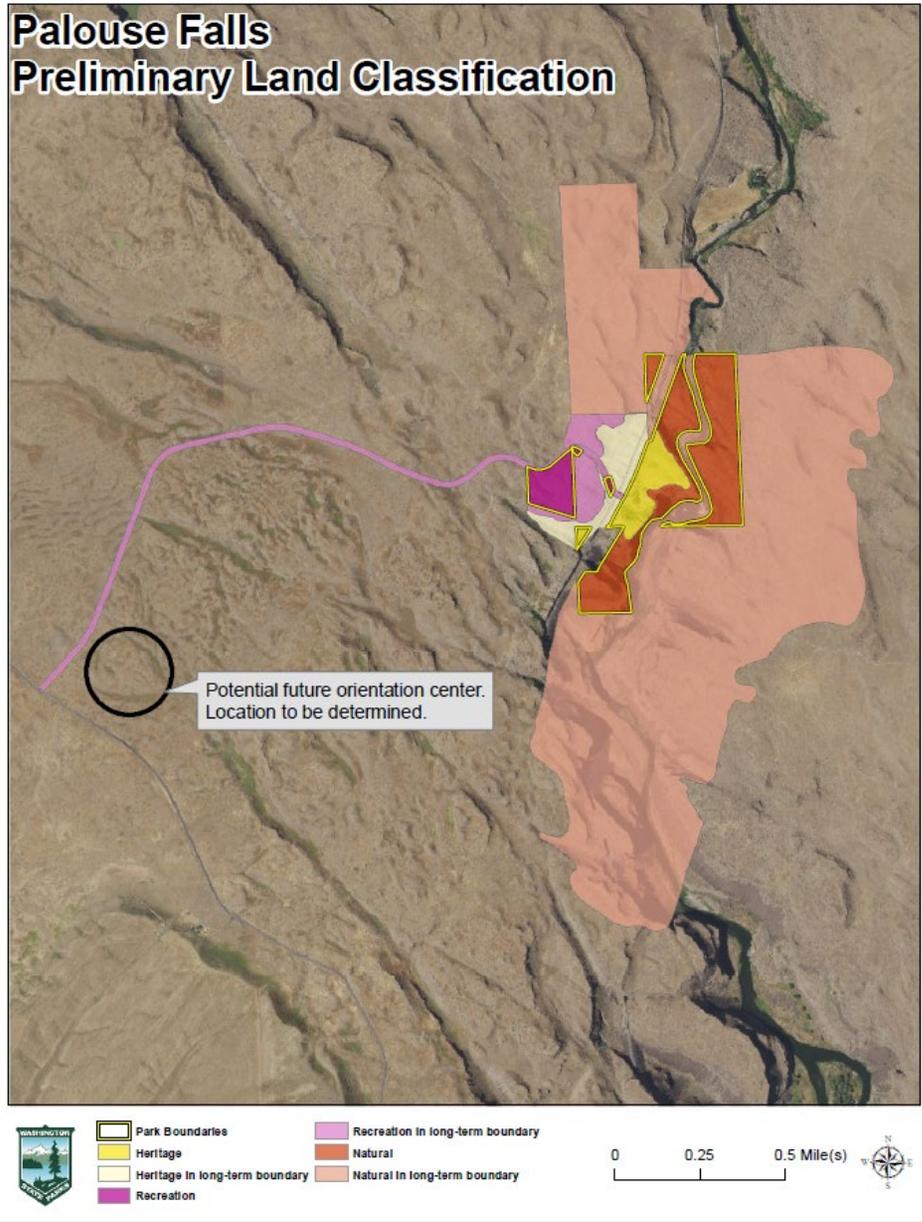
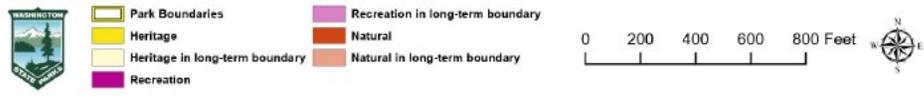


Palouse Falls, Lyons Ferry, Lewis and Clark Trail State Parks CAMP- Preliminary Recommendation
Palouse Falls State Park Description and Recreation Activity Table – September 21, 2021





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Background

Palouse Falls State Park is 94-acre park located in both Franklin and Whitman Counties. The Park is approximately 94 acres and is known for its amazing view of the falls, picnicking and birding. The Park offers a remote experience. There is no phone service at the park, and staff and volunteer hosts are not always available.

Park Features

Palouse Falls State Park offers three distinct views of the falls. The lower viewpoint provides a direct view; it is reached by a set of steps from the main day-use area adjacent to the parking lot. The second, at the end of a paved interpretive path, tells the story of the secluded canyon. Both the interpretive path and gravel secondary parking area lead to the third and highest viewpoint, the Fryxell Overlook, offering panoramic views of the falls and Palouse River Canyon. Parking at Palouse Falls is limited. The Park has picnicking opportunities and a vault toilet.

Historical Information

The Palouse River runs through a narrow cataract and drops 200 feet to a churning bowl. From there, the current moves swiftly, through a winding gorge of columnar basalt, to its southern end at the mighty Snake River. Carved more than 13,000 years ago, Palouse Falls is among the last active waterfalls on the Ice Age floods path. This natural wonder was named Washington's state waterfall in 2014, when the state Legislature passed a bill written by local schoolchildren, who advocated for the designation.

Palouse Falls State Park Preliminary Recommendation

The Preliminary Recommendation includes elements and features from all three of the alternative approaches explored in the Classification and Management Planning process. The overall intent of the preliminary recommendation is to provide park visitors with a day-use experience that encapsulates the awe-inspiring power and beauty of the falls in a peaceful, serene way while protecting the naturally and culturally rich environment that this unique state park offers. To protect the recreational experience and the resources at the park, visitors will be asked to get a permit in advance of their arrival.

The *Natural Areas* classification recognizes the natural significance of the shrub-steppe habitat and allows for restoration activities, along with limited public access by trails, where appropriate. The intent of the proposed *Long-Term Boundary-Natural Area* is for viewshed protection for visitor experience within the park at the various viewpoints. The *Recreation* classification and *Long-Term Boundary-Recreation* classification allows for the highest intensity use within the park. This area could be used for parking expansion along with the option of adding amenities to support visitor experience while at the park such as a comfort station, trails, viewpoints, and interpretation, all located west of the railroad tracks. Lastly, the areas encompassing the existing developed footprint of the park, the bluff overlooking the top of the falls, and the area extending west of the railroad tracks are classified *Heritage* and *Long-Term Boundary-Heritage*. *Heritage* classification is used when preserving, restoring or interpreting areas of statewide or national significance. The classification highlights the significance of the park and landscape, being a Traditional Cultural Property, to many Native American Tribes. In this area there will be limited opportunities for expanding and improving

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facilities for visitor appreciation, recreation, and education. Hiking, picnicking, interpretive activities, wildlife, and scenic viewing are the primary recreation opportunities here with planned safety improvements in the day-use area.

Area	Land Class	Recreation Activities	Conditional Recreation Activities	Questions/Comments
Franklin County owned 5-mile unpaved gravel road-provides access to the park from Hwy 261	Long-Term Boundary -Recreation	Vehicular access Parking Vehicular turnaround Site of future orientation center	N/A	Welcoming/orientation center to provide safety messaging, interpretive opportunities, discover pass, etc.
West of railroad tracks and park	Recreation and Long-Term Boundary - Recreation	Vehicular and RV parking Comfort station - flush Trails Scenic viewpoints	N/A	
Existing developed area of the park (includes the existing parking, day use, comfort stations, viewpoints, etc.) and the bluff	Heritage	Day-use only Parking Interpretation Viewpoints Picnicking Comfort Station/s Pathways Trail development on bluff with viewpoints No off-trail use on bluff	Paved Parking and Roads Day-use Picnicking Comfort Stations Irrigation	
Remaining lands surrounding the park	Natural Area		N/A	

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Area	Land Class	Recreation Activities	Conditional Recreation Activities	Questions/Comments
to north, east, and south including upper falls, top of the falls, base of the canyon, lands adjacent to the Palouse River		Limited public access-north side of park to the upper falls by <u>permit only</u> or <u>guided tour</u> No public access-south side of park		
Long-Term Boundary-Natural Area	Long-Term Boundary-Natural Area	Viewshed protection	N/A	The LTB extends north, east, and south of the park and was determined by a viewshed analysis in GIS at the three main developed viewpoints within the park