

January 11, 2007

Item E-6: Fort Worden Long Range Plan– Requested Action

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This item asks the Commission to adopt value statements, land classifications, a long-term boundary, and site use and development principles for Fort Worden State Park. It further directs staff to continue planning guided by a Life-Long Learning Center concept, prepare architectural and site design guidelines, and appoint a volunteer task force to explore alternative governance structures and assist staff in the next phase of planning. This item complies with our Centennial 2013 Plan elements, “Our Commitment—Stewardship.”

SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Fort Worden Vision

Current planning for Fort Worden State Park began with Commission adoption of an updated vision for the park in 2005 (Appendix 1). The updated vision confirmed earlier direction for the park as a legendary gathering place for retreat, renewal, and discovery.

Planning Roadmap

The next step was to design a planning process to determine how best to develop programs for visitors, upgrade the facility, and enhance park administration to achieve the Commission’s vision. In 2006, the Commission adopted a general process (roadmap) to guide the long-range planning effort for Fort Worden.

The roadmap broadly divided planning into two distinct parts: The first to set the overall direction for program development and determine facility needs and the second to determine the most appropriate administrative approach to deliver the programs and facilities.

Long-Range Plan – Conceptual Facilities, Programs, and Services Recommendations

With the assistance of a consulting firm, staff worked with the Fort Worden Advisory Committee, park and conference center users, and the public to complete the Fort Worden State Park Long-Range Plan – Conceptual Facilities, Programs and Services Recommendations (Appendix 2).

While recommending an overall direction for future planning and program development, recommendations stop short of proposing specific uses for historic structures or construction of new facilities at this time. Instead, the report recommends adoption of broader policies and principles to steer more detailed operation and development planning during the next phase of the project. Recommended policies and principles include a statement of Fort Worden State Park values, a listing of facility use and development principles, land classifications, and long-term park boundaries.

Moving facility-specific decisions to the next phase will allow staff to fully assess and communicate environmental implications of these decisions to the public under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Fort Worden State Park Values

At the outset, the planning team reviewed input gathered from stakeholders through vision development, from the Fort Worden Advisory Committee, and from park staff to identify all suggestions for program and facility development. With this information the planning team developed use and value statements (Appendix 3). Program and facility ideas were then evaluated and those especially reflecting and fostering desired park values were incorporated into subsequent planning steps for additional consideration.

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the Fort Worden State Park Values contained in Appendix 3. These values would serve as an extension and further refinement of the Vision and Mission statements previously adopted by the Commission.

Future Planning Direction

Using desired park values the planning team created five programmatic models for the park. Each model built on an existing aspect of Fort Worden State Park and described a direction that programming and facility development might take. The five models included:

- *Arts and Culture Center*
- *Visitor's Retreat*
- *Regional Park and Non-profit/Small Business Campus*
- *Fort Worden University and Educational Center*
- *Education and Conference Center*

Drawing from input received from the Fort Worden Advisory Committee, park staff, and staff of Fort Worden's resident organizations, the planning team created two distinct planning options summarized below

Option #1: Life-Long Learning Center incorporates the models *Arts and Culture Center, Regional Park and Non-Profit/Small Business Center, University and Educational Center*. Option #1 sets a direction for facility and program development that establishes Fort Worden State Park as a "learning laboratory." As a center for life-long learning, it represents a confluence of creativity and experimentation. A hallmark of the park is its commitment to stewardship and cooperation with its non-profit resident institutions and the community of Port Townsend.

With this option the park continues to house educational entities that provide accredited degree programs that also use and support operation of accommodations and food services. The park would continue to provide facilities for programs, events, meetings, and conferences to promote learning.

Option #2: Retreat and Conference Center incorporates the models *Visitor's Retreat and Education Conference Center*. Option #2 sets a markedly different direction for the park. This option recognizes Fort Worden State Park principally as "host" while entrepreneurial hospitality partners recruit organized groups and

independent visitors to take advantage of well-equipped meeting facilities, extraordinary gathering places, high-quality overnight accommodations, and enticing seasonal cuisine. Its reputation as a conference center grows as a place where people can focus on business and pleasure in an authentic Pacific Northwest historic waterfront environment.

The planning team completed preliminary financial analyses of the options to compare their relative viability. As anticipated, both options require significant capital investment, with option #2 needing considerably more. The agency's share of required capital investment, the amount necessary to secure additional business and philanthropic investment, is about the same. Each option carries financial risk. The Life-Long Learning Center option relies on significant expansion of resident organizations, resultant increase in conference and lodging business, and direct philanthropic support. The Retreat and Conference Center option relies on attracting an entrepreneurial partner that can expand and maintain the conference and lodging business.

Public workshops and written correspondence indicated almost exclusive support for the Life-Long Learning Center. Support cited consistency with the vision, mission, and values of the park, as well as consistency with Port Townsend's identity as an artisan community. Opposition to the Retreat and Conference Center cited potential for loss of the park's unique identity under a profit motive, displacement of existing uses and users, and adverse impacts on the Port Townsend community.

Staff recommends that planning for Fort Worden State Park continue in its present direction, guided by the Life-Long Learning Center concept as recommended in Appendix 3. The next phase of planning should include preparation of a *site and facility use and development plan* and recommend appropriate use types for all existing park buildings (e.g., lodging, visitor services, program, administrative and maintenance space) for Commission adoption. The plan should also recommend development of any new facilities necessary to establish the Life-Long Learning Center, as well as appropriate sites for any additional structures.

Staff further recommends preparation of a facilities use plan that assigns facilities to particular organizations. This plan should remain fluid to respond to the evolving assemblage of resident organizations and their changing needs.

Site and Facility Use and Development Principles

Park staff, the Advisory Committee, and the public suggested many ideas for protection and development of Fort Worden State Park. Participants clearly wanted to preserve the park's historical features and understand the significance of its National Historic Landmark status. Many also urged that planning incorporate environmentally sustainable development practices during park rehabilitation and development.

From this and other input, a series of principles emerged that resonated with participants regardless of their preference on programmatic direction. Staff recommends that the Commission adopt these principles to guide future planning, use decisions, and other park rehabilitation and development activities (Appendix 4).

Architectural and Site Design Guidelines

By Commission policy, work on historic structures and landscapes at Fort Worden State Park must adhere to the US Department of Interior Secretary's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. While these standards provide guidance on the treatment of historic properties in general, they provide little specific direction on how to preserve the integrity of a particular historic property.

Site-specific design guidelines provide a critical intermediate step between the Secretary's Standards and the construction of a particular feature in a particular historic site. Design guidelines provide architects, builders, property managers, tenants, maintenance staff and others with parameters on how much change can be introduced in adapting an historic building or feature to a new use. Their overall purpose is to ensure that an historic property retains its authenticity and integrity while allowing flexibility to adapt the site and structures to address evolving needs of the park.

Staff recommends the preparation of architectural and site design guidelines for Fort Worden State Park as soon as possible. These guidelines will be particularly important safeguards for retaining historical integrity as the park enlists private partners to help rehabilitate and develop facilities.

Land Classifications

Through analysis of future program direction, facility needs, and the existing natural and cultural resource base, staff recommends that the Commission classify Fort Worden State Park as a combination of Heritage, Recreation, and Resource Recreation Areas as described and shown in Appendix 5.

Staff recommended land classifications generally seek to affirm the park's current activities and facilities while providing room for future expansion. The recommendation provides for development of 16 - 20 campsites in the upper campground to accommodate volunteer host sites displaced from other parts of the park and provide additional public camping if needed.

The recommendation also provides for extensive rehabilitation of historic structures to accommodate new uses and activities as park programming grows. Recommended classifications permit construction of new facilities in the Garrison Post (main campus), Artillery Hill, and the beach area if needed, but only if new development does not compromise the integrity of the site's historic structures and landscapes.

Long-Term Park Boundary

The purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the vision and goals of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Including a privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that it would be in the park's best interest if the property were managed in a way that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply:

The agency might

- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal.
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features.
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property.
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee.

Staff recommends that the Commission include properties within the park's long-term boundary as shown in Appendix 5. Specific properties include:

- North Beach County Park.
- Barrymore property adjacent to Chinese Gardens.
- Port of Port Townsend tidelands along Admiralty Inlet
- Other State Department of Natural Resources tidelands fronting park ownership
- Point Wilson Lighthouse Reservation

The properties listed above would only be acquired if the current owners desire to divest these holdings. Washington State Parks should approach acquisition of properties identified in this action on a willing seller basis.

Governance, Business Planning, and Coordination with Partners

The long range planning process has identified potential barriers to attaining the Commission's vision for Fort Worden State Park. Operating Fort Worden State Park under a conventional park administrative structure may not be the most effective management model for the park.

Alternatives include:

- Establishing a public non-profit corporation similar to the Washington Trade and Convention Center.
- Establishing a philanthropic foundation to assist existing park administration in raising private funds.
- Establishing both a public non-profit corporation and a philanthropic foundation

The next phase of long range planning will require refinement of preliminary financial analyses and preparation of a business and operation implementation plan. Additional feasibility analysis will also be necessary to assess the capacity of the philanthropic community to provide the support needed to sustain the Life-Long Learning Center concept. In addition to providing refined cost and revenue estimates, completion of these tasks will facilitate recruitment of new resident organizations and business partners, bringing greater external credibility to the process.

Staff recommends appointing a volunteer task force to explore and recommend alternative governance structures, assist with and oversee additional business and facility planning tasks, coordinate with existing and potential non-agency partners, and complete other tasks as assigned by the Director. Appointees should have skills and experience in public-private partnerships, governance, organizational development, and represent a mix of the public,

non-profit, and private sectors. To ensure an independent and objective approach, the task force should include both agency staff and an unaffiliated position funded philanthropically.

Staff further recommends preparation of a *business and operation implementation plan*. This plan should build upon preliminary financial analyses and incorporate refined cost and revenue estimates generated through the *site and facility use and development plan*, as well as additional financial coordination with existing and potential resident organizations.

AUTHORITY:

RCW 79A.050.030(1), chapter 352-11 WAC, chapter 352-16 WAC, WAC 352-32-070, WAC 352-32-075, Commission Policies: 12-98-1, 72-99-1, and 15-78-1.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

1. Appendix 1: Fort Worden Vision and Mission
2. Appendix 2: Fort Worden Long-Range Plan – Conceptual Facilities, Programs, and Services Recommendations (hard copy available on request)
3. Appendix 3: Fort Worden Values
4. Appendix 4: Recommended Site and Facility Use and Development Principles
5. Appendix 5: Recommended Land Classifications and Long-Term Boundary
6. Appendix 6: Land Classification System Overview and Management Guidelines (hard copy available on request)
7. Appendix 7: Public Comment (hard copy available on request)

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Receive staff's "Determination of Non-Significance" that the proposed action is minor and the environmental effects are not significant;
2. Consider the data, views or arguments submitted by any person
3. Thank members of the Fort Worden Advisory Committee for their dedication and assistance in the development of the Fort Worden State Park Long Range Plan;
4. Adopt Values outlined in Appendix 2 as an extension and further refinement of the Vision and Mission statements previously adopted by the Commission for Fort Worden State Park;
5. Direct staff to prepare, for Commission adoption, a "Site and Facility Use and Development Plan" guided by the Life-Long Learning Center concept as described in the Fort Worden State Park Long Range Plan – Conceptual Facilities, Programs, and Services Recommendation contained in Appendix 3;
6. Adopt Site and Facility Use and Development Principles as outlined in Appendix 4 to guide future use and development of Fort Worden State Park
7. Direct staff to prepare Site and Architectural Design Guidelines to guide treatment of historic properties and development of new facilities at Fort Worden State Park;
8. Adopt land classifications and long-term park boundary for Fort Worden State Park, delegating authority for potential reclassification of the park boat launch, boat haven, and wharf, to the Director as described in Appendix 5;
9. Direct staff to appoint a volunteer task force to explore and recommend alternative governance structures, assist with additional business and facility planning tasks, coordinate with existing and potential non-agency partners, and complete other tasks as assigned by the Director; and,

10. Direct staff to prepare a “Business and Operation Implementation Plan” to incorporate refined facility costs and revenues and additional financial coordination with existing and prospective resident organizations.

Authors: Peter Herzog, Parks Planner
Peter.Herzog@parks.wa.gov Telephone: (360) 902-8652

Kate Burke, Fort Worden State Park Area Manager
Kate.Burke@parks.wa.gov Telephone (360) 344-4401

Reviewer(s)

SEPA Review: Following review, staff prepared an environmental checklist and "threshold determination" on December 13, 2006 for the staff recommendation, finding that the action proposed by the Commission staff was minor and the environmental effects not significant.

Copies of these documents have been provided to members of the Commission, and will be made available to other interested parties upon request.

Fiscal Impact Review: This action will require approximately \$250,000 in capital funds and \$215,000 in operating funds to fully implement. Some funds were requested for this and related work in 2007-09 budget. It is unknown at this time whether funding will be available since funding is subject to Legislative appropriation. Additional private funds may be available to supplement agency funding.

Larry Fairleigh, Parks Development Service Center Assistant Director

Judy Johnson, Deputy Director:_____

Approved for Transmittal to Commission

Rex Derr, Director



Fort Worden
State Park Conference Center

Appendix 1

Fort Worden State Park Vision and Mission

Vision

Fort Worden is a legendary gathering place where people are transformed through retreat, renewal and discovery.

Mission

Fort Worden is Washington's state park conference center for recreation, arts, culture, history and the environment. It is a confluence of creative learning, recreation, and retreat opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Fort Worden is a partnership of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Washington State Arts Commission, resident cultural institutions and businesses and major funders, achieving financial vitality through coordination and collaboration. The partnership

1. promotes personal growth and professional development through conferences, workshops, performances, exhibitions and special events for individuals and groups.
2. develops and manages businesses that fund annual operations; and
3. attracts public-private funding for capital projects and endowment.
4. restores, preserves and interprets the significant historical, cultural and natural resources of the area

Appendix 2

Fort Worden Long Range Plan – Conceptual Facilities, Programs, and Services Recommendations

Electronic version available for download at: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/ftworden/>

Hard copy available on request only. Contact Nata Hurst, Washington State Parks Planning and Research Program, P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504-2650, call (360) 902-8638, or E-mail: nata.hurst@parks.wa.gov

Appendix 3

Fort Worden Values

Stewardship

Fort Worden State Park develops, cares for and manages the park and serves visitors, volunteers and donors through local, native and sustainable environments and economies. Activities, programs and individual visitor experiences at the park are framed around discovery of, attentiveness to, education about and deep appreciation of its specific natural, cultural and historic environments.

Integration

The economic vitality of the park is a direct function of the economic vitality of all Fort Worden State Park partners and the Port Townsend community. All businesses, programs and services at the park are dynamically integrated in demonstration of shared and interrelated core values and economic strategies.

Learning: Creativity and Discovery

Fort Worden State Park serves individuals and gatherings dedicated to preserving and revitalizing cultural traditions, taking creative risks and generating new practices, ideas, and conversations.

Culture of Hospitality

Programs, services and facilities are designed, developed and promoted to attract, welcome and be accessible to all individuals whose interests are aligned with the missions, visions and values of the park partners.

Play

A commitment to individual health, renewal and transformation is enhanced by maintaining open space and facilities for retreat and enjoyment, as well as self-directed and organized outdoor programs that heighten respect for natural and cultural environment.

Appendix 4

Recommended Site and Facilities Use and Development Principles

To reflect continued commitment to the exceptional character and public use of Fort Worden State Park, staff recommends the Commission adopt principles and objectives to guide site and facility use and development. These principles and objectives augment State Parks' natural and cultural resource management policies and provide guidance for the location, function and approach to site and facility redevelopment and use in the implementation of the Long Range Plan.

General

1. First and foremost, Fort Worden State Park should continue to function as a park for public use, including day-use recreational activities, camping, meetings, reunions and vacations.
2. The park should accommodate increasing park demand in the future.
3. Any organizations and businesses operating at the park should have missions and values that support the vision, mission and values of Fort Worden State Park. Organizations offering the same visitor services should be consolidated under a single management structure.
4. Organizations operating at the park should work collaboratively to foster symbiotic relationships. The physical use and design of the site and buildings should support these relationships.

Site and Facilities

1. When addressing needs for additional indoor programs, lodging, visitor services or administrative spaces, first consideration should be given to the adaptive reuse of existing historic structures before construction of new facilities. Proponents of new construction must demonstrate that reuse of existing structures cannot reasonably satisfy programmatic needs or that the nature of construction would unacceptably compromise the historical integrity of existing structures.
2. In addition to complying with the State Parks and Recreation Commission's (Commission) cultural resources policy and the standards the policy adopts, any new buildings and facilities should be designed and sited so that the form, scale, massing and materials, is in keeping with the historic character of the park. As early as practical, site and architectural design guidelines specific to the park should be developed to inform rehabilitation and new construction activities.
3. Fort Worden State Park should provide access to programs, activities, and supporting facilities to people with disabilities consistent with Commission's policy on implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Rehabilitation of the site and facilities should integrate accessibility and historic preservation goals, using creative approaches to provide programs, activities and alternative access routes to amenities. Development of new facilities will use a universal design approach.

4. Consistent with the Commission's sustainability policy, cultural resources policy, and within the context of the fort's historic district designation, rehabilitation of historic structures, as well as, construction of new facilities should integrate sustainable design and historic preservation goals, using "green building" practices whenever possible.
5. Rehabilitation and the location of accommodations should foster increased interaction among visitors and provide an expanded range of lodging choices, including guestrooms with private bathrooms. Reuse of facilities should be based on historic land use patterns.
6. Common-use facilities and amenities should be located within the central historic park area to foster interaction and cross-fertilization among park visitors and programs. An example of this would be the co-location of a lending library with business center and coffee shop. These shared amenities should be located geographically throughout the park area to provide convenient access. They should be located to allow visitors to have multiple levels of interaction with each other. Possible facilities could include a cafe, meeting space, library, gym, laundry and museums.
7. Within the context of the historic district designation and Commission cultural resources policy, ecological function of the main campus and surrounding areas should be restored and enhanced. Existing plant communities should be assessed for health and restoration, including planning for the removal and control of invasive species. When possible, unneeded impervious surfaces should be removed. These surfaces should be rehabilitated with drought-tolerant grasses or grass pavers to meet event parking, native vegetation and forested landscape requirements, as appropriate.
8. Permanent on-site parking should be provided to meet typical summer and weekend parking demand. All event parking should be evaluated and located in specifically designated areas using grass pavers for greater ecological function. Designated areas should be those that do not limit other concurrent uses of the park and should be located to concentrate impact in areas of the park, such as the Industrial Zone that could accommodate event parking (Appendix I). This retains the original conception of the historic fort as a village where parking is located in pods and users move on foot from facility to facility.
9. A well-developed and environmentally-friendly pedestrian and traffic circulation plan is core to enabling people access to buildings and activities. The circulation plan should consider a park-wide shuttle (perhaps using alternative fuel), bike/walking lanes, links to city bike trails and use of Jefferson County Transit to connect visitors to the city and other modes of transportation, such as the ferry. City of Port Townsend, Port of Port Townsend, Jefferson County, State Ferries, and Fort Worden State Park planners should closely coordinate transportation planning to seamlessly integrate the park into the city's transportation network and minimize traffic-related impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.
10. Park headquarters and administrative offices should be consolidated and moved closer to the visitor information center and park entrance to provide an earlier point of contact with visitors and better orient visitors to the park.

11. Housing for both full-time staff and temporary service level employees could ensure a positive and sustainable business environment. New housing should be constructed for full-time staff in the least historically significant areas of the park, if possible. This would create more privacy while allowing use of historic structures by park visitors. Service level employees should be provided dormitory housing in existing or new facilities in the least historically significant areas of the park, if possible.
12. Changing the use of some existing dormitories to single-room lodging, program, and administrative spaces would result in a reduction of modestly-priced bunkhouse accommodations for price-conscious visitors (e.g., school groups). Space in one or more existing barrack-type building should be reserved to retain this opportunity.

Appendix 5

Recommended Land Classifications and Long-Term Boundary

Land Classifications

Through analysis of future program direction, facility needs, and the existing natural and cultural resource base, staff recommends that the Commission classify Fort Worden State Park as a combination of Heritage, Recreation, and Resource Recreation Areas (Figure 1).

Heritage Areas

To reflect the park's status as a National Historic Landmark – a designation reserved only for the nation's most significant historic sites – the Commission should classify the vast majority of the park as a Heritage Area. This includes the Garrison area (main campus excluding existing upper campground), Artillery Hill, Point Wilson Lighthouse Reservation, and portions of the lower beach area excluding the existing campground. Activities permitted in Heritage Areas include:

- Filming/Special Events
- Harvesting (edible fruits, mushrooms, shellfish)
- Off-Trail Hiking
- Wood Debris Collection
- Water: Kayaking/Canoeing
- Water: Sailing
- Water: Swimming
- Haying

Activities *conditionally* permitted under the agency's land classification system may be permitted at specific sites only with the concurrence of the Commission. Activities conditionally permitted in Heritage Areas include:

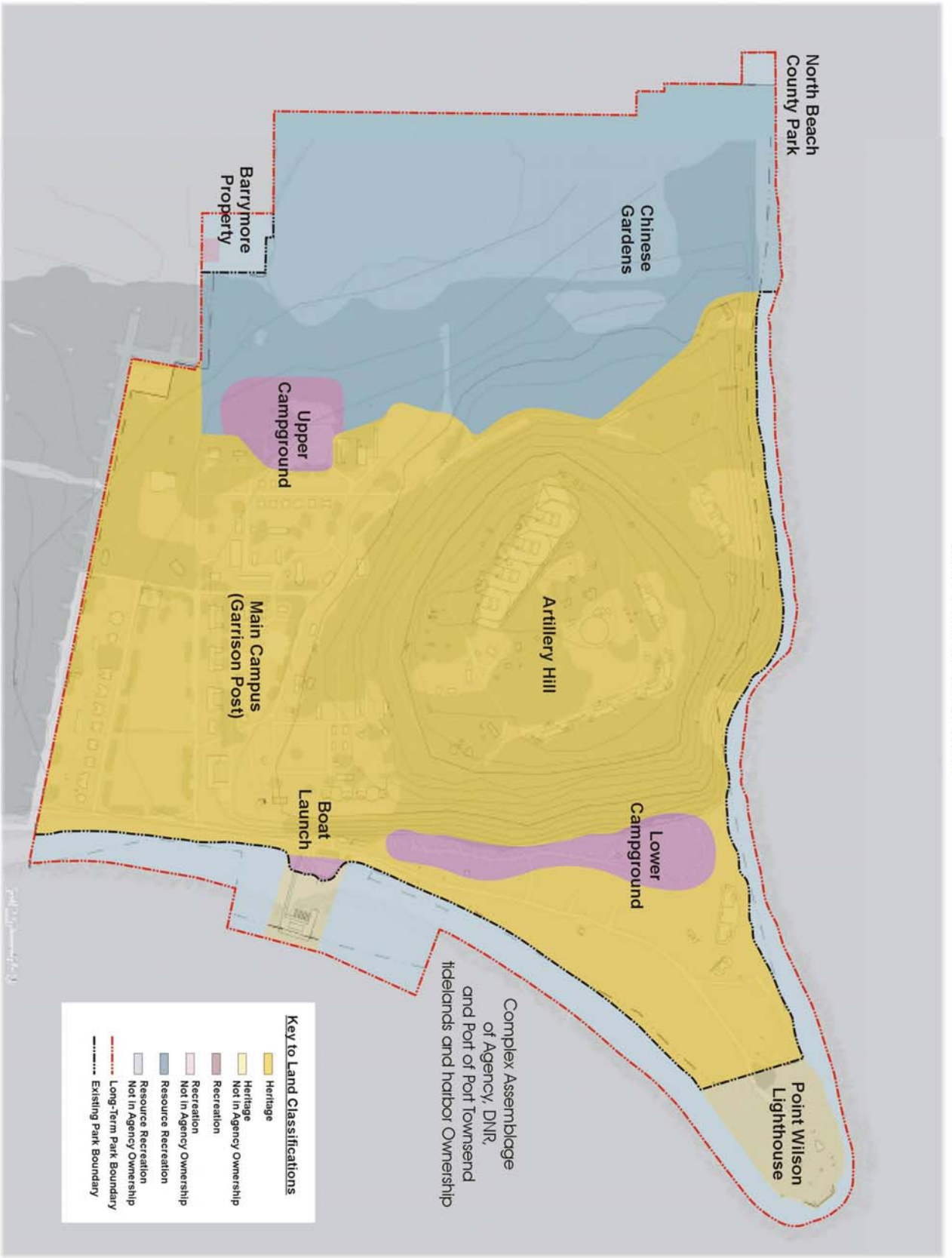
- Farming/orchards
- Grazing
- Metal Detecting
- Technical Rock Climbing
- Off-Trail Equestrian
- Off-trail Cycling
- Paragliding
- Orienteering
- Water: Windsurfing

Of these, the staff recommends the Commission only permit orienteering and windsurfing within Heritage Areas designated at Fort Worden State Park.

Recreation Areas

The upper and lower campgrounds at Fort Worden State Park include 30 to 50 full-utility sites. These campgrounds provide an extremely popular camping experience, with use extending well into the shoulder and off-season. Staff recommends the Commission classify both campgrounds as Recreation Areas to permit camping opportunities to continue. The lower campground Recreation Area should encompass the existing campground in its present configuration, thereby limiting sites to their present number. While demand for camping in this area could justify expansion, further intrusion into the historic landscape would continue to erode the site's historical integrity. Staff therefore recommends against any expansion of camping in this area.

Figure 1 : Fort Worden State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary
Staff Recommendation



The upper campground, by contrast, is located in an area that could accommodate expansion without adverse impact on historical integrity. Areas immediately south and east of the upper campground have limited historical significance and are visually shielded from historical areas by topography. Therefore, staff recommends the Commission classify the upper campground as a Recreation Area including existing sites and an expansion area for up to 20 additional sites to the south and east of the present campground. Eight of these sites should be reserved as host sites to accommodate existing host sites removed from other areas of the park.

Recreational boating, including launching from the park boat ramp and overnight mooring in the boat haven and on mooring buoys continues as an important recreational function and alternative access to the park. Since the military historically launched and moored vessels at the wharf and surrounding area, providing similar modern recreational opportunities is highly consistent with the site's historic preservation and interpretation.

Power boating and launch ramps, however are not permitted in Heritage Areas under the classification management guidelines. Staff consequently recommends the Commission classify the existing boat launch, boat haven, and wharf as a Recreation Area to allow existing boating activities to continue. Staff further recommends the Commission delegate authority to the Director to re-classify these areas as Heritage and authorize the power boating activity, should the Director choose to revise classification management guidelines to permit (or conditionally permit) boat launch facilities and power boating in Heritage Areas.

Within the park's long-term boundary, staff recommends classification of a small Recreation Area encompassing the existing residence on the Barrymore property. This classification would allow retention and use of the structure if ever acquired by the park.

Activities permitted in Recreation Areas applicable to Fort Worden State Park include filming/special events and metal detecting. The Commission has not included Fort Worden State Park as a site suitable for metal detecting through its statewide program of designating sites for this purpose. The Commission therefore currently does not permit metal detecting at Fort Worden State Park. Activities conditionally permitted in Recreation Areas under the land classification system do not apply to Recreation Areas recommended for Fort Worden State Park.

Resource Recreation Areas

Areas within the original military reservation south of the developed Garrison, upper campground, and Artillery Hill, while still a significant cultural landscape, contribute to the integrity of the historic district primarily through their lightly developed state and the visual separation they provide between the park and contemporary development outside. Staff recommends that the Commission classify these areas as Resource Recreation Area to allow existing hiking and cycling trail activities to continue and to retain them in their existing, lightly developed state.

Chinese Gardens, acquired by Washington State Parks separately outside of the military reservation, includes cleared meadow and pond between the original south military reservation boundary and residential lots along Kuhn Street. The area currently includes vault toilets, primitive parking area, trails, and interpretive signing. This area should be classified as Resource Recreation Area to permit existing trail and informal picnic activities

to continue while limiting additional development to that consistent with preservation of cultural landscapes and natural features.

Beaches and tidelands fronting park provide an extremely popular recreation attraction. Visitors access these areas on foot from upland parking areas and by private boats – both hand propelled and powered – to beach comb, picnic, fly kites, play Frisbee, and enjoy other traditional beach activities. During the summer season, large numbers of people use the park’s beaches. In some locations, particularly on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, visitors harvest algae for personal consumption. Beaches and tidelands also form an important element of the Fort’s historic cultural landscape, providing the coastal marine context to the site’s military fortifications, supporting garrison post, and the Point Wilson lighthouse complex. Staff recommends that the Commission classify tidelands, with the exception of the Wharf and boat launch area as Resource Recreation Area, to permit existing uses in these areas to continue.

Activities Permitted in Resource Recreation Areas, by land classification include:

- Filming/Special Events
- Harvesting (fruits, mushrooms, algae, fish, and shellfish)
- Haying
- Metal Detecting
- Orienteering
- Off-Trail Hiking
- Paragliding
- Water: Kayaking/Canoeing
- Water: Sailing
- Water: Swimming

As indicated earlier, the Commission currently does not permit metal detecting at Fort Worden through other Commission action. Activities conditionally permitted in Resource Recreation Areas include:

- Farming/orchards
- Grazing
- Off-Trail Equestrian
- Off-Trail Cycling
- Water: Jet Skiing
- Water: Power Boating
- Water: Skiing
- Water: Wind Surfing

Of these conditional uses, staff recommends the Commission only approve power boating and wind surfing activities in saltwater shoreline/tideland Resource Recreation Areas at Fort Worden. Power boating should not be permitted in the Chinese Gardens pond.

Long-Term Park Boundary

The purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the vision and goals of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Including a privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that it would be in the park’s best interest if the property were managed in a condition that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply:

The agency might

- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal.
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features.
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property.
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee.

Staff recommends that the following properties be included within the park's long-term boundary:

- North Beach County Park.
- Barrymore property adjacent to Chinese Gardens.
- Port of Port Townsend tidelands along Admiralty Inlet
- Other State Department of Natural Resources tidelands fronting park ownership
- Point Wilson Lighthouse Reservation

The properties listed above would only be acquired if the current owners desire to divest these holdings. Washington State Parks should approach acquisition of properties identified on a willing seller basis. Note: Ownership of tidelands and harbor lands fronting the park is a complex assemblage of ownership by The State Department of Natural Resources, the US Coast Guard, Port of Port Townsend, and State Parks. Figure 1 shows tidelands and harbor lands that staff recommends the Commission include in park's long-term boundary. Some tideland properties within the long-term boundary are already under agency ownership, but are not shown separately to retain clarity of the map.

Appendix 6

Land Classification System Overview and Management Guidelines

Electronic version available for download at: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/ftworden/>

Hard copy available on request only. Contact Nata Hurst, Washington State Parks Planning and Research Program, P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504-2650, call (360) 902-8638, or E-mail: nata.hurst@parks.wa.gov

Appendix 7

Public Comment

Hard copy available on request only. Contact Nata Hurst, Washington State Parks Planning and Research Program, P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504-2650, call (360) 902-8638, or E-mail: nata.hurst@parks.wa.gov