concerns for you.*
11. Ron Halpern: We typically have burn bans in the summers. How would campfires be controlled during our dry season?

- Erik Plunkett: Yes, we do that already. Washington State Parks and this region specifically follow State Department of Natural Resources guidelines and County/local fire restrictions.
12. Anonymous: Currently, the Miller Peninsula gate is never locked as promised, causing suspicious activity after dark. Will there be Park Authority on site 24/7 ??
- *Nikki Fields: Park staffing levels have not yet been determined and would vary depending on the kinds of facilities that are developed.*
13. Anonymous: How will the biological values be assessed? I've had the opportunity to hike the trails and there are significant botanical resources there not well represented in the rapidly developing lowland Sequim area. When will surveys for wildlife values begin and how long will these assessment take?
- *Nikki Fields: We have completed a wetland reconnaissance, and we have access to natural resource data from the State Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife. We have also completed vegetation and rare plant surveys as well as a study on whether fishers are in the park. We are working now on an ecological integrity assessment for the park, and we will complete a State Environmental Policy Act checklist as part of this project. If you have suggestions for other information you believe we should have, please feel free to share them.*
14. Krestine: Salish Sea State Park would be a nice choice. Which is native and geographic.
15. Anonymous: Our concern is that it will be built off Diamond Point Road. It is the only exit for over 750 people.
16. Jan M.: Why are you taking this beautiful natural park now being used for just trails and developing it into a multi use campground park. The development will ruin the natural beauty of this area!!! There are already several campgrounds along the Olympic Peninsula, can't you just leave this park alone so we can all enjoy this natural area just for trails?
17. Debi: why do we have to develop it? washington has so many terrific parks, cant we have undeveloped land? Otters, falcons and perhaps bears are in the beach and the forest.
18. Anonymous: How are you going to protect the people in the park in case of a forest fire? Where are people going to go to escape the fire.
- *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and have not gotten to this level of detail yet. Please feel free to offer suggestions on how we might address your concerns.*
19. Anonymous: Will you fund a fire department at Diamond Point if it is built over there? Right now there is not enough volunteers for the amount of houses there already.

20. Anonymous: I am also VERY concerned about cliff erosion along the north edge of the park. What will you be doing to mitigate this or will the Bluff Trail cease to exist in a decade or two?
- Michael Hankinson: Cliff erosion, if naturally occurring, would likely continue. The trail could be re-aligned if it was lost due to erosion.
21. Anonymous: Will these maps be available to us to view and actually be able to see online?
- Laura Moxham: Yes, the presentation itself will be posted on the planning page for Miller Peninsula Planning page: <https://parks.state.wa.us/1187/Miller-Peninsula-Planning>
  - *Nikki Fields: In addition to the presentation, the background documents the maps came from are also posted to the project webpage.*
22. Anonymous: How can we get a copy of the previous map to see more in detail?
- Laura Moxham: The presentation itself will be posted on the planning page for Miller Peninsula Planning page: <https://parks.state.wa.us/1187/Miller-Peninsula-Planning>
23. Anonymous: Can "shared use" trails be revisited?
- Michael Hankinson: The current trail plan is not the final plan, but is rather called an "interim" plan. This means that the plan could be updated during this planning process.
24. Anonymous: Currently there are 2-3 pairs of nesting Bald Eagles. What are the plans to protect them & their nesting habitat??
- Michael Hankinson: They are considered. We would address this issue in the SEPA during this process. Of course, any future construction would also address the eagles in a separate SEPA process, too. State Parks would work to protect them and their presence in the park would likely limit development to some degree.
25. Anonymous: I like the idea of the park as a place that all of the state could enjoy. Can you imagine a better place for recreation?
26. Anonymous: Sensitive development is key.
27. Anonymous: Erosion is a major concern along the entire face along the Strait....
28. Megan Black: What are your plans to keep guests from trespassing out onto neighboring property that has obvious attractions to people?
- *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and have not gotten to this level of detail yet. Please feel free to offer suggestions on how we might address your concerns.*
29. Ron Halpern: If the plan is provide boat launch access to the Strait (kayak rentals?), is there any concern for the potential impacts to Protection Island, which is a federally

protected National Wildlife Refuge 2 miles away? Boats are prohibited within 200 yards of the shoreline, but visitors may not be aware of the prohibitions.

- *Nikki Fields: Access to the shoreline from within the park is challenging, and it seems unlikely that a boat launch could be developed. If one could, then we would make efforts to educate visitors about the island.*

30. Anonymous: My biggest issue right now is that my property borders the park and people wander onto my private property already...no matter how many signs I put up...obviously with development that will only get worse.

31. Anonymous: Parks should buy the Cat lake property. A lodge along the lake would be very attractive

32. Anonymous: since you had to stop this type of planning process for this park area 10-15 years ago due to state budget concerns, why do you think you will not experience the same type of state budget concerns in the next 3-5 year (that actually hinders development)

- *Nikki Fields: Future budget cuts are possible and could delay the project again. We have funding now for this planning effort, but implementation will depend on future funding.*

33. Anonymous: Will DOT set requirements at the hwy 101 turnoff or is that too far away?

- *Nikki Fields: Yes, DOT would set the requirements for the Hwy 101 intersection.*

34. Anonymous: Kayak rentals

35. Megan Black: Your wetlands mapping looks like there were streams missed. Contact me for more info. The Bald Eagle database is from 1980s, has considerable errors, and is not updated by the federal gov.

36. Anonymous: Easy access to the ODT and bike camping sites

37. Anonymous: What about the potential increase in crime when a bunch of people from elsewhere in the state start pouring into our neighborhoods out here on Diamond Point?

- *Nikki Fields: Please feel free to offer suggestions for how we might alleviate your concerns.*

38. Anonymous: There is also a neighborhood on the western side of the park

39. Anonymous: We already have people trespassing onto private property off the Discovery Bay View trail.

40. Anonymous: Nice job on the presentation.

41. Anonymous: Is there data available on crime around or as a result of state park being so close to a community?

- *Nikki Fields: Many state parks are close to communities, and crime is typically low. If you have information that says otherwise, we would be interested to see it.*
- 42. Megan Black: The saltwater lagoon area is very sensitive and should not encourage visitors to enter it or trample the sensitive vegetation along the beach berm.
- 43. Katherine Graff: Concerned about intersection of 101 and Diamond pt rd and increased traffic. We live on Cat Lake Road and the turn is already dangerous with the blind corner.
- 44. Jeff Chapman: It has been mentioned the problem with making a left turn off Diamond Point Rd. We horseback riders often have to turn right and go to Blyn and then do a kind of u-turn using the Tribe facilities. Is there a plan for a traffic study at the intersection, and if so, are there options already thought of as an option? I don't mean this as a criticism but that intersection is nasty now. I haven't been able to think of a way we can improve it. Will a different access be considered?
  - Michael Hankinson: It sounds like we must address this going forward.
- 45. Peter Bahls: I would like to see this be a Natural Area park for trails but otherwise minimal impacts. Are you going to do thorough ecological analysis before planning? Bird surveys, botanical surveys, wildlife corridors, ecological surveys. Are you going to hire independent consultants for specialty areas, such as bird surveys, or DNR Natural Heritage for botanical surveys. Also, are you going to have a range of alternatives so that the public can weigh in on the "theme" for the park. For example, if the public generally wants a low impact park.
  - *Nikki Fields: We have completed a wetland reconnaissance, and we have access to natural resource data from the State Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife. We have also completed vegetation and rare plant surveys as well as a study on whether fishers are in the park. We are working now on an ecological integrity assessment for the park, and we will complete a State Environmental Policy Act checklist as part of this project. We use both internal and external experts as needed. There will be a range of alternatives for the public to consider.*
- 46. Anonymous: Are there any plans to use East Sequim Bay rd?
  - *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and have not gotten to this level of detail yet.*
- 47. Anonymous: I think the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe should decide on the name of the park since it was obviously their land in the first place. Anyone who hikes or bikes the park will have seen the tribal signs which, UNLIKE the typical "no trespassing" signs posted everywhere else, actually welcome people and simply ask them to be respectful of tribal land.
- 48. Anonymous: is no development going to be an option?
  - *Nikki Fields: We will explore a range of alternatives, but all of them will include both day-use and overnight facilities.*

49. Jeff Chapman: Thank you!!

- Melinda Posner: thank you for participating

50. Anonymous: did you reach out to equestrianes

- Michael Hankinson: We're talking to them as I write!
- *Nikki Fields: Yes. We met with representatives from the local chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen before the meeting and included the organization in our contact list.*

51. Betty Oppenheimer: Thank you for this great inclusive presentation! We know that Sequim Bay needs to be replaced, and 2800 acres is a huge area with plenty of opportunity to keep recreation separate from residences!

52. Katherine Graff: Would like to see beach access on the east peninsula land

53. Anonymous: Have any decisions been made about what can't happen there? What's off the table at this point?

- *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and are open to suggestions on what should be off the table.*

54. Susan Clements: What does all of this cost?

- *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and have not gotten to this level of detail yet. We expect the first phase of development to be over \$5 million.*

55. Anonymous: There is little road noise when on the trails Please keep roads & development to the boarder area rather than the middle of the area

56. Peter Bahls: Since you are not going to get around to answering all the great questions and concerns raised here, It would be great if you could post written answers in the near future to the questions you received.

- Michael Hankinson: Thanks, yes, there are some limitations on answering all questions in this format. We will work on responses and post them so everyone can see your questions and our replies.

57. Tina: Can we sign up for notifications when more is added to the web page

- *Nikki Fields: We do not have a system to notify you when there are changes to the webpage, but if you email [planning@parks.wa.gov](mailto:planning@parks.wa.gov) and ask to be added to the contact list for this project, you will hear about future meetings and major developments in the project, and website updates usually happen within a couple weeks of meetings.*

58. Katherine Graff: we have had problems with motorized vehicles now. Motor bikes and even a truck driving in the park a few days ago

59. Anonymous: Please address water availability and the source. How would electrified campgrounds impact birds?

- *Nikki Fields: We are working with a consultant to help us identify water availability. Whenever possible, State Parks uses underground electrical lines.*
60. Anonymous: I just typed this [bit.ly/millerpenplan](http://bit.ly/millerpenplan) into my browser and nothing came up. Is this the correct link?
- Todd Tatum ([Todd.Tatum@parks.wa.gov](mailto:Todd.Tatum@parks.wa.gov)) The link is case sensitive. Try again with the capital letters included.(I just typed this [bit.ly/millerpenplan](http://bit.ly/millerpenplan) into my browser and nothing came up. Is this the correct link?)
  - Melinda Posner ([melinda.posner@parks.wa.gov](mailto:melinda.posner@parks.wa.gov)) Todd is right! if you type in [bit.ly/MillerPenPlan](http://bit.ly/MillerPenPlan), it works(I just typed this [bit.ly/millerpenplan](http://bit.ly/millerpenplan) into my browser and nothing came up. Is this the correct link?)
61. Anonymous: Who will be responsible for fire control?
- *Erik Plunkett: Washington State Parks contracts with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fight fire on undeveloped or lightly developed areas. Local jurisdictions are usually responsible for developed areas (structure fires). Some areas have agreements between the local fire jurisdictions and DNR on who has primary firefighting responsibility. State Parks sometimes has agreements and or contracts with local fire jurisdictions. This depends on the locations throughout the state. At this time there are no agreements (that I am aware of) that apply directly to Miller Peninsula, so the DNR contract for undeveloped lands is primary. In my experience, local fire jurisdictions often are the first on scene even at “wildland fires” until DNR crews can arrive. This Hopes and Concerns time of the planning process is a good time for State Parks to discuss these issues with local fire districts and the DNR.*
62. Anonymous: is no development going to be an option?
- *Nikki Fields: We will explore a range of alternatives, but all of them will include both day-use and overnight facilities.*
63. Anonymous: I'd like to see some longer term RV camping. Maybe more than one park host, or some other way to offer longer term camping options.
64. Anonymous: Also very concerned regarding the impact on East Sequim Bay Road. Will there be access to the Park from the west side of Miller Peninsula?
65. Anonymous: What about the presence of an explosive operation in the middle of the trails?
- *Nikki Fields: The explosive operations occur on a private property adjacent to the park. If the owners someday want to sell that property, State Parks could consider acquiring it if it is included in the long-term boundary that will be developed through this public process.*
66. Anonymous: I asked two questions that aren't being addressed. water availability and electrification impacts on birds. Please address.
- *Nikki Fields: See #59.*



67. Megan Black: Please consider how to discourage sea life harvesting off the beach. Making it trail accessible only would do this fairly well.
68. Evan W.: I don
69. Katherine Graff: Overnight facilities should be place well away from local residents
70. Anonymous: Great! why would we have a state park that you can't use. Some future development to give better access is needed
71. Jeff Chapman: Will State Parks work with the Tribe on including on a joint use trail plan?
- *Nikki Fields: If they are interested, yes.*
72. Katherine Graff: how is the S'klallam tribe engaged in the planning?
- *Nikki Fields: So far, we have reached out to three tribes, and our Director met with the Chair of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. We also met onsite with staff from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. We intend to continue working with them throughout the project.*
73. Anonymous: will group camps be considered?
- *Nikki Fields: Yes. What kind of group camping would you like to see?*
74. Ellen Dikken: Can the park improvements be placed in the center of the park rather than closer to housing and the roads?
- Michael Hankinson: Your idea would certainly be considered. There would be other constraints to consider, too such as environmental constraints--avoiding certain habitats or wetlands for example.
75. Anonymous: Why are you even asking for our comments and concerns when you have already made up your minds that this park will be developed?
- Michael Hankinson: Thank you for your question. The park needs to be accessible for visitors from around the state. Development would support that access.
76. Anonymous: Purchase the Cat Lake property to expand the park.
77. Anonymous: No RV use! RV's and motorhomes can go stay at an RV park. Long term camping/RV sites do not create an environment of inclusivity or allow for greater amounts of people to experience an overnight stay.
78. Jeff Chapman: Will the new trail from the State Parks property to the Olympic Discovery Trail that volunteers have constructed be part of the plan?
- *Nikki Fields: yes.*
79. Megan Black: I'm concerned about hikers on the beach becoming trapped at high tide. They will have no recourse other than to trespass on our family property. What signage and information do you plan on providing.

- *Nikki Fields: We are just beginning work on the park planning effort and have not gotten to this level of detail yet. Please feel free to offer suggestions on signing.*
80. Anonymous: When do you anticipate the Predesign Report phase of development to begin?
- *Nikki Fields: Work on the Predesign report should begin once we have determined what the first phases of development should be. That will be near the end of the master planning process.*
81. Anonymous: What is the impact on all the wild life?
- *Nikki Fields: Impacts will depend on what is proposed in the park. We will investigate impacts through the State Environmental Policy Act process.*
82. Anonymous: Why are you even asking for our comments and concerns when you have already made up your minds that this park will be developed?
- *Nikki Fields: There are a lot of different ways it could be developed, and we are interested in hearing what people are hoping for.*
83. Anonymous: This guy ("Why are you even asking for our comments and concerns when you have already made up your minds that this park will be developed?")
84. Anonymous: I'm concerned about the impact to our small boat ramp at Gardiner Beach.
85. Anonymous: RV's campsites should be considered.
86. Anonymous: You stated earlier that people can submit comments and those comments will be posted on the website. Will people be able to make comments anonymously?
- *Laura Moxham: Yes, it gives you that option on the website when you submit your comments I believe.*
87. Katherine Graff: What financial hurdles are there in development?
- *Nikki Fields: The state enacts new budgets every two years, and a downturn or recession could impact our ability to get development funding.*
88. Anonymous: Please do not make it for overnight camping. There are so many campgrounds with people using drugs and causing crime
89. Anonymous: isnt undeveloped shoreline an asset??
90. Anonymous: The Cat Lake Property is owned by a guy who allows hikers, bikers, and horsemen (and women) to use his property. His only concern is having homeless people squatting there or motorized vehicles destroying his land. Those of us who frequent his land (and the park) regularly would prefer that it just be left alone, like most of us who live here would prefer the park be left wild, as much as possible.

91. Anonymous: Gilgal Oasis RV Park, Sequim West Inn & RV Park, Rainbow's End RV Park, Olympic Paradise RV Park, Blu Mountain RV Park, 15 minutes from here, just as many near port townsed
92. L. O'Keefe: Miller State Park is the last, large, intact and undeveloped public forest (nearly 3,000 acres) along the Strait between Marrowstone Island and Joyce, a distance of more than 50 miles. Is there a documented need to develop this land for RV park development? Where is that data?
93. Anonymous: It looks like whatever we say will not change your minds about making this park, Thanks A Lot!
94. Megan Black: Salish Sea State Park would be a great name.
- Laura Moxham: Thank you for your suggestion.
95. Katherine Graff: How do we sign up for notifications about meetings etc?
- Melinda Posner: if you didn't hear the response, you can do so on the project web page; [bit.ly/MillerPenPlan](http://bit.ly/MillerPenPlan)
96. Jeff Chapman: Thank you Commissioners Danenberg!!!
97. Anonymous: Good team. I'm excited about the process and seeing this become a place that is accessible to more
98. Megan Black: How is the budget situation affecting the park development?
- *Nikki Fields: We have funding now for this planning project. Future budget requests for project implementation could be affected by an economic downturn.*
99. Katherine Graff: Thank you
100. Anonymous: Thank you Commissioners and Planners and all those who work within state parks! Your work does not go unnoticed and it affects thousands if not hundreds of thousands of people every year!
101. Ron Halpern: Thank you! This was a good presentation and we really appreciate your interest in working with the community
102. Sheri Conover: Thank you for the presentation. Excited about the future!
103. Anonymous: We love State Park camping! Plenty of forest all around! Provides a way for outsiders to visit the area.
104. Anonymous: "Recognizing that Miller Peninsula is in the back of our minds during this planning process is essential," Gustafson said. "Things like RV camping will not fit well within such a small park like Sequim Bay and would cost a lot of money, but as we move forward with Miller Peninsula, whenever that happens, RV camping will be a standard in the larger area there."