Welcome to Saint Edward State Park, a day-use park with sprawling lawns and forested trails, all set around impressive, Romanesque Revival-style brick buildings of a former Catholic Seminary. Situated in Kenmore, the park is a quiet haven in the midst of the urban bustle. At Saint Edward, you’ll find a pleasant picnic area, well-groomed trails through the woods to the shore of Lake Washington and a charming garden alcove for reflection.

Saint Edward State Park is the largest remaining undeveloped area on Lake Washington. Those who take the time to hike the trails may enjoy 3,000 feet of shoreline and many species of birds, animals, plants and trees, including Douglas fir, Western hemlock, red alder, bigleaf maple, Western red cedar and Pacific madrone.

The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

• Annual pass: $30   • One-day pass: $10
(transaction and dealer fees may apply)

The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov or call (866) 320-9933.

Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.
A place for fun
Small, casual groups of users are welcome anytime to use the picnic areas. Groups of more than 20 people should contact the park manager for reservations.

Mountain biking is a popular activity at Saint Edward, where a labyrinth of trails take visitors through a lush forest to the shores of Lake Washington. Many trails are available for use by mountain bikers, while others are restricted to hiking only, for the safety of park guests.

A place for memories
Saint Edward Grotto, a secluded garden alcove once used by priests at the seminary, makes a serene and beautiful setting for a wedding or memorial service. Those who stroll under the canopy of trees into the Grotto will find a rock altar which may be used in wedding or other intimate services for up to 120 people. Visitors may arrange for catering outdoors. Picnic areas and restrooms are nearby. To reserve the Grotto, call the park manager at (425) 455-7010 ext. 105 or the Telephone Device for the Deaf at (253) 931-6345. The Grand Dining Hall is not currently available for rental.

A place of history
Saint Edward State Park sits on Lake Washington, on the traditional territory of several Native American tribes. The 1830s brought disease to the area and the native population was severely diminished. A canal created between 1911 and 1916 linked Lake Washington to Seattle and Lake Union, causing the lake’s water levels to drop 9 feet, further decimating native populations. The area was used for logging and, after the land had been cleared, for farming.

Saint Edward Seminary was the vision of Seattle’s first bishop, Edward O’Dea, who successfully moved the Northwest’s Catholic Diocese from Vancouver to Seattle. By 1876 the Northwest had 46 Catholic churches and fewer than 20 priests. Recognizing a need, O’Dea dedicated his life and much of his personal wealth to the establishment of a seminary.

During the Great Depression, he raised $100,000 to build the seminary, and the diocese secured a loan for $200,000, a remarkable feat at the time. He hired renowned Seattle architect John Graham to design the building and site, which was completed between February and September of 1931. The seminary was blessed by the pope, and it soon grew from a six-year “minor” seminary to a 12-year “major” seminary. Saint Edward was the first fully-accredited seminary in the United States. The school outgrew its capacity and required outbuildings to be constructed over the years.

Saint Edward closed in 1976 due to declining enrollment and State Parks acquired the building and site in 1977. Several of the later buildings were acquired by Bastyr College in 2005. A recent agreement between State Parks and Daniels Realty will allow for the seminary building’s restoration.