

Miller Peninsula Property – Public Comments

June 3, 2024 – August 12, 2024

Would like the analysis of water availability for this project. Diamond Point already has a shortage of water. Many fire hydrants have no water. Development of the park increases fire hazards which are already high for our area. What is the plan to ensure adequate water for residents and fire fighting on this peninsula?¹

I am writing to ask you to please keep the Miller Peninsula State Park as a Day Use and Educational Park. Please save this park from development and leave what wilderness we have left up here alone.

I recently moved to Sequim after my home in Seattle got built up in every single direction to the point where I could no longer see the sky outside. Down the street there is a flat land development with at least 50 more houses to go. Now just this year, I see that there is some developer trying to build a 600 unit development at the John Wayne Marina and now this "Destination Park" wants a 100 room hotel, restaurant, 20 cabins, etc. Isn't it all a bit much?

There is only the one lane road coming into the Peninsula. The ferries are constantly in turmoil. How do you expect all these people to even get here without making it hell for everyone already sitting through the salmon projects? Our festivals already cause backups of 3-5 hours on these roads. There are already RV campgrounds near Miller Park, many camping options, and a new luxury RV site is going in near the park. How much more can this area take before it becomes just another cramped suburb instead of the rainshadow to the only temperate rain forest in the world?²

Please leave Miller Peninsula as it currently exist! It doesn't need to be developed into a major tourist attraction! What little easily accessible natural habitat we locals have to enjoy shouldn't be exploited for the benefit of greedy business interest! ³

I think this park is already really wonderful, and does not need additional infrastructure. As a young local government professional, I am interested in the process of how decisions are being made in which alternative the Parks Service is moving forward with. I would be happy to participate in focus groups and conversations around this. Thank you!⁴

I would prefer that you fix/update/continue maintaing the existing state parks rather than carve up another one. ⁵

Seems like this would be a great idea for summer month but would you want to keep encouraging capacity during the off season.⁶

As a resident of Diamond Point, at the tip of the Miller Peninsula, the thought of a full-service state park on the Peninsula terrifies me. Diamond Point Road is a narrow, winding road that provides the only ingress/egress route for thousands of residents at Diamond Point. In the event of fire, earthquake, or tsunami--all of which are very real possibilities--the flight to safety will be a nightmare. Compounding that with the addition of campers and visitors who aren't familiar with the road and area is foolish and a risk I wouldn't think the state would want to take. ⁷

The last thing Miller Peninsula needs is a destination or enhanced State Park. Two other commercial ventures explored turning the area into a destination resort and both were canceled because of the lack of water. Climate change continues to diminish water resources in the area as fire danger continues to increase. When you start adding campsites, RV sites, and entertainment sites that will bring more people to the area, you are increasing the chances of a catastrophic fire. It would not be a question of if it will happen, it will only be a question of when.

Then there's the problem of destroying a native forest that actually helps with carbon reduction and environmental stabilization. You simply cannot justify destroying trees so you can accommodate more carbon spewing cars and RV's. This would be a totally irresponsible project. ⁸

Good morning:

This inquiry is for Lauren Bromly re: the [Miller Peninsula State Park property planning process](#).

I'm not able to easily ascertain the project timeline in terms of any permitting and SEPA processes that need to be followed. Can you send me a timeline pointing out the (as best known) expected opportunities for public comment? I'd be happy to chat this coming week and have availability Tues or Wed if you have 15 min or so to connect. Thank you!⁹

I've visited the park several times, in different seasons. Please do not allow overnight camping at Miller Peninsula State Park. Overnight camping, especially RV camping, will negatively impact wildlife. RV campgrounds are always noisy, often from campers watching television or listening to the radio. I question how well that intrusion could be contained to a defined area within the park, day or night. Rather than worrying about installing zip lines and other "features" park managers should be concerned about and prioritize the control of invasive plants in the park. ¹⁰

Please keep this park natural. Hiking trails, day use only.
Save tax payers money for upgrading another park. We have little natural environments left. Too many campsites ruin a parkland that is natural. Please designate Miller a national park and allow it to left in natural state. ¹¹

As a nearby resident to Miller Peninsula State Park, my feedback would be to not allow overnight camping in this park. This is a beautiful park, and a significant part of its appeal is that it is still relatively low use, where one can go for solitude and quiet and to enjoy nature. Allowing overnight use, and related amenities, would eliminate that. And, I am concerned with the impact on wildlife that naturally comes with overnight camping. I am in favor of adding parking lots around the periphery so that users can access the various trails from multiple places, and with some limited development to the trail network, but not overnight use. We already have a number of local parks with overnight camping (Sequim Bay State Park, Fort Worden, Fort Flagler, Lake Crescent, to name a few). We have an opportunity here to provide a variety of park experiences by limiting Miller Peninsula State Park to day use only. It is rare to have such a large park limited to day use only. Allowing overnight use would ruin what makes this park such a special place. ¹²

State Parks has held several meetings already about establishing the Miller Peninsula as a developed property and destination park. Diamond Point neighbors and area users have spoken and the consensus is that we do not want it developed further. This is an area accessible by one major highway (101) which is already clogged in the summer. Ferry traffic for nearby urban regions is overflowing and 101 up the Hood Canal is also busy. Diamond Point Road leading into the park is a small two lane road. I am again adding my input preferring to leave this area, with it's lovely quiet trails for walking, horseback riding and biking, as it is. Please find another park closer to urban areas to improve. Thank you. ¹³

I am interested in this project ¹⁴

I would much prefer state parks allocate resources to saving Fort Worden from imminent ruin and reviving Fort Flagler rather than developing Miller Peninsula. ¹⁵

<p>Please accept these comments on behalf of myself and many of us in Jefferson County. First thank you for allowing members of the county to participate. My comment is brief. Washington State Parks does not take care of the properties under State Park status in a manner that protects fish, wildlife, and the land. I live on Marrowstone and see first hand that the park is not managed for its natural resources, but only for recreation and human use. I think monies should go to adding staff necessary to maintain the current parks, not to add another park to the system.¹⁶</p>
<p>I am GREATLY concerned about having a camping facility at Miller Peninsula State Park because I live in Diamond Point and because of---1-FIRE, 2-One road in and one road out, 3-Traffic congestion trying to get onto Highway 101; Please RESOLVE these issues during the planning session----perhaps another access onto East Sequim Bay Road???? How about an evacuation plan for residents of Miller Peninsula keeping in mind aged residents.¹⁷</p>
<p>Why do you feel a need to change the name of the park? The fact that you're developing it against local opinion and also plan to change the name to someone no one's heard of seems just more and more wrong¹⁸</p>
<p>I look forward to this project moving forward.</p> <p>As I drive up and down Diamond Point Rd I become more and more concerned about the unhealthy unmanaged condition of the forest. That forest is becoming more and more of a fire hazard which could prove disastrous to the property and general environmental condition of Miller Penn. The park presence as planned with a lodge, cabins and controlled RV sites will go a long way toward returning this property more healthy less fire susceptible condition.</p> <p>Traffic concerns and campfire concerns often stated seem to be addressable under the plan and this park could be the gem of the Olympic Penn and a real economic and environmental plus.¹⁹</p>
<p>This park should be minimally improved, if at all. There is no need to improve vehicle usage. As you note, it already has a trail system for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians through a beautiful second-growth forest. It also includes three miles of saltwater shoreline on the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Discovery Bay. While most of the shore is high-bank, shore access is available from public access points and from the trails.²⁰</p>
<p>You low life state employees are such liars. Last public comment you said this park was put to pasture and you would not be pursuing it any longer. Now here we are, going full steam ahead, with your grand idea of wrecking miller peninsula. I'm letting you know right now, that the second you add the round about at diamond point, I plan to sue your ass. That round about will cause a 1 hour delay to get to sequim or port Townsend, and when I have to take my elderly parents to a hospital, and they die due to the insane back up you caused, I will personally find each and every one of you and sue the living [x] out of you. I'll be convincing everyone I buy bay houses off Amazon and to place them all over the trails that are currently there. Then I'll call the feds since those bats are protected, so your project can finally see the grave. Get [x] you inslee loving [x]. Go take your park idea somewhere else. Like downtown Seattle and make a homeless attraction.²¹ [*profanity and hate speech redacted]</p>
<p>We need to be preserving forests not cutting them down to build RV sites and lodges. The world is in a climate crisis. Washington State is supposed to be an environmental leader so let's start acting like it. Why do we need to cut down trees to encourage people to get out and enjoy nature? Leave Miller Peninsula State Park lands undeveloped so people can enjoy nature by hiking, biking, and horseback riding in the forest.²²</p>

As residents of Miller Peninsula, we can easily project the impact of the proposed development on the area on safety (due to increased risk of wild fire from camping sources), water availability (further exacerbating a diminishing ground water resource), traffic (dramatically increased on our narrow, 2 lane road) and more. Washington State Parks is in a unique position to take advantage of the golden opportunity to retain this 2,800 acre parcel in its natural state for generations to come to enjoy and appreciate as a day-use recreation and education resource. Please State Parks, think into our future and that of our children. ²³

Looking forward to an actual presentation where you will answer questions from concerned citizens. ²⁴

I currently live on Diamond point which is housed on the Miller Penninsula. I walk in the park almost daily (3-4 miles). I am grateful for it and consider it to be a valuable sanctuary; One of the few places left that has not been inexorably altered to fit human needs. The park offers a pristine biome for plants and animals and enough trails of great variety for all to enjoy. Some of those trails are accessible to those who are limited in their abilities. However, It is a fragile ecosystem. It's a sizable and rare piece of raw untouched wilderness that cannot be replaced once it has been developed. It would be a tragedy to lose one of the last parks of its kind. ²⁵

First, I am not a NIMBY person. Second, I have supported our Parks system. The decision to expand the Miller Park is not well conceived. Many are descendants of early Gardiner pioneers. The largest objections no doubt come from those who live in the area who are very familiar with the local environment and chose to live here for the quiet community. Gardiner and Diamond Point is zoned for a small community designed for residents who work to maintain the quiet rural neighborhood. We see the impacts of heavy traffic every holiday as staggering crowds rush to the Olympic National Park and numerous outdoor Peninsula festival activities. The narrow, twisting two-way street leading to Miller Park is not designed for heavy traffic and camping vehicles. During these periods Hwy 101 is slowed below speed limits due to bumper to bumper traffic. Speedy access by emergency respondents will be further degraded by increased traffic. We are forced to rely on wells for our drinking water from ground water which is fed by shrinking run off from reduced snow packs. Additional personnel, no matter how temporary, will further impact this critical supply. Any effort to increase water supply will add considerably to our property taxes. We face drought conditions with growing frequency accompanied by extreme wildfire conditions. Growing the number of park visitors to this forested area will lead to increased fire hazard in an area with limited emergency response and water for fire fighting.

Miller Park is perfect the way it is. It allows for hiking, equestrians, other non invasive activity and does not negatively impact the wildlife that lives there. Crowds of noisy vacationers adjacent to the quiet residential neighborhoods is a recipe for social distress. Increasing the scope of park options will negatively impact our healthy environment and will present increased safety concerns. It is easy for state officials to see this as an added recreational opportunity, but they do not have to live with the environmental impacts to the residents that surround the park. ²⁶

please leave all the trails open to mountain biking.
we don't have many options on the peninsula for moutain biking and it will be a big bummer if we loose miller peninsula.... ²⁷

I have not seen the information of why this particular area is a priority to develop into a camping state park. The day use of this park and what it offers is great. I am very concerned about potential heavy traffic since there is only one way in and out on Diamond Point Road. There are not places to turn around unless you drive to the subdivisions. When bad weather hits and trees drop on DP Road or electricity goes out, we have to shelter in place. Additionally traffic realistically would increase with people thinking there is water and beach

access; which there is not. We also worry about the response of emergency vehicles since it is already a delayed response time with being rural and the fire department are volunteers. Same with concerns about drinking water access and it impacting our ability to obtain water living out here.

There are already people who come to hike the trails off of DP Road but there are very few 'spaces' to park off the side of the road for the existing trailheads. And fairly, this is a very quiet area that people come to unwind and intentionally created to be a small community. That's why we chose DP. ²⁸

Washington State Parks desperately need more RV camping opportunities. The number of RVs and the number of campers has skyrocketed during the last 5 years, but camping infrastructure has not grown at all. It is all but impossible to camp in a state park (or really any other "public" campground) between April and October without planning 6 months or more in advance. This problem is especially acute on the Olympic Peninsula. PLEASE insure that Miller does what it can to address this appalling mismatch in demand vs. supply. ²⁹