

# STATE PARKS' 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



Ebey's Landing State Park



**45 million**

Annual Visitors



**+ 15%**

\*Park use



**+ 10,000**

Full-time & seasonal jobs supported



**+ \$786 million**

Spending associated with park visits



**+ \$116 million**

State & local tax revenue

## Overview

The 2021-23 operating and capital budgets provided State Parks with increased funding to meet the challenges related to the increasing interest in outdoor recreation sparked by the pandemic. The supplemental budget requests will help us continue to build on that success and improve the condition of our parks and the visitor experience.

## OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

### Park Maintenance Improvements - \$3.75M Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account

Increased Park maintenance continues to be a critical need as projects accumulate due to the substantial number of facilities, structures and land the agency is responsible for maintaining.

One-time funding is requested to:

- Purchase materials to repair Environmental Learning Centers and staff housing
- Improve sewer systems
- Add new entrance and park orientation signs
- Repair and maintain utilities, buoys and piers, yurts and trails
- Support Washington Conservation Crews

### Climate Change Resilience and Plan Implementation- \$983K GF-S

Climate change is projected to have significant effects on State Parks' natural resources. Impacts include declining snowpack, increasing floods, decreasing summer stream flows, sea-level rise, wildfire and changes to habitat.

Funding is requested for:

- Climate change coordinator to develop and implement the agency's Climate Adaptation Plan
- Ecological assessments conducted in 20-25 high-priority parks
- Add electric chargers for park-use vehicles to support electric vehicle adoption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*\*Represents 2020 data.*

*Other figures represent 2019 data.*

### **Tribal Liaison and Archeological Capacity- \$819K GF-S**

The protection of cultural and natural resources at the parks requires significant collaboration with sovereign tribal nations.

Funding is requested for:

- Dedicated full-time tribal liaison
- Additional archeological capacity to meet the consultation requirements in Executive Order 21-02.

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### **Rebuild Public Website- \$561K Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account**

Averaging 19,000 visitors per day, the agency website is outdated and difficult to navigate. The goal is to build a user-friendly site that provides accessible information for all users.

One-time funding is requested to:

- Modernize and redesign our website.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS**

### **Kopachuck Day-Use and Beach Area Improvements- \$2.1 million**

This multi-phase project renovates and expands both the upland and beachfront day-use areas of the park. Elements include new kitchen and picnic shelters, ADA-compliant trails and picnic areas, improved access to the water, playground equipment, interpretive signs, replacing antiquated restrooms and parking lot improvements.

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### **East Crab Creek Trestle Replacement- \$2.0 million**

Funding is requested to replace the east Crab Creek Trestle on the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail that burned. The trestle will be replaced with non-flammable metal materials to withstand future fires in the area.

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### **Fields Spring Comfort Station Replacement- \$480K**

This project will replace a facility that is non-compliant with ADA standards and has exceeded its useful life with an ADA compliant, energy-efficient facility as well as replacing the failing sewage disposal system.



#### **Contact Information**

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