



## NORTH LOOP

This trail is on much more stable soil and is, therefore, not subject to the same erosion issues as the beach loop trail. Some portions are quite steep, but the trail provides excellent views of Cutts Island and Henderson Bay. There are several good examples of pistol butt trees resulting in some interesting shapes.



## MIDDLE LOOP

Like the north loop trail, this trail is also on stable soil and does not have the same drainage issues as the beach loop trail. It links with the former campground trail. It is mostly flat with some gently sloping areas.



## UPPER CAMPGROUND LOOP

The existing asphalt-paved surface of the former campground loop road is gradually being obscured by moss. Nevertheless, it still provides a suitable walking surface: the majority of the trail is less than 5% slope and could be considered wheelchair accessible.

## Sustainability Policy

This policy, enacted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, states that “the Commission hereby directs staff to develop a plan to make Washington State Parks the leading state parks system in the country for sustainability and being green.” Sustainability is defined as an ethic that guides individual and organizational decisions, resulting in the conservation of environmental, economic, and human resources for current and future generations. Being green is defined as following practices and actions that protect the environment and meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of those who come after us to meet their needs. The sustainability policy has been a guiding principle throughout the development of the master plan for Kopachuck State Park.

## Critical Areas Policy

Another guiding principle for the master plan is the critical areas policy which states that “new park facility developments shall not be built in critical areas, except where the theme, character, quality, or other park planning provides overriding justification for development in such areas, and appropriate mitigation can be provided.” That policy advances a vision that will ensure that visitors to state parks will see the park system as an opportunity to appreciate Washington’s cultural and natural heritage. A goal and core value of the Commission is to be recognized for its leadership in outdoor recreation and stewardship of natural and cultural resources. The dual nature of cultural resources and the inseparable union of social and physical qualities lead directly to the three issues central to their management: “1) to discover the significance of meaning of each resource, in part to facilitate decisions regarding their treatment and care; 2) to arrest or slow the rate at which their essential qualities are lost; and 3) to support the use and enjoyment of cultural resources while minimizing negative impacts on them.”



## Classification and Management Plan (CAMP)

In 2009, the classification and management planning project C.A.M.P. was undertaken by State Parks to determine whether Kopachuck and other parks can become consistent with the State Parks and Recreation Commission's vision for parks in the system. Out of an extensive public involvement process that included public workshops, webpage postings, and e-mailed and mail-in public comments, a list of program elements to be included in a facilities concept plan was proposed. Those elements then became the preliminary program for the master planning effort.

Those elements include:

- New Kitchen and Picnic Shelter
- ADA-Compliant Trails
- Improved Access to and from the Water for Boaters
- Playground Equipment
- Interpretive Signs
- Replace the Antiquated Restroom Station
- Parking Lot Improvements
- Design Standards



## Introduction

Development of the master plan was accomplished through an extensive public involvement process that included formation of an ad hoc committee that met regularly, meetings with staff, and presentations to the public. This section describes that process.

## Ad Hoc Committee

A citizen's ad hoc committee was formed at the outset of the master planning process to guide the development of the master plan. This committee included representatives from a wide range of community interest groups:

- Bruce Brown, *Scoutmaster and Firefighter*
- Linda Gough, *Preserve Our Parks*
- Lt. Jerry Lawrence, *Pierce County Sheriffs Department*
- Joyce Murray, *Harbor WildWatch*
- Sherryl Peterson, *Kopachuck Middle School*
- Morgan Scherer, *Washington Water Trails Association*
- Steve Severin, *Park Neighbor*

The committee met a total of seven times between February and May 2014 in order to discuss the specific needs and concerns of their respective interest groups. The goal of these meetings was to formulate a program and the design criteria to help direct the development of the master plan.

## Public Meetings

During the project, two open public meetings were held to solicit feedback from citizens in the community. Citizen input was carefully considered in the different design alternatives and carried through the design process to the final master plan.

At the first public meeting, comments were gathered to formulate and prioritize a program for the park. This input was used in the development of a preliminary master plan which was presented to the public at the second meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING #1 PRESENTATION



DISCUSSION BEFORE PUBLIC MEETING #2 PRESENTATION



## Design Criteria

A list of design criteria was used to guide and evaluate the master plan as it was developed. These criteria were developed using input from the ad hoc committee, feedback from the initial public meeting and comments from staff. The following design criteria were established:

Program Element	Ad Hoc Comments	Public Comments	Staff Comments
Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• matches the rustic/natural feel of the park</li> <li>• capable of holding both small and large groups/events (up to 100 people)</li> <li>• green infrastructure (solar/wind power, etc.)</li> <li>• attached restroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• natural/durable</li> <li>• running water and cooking facilities</li> <li>• minimize tree removal</li> <li>• capable of generating revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in close proximity to parking lot</li> <li>• avoid beach area</li> <li>• capable of generating revenue</li> <li>• capacity: 50-100 people</li> <li>• able to host educational events</li> <li>• remote locking capacity</li> </ul>
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide difficulty and ADA-access signs</li> <li>• design for sloughing and erodible soils</li> <li>• keep rustic</li> <li>• provide rest areas (benches, etc.)</li> <li>• usable as outdoor classroom space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• include trail rating signs</li> <li>• provide for the elderly</li> <li>• provide viewing opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide ADA-compliant beach viewing platform</li> <li>• provide access to/from beach for Marine Trail visitors</li> <li>• eliminate dead-end trails</li> <li>• redo/update existing trails</li> </ul>
Beach Access to/from the Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accommodate car-top launches</li> <li>• add 2 more mooring buoys for a total of 4 buoys</li> <li>• do not allow uncontrolled vehicle access to beach area</li> <li>• address erosion if practical</li> <li>• consider a dock for access</li> <li>• delete proposed boat lockers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide suitable surface on the road to beach</li> <li>• minimize tree removal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accommodate car-top launches</li> <li>• facility must be sustainable and permitable</li> <li>• consider a beach shower</li> </ul>
Playground Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "functional fitness" (exercise equipment with limited moving parts) for adults</li> <li>• situate near day-use facilities</li> <li>• environmental education and fitness rather than traditional playground equipment</li> <li>• make it part of the trail system</li> <li>• use an area of the parking lot for the play area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasize play opportunities in nature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• should be convenient to/from parking</li> <li>• consider natural materials</li> <li>• no current design policy</li> </ul>
Interpretive and Wayfinding Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasize unique features of the park</li> <li>• include directions to activities</li> <li>• include level of access difficulty</li> <li>• move entry sign to park boundary</li> <li>• provide sign for northbound traffic</li> <li>• include a sign for the Cascadia Marine Trail</li> <li>• interactive and changeable spaces for education</li> <li>• communicate stewardship through facility design</li> <li>• preserve the heritage of the park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• include nature, history, root rot explanation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• include Native American history of area</li> <li>• conform to state park policy</li> </ul>
Replace Restroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider relocating to parking lot</li> <li>• consider options such as composting or digesting toilets (not favored by State due to the considerable maintenance required in the past)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rustic feel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be wheelchair-accessible</li> <li>• could be part of a picnic shelter</li> </ul>
Parking Lot Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide strategic lighting</li> <li>• control vehicle access to beach</li> <li>• provide continuous access for police and emergency services to beach area</li> <li>• consider long-term development of the park before reducing the number of stalls</li> <li>• include a bike rack</li> <li>• address drainage issues in the existing parking lot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider reducing size</li> <li>• keep fee low</li> <li>• remove concrete blocks</li> <li>• provide a more appropriate way of separating hazardous areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider reconfiguring the existing parking lot</li> </ul>
Design Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preference for rustic timber designs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keep rustic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all structures should be vandal-resistant</li> <li>• easy to maintain</li> <li>• amenable to rustic character</li> <li>• don't try to make new look old</li> </ul>
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider an amphitheatre</li> <li>• use signs to convey that park is open</li> <li>• minimize tree removal</li> <li>• provide Scout campground</li> </ul>	

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# MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS



Washington State Parks  
KOPACHUCK STATE PARK  
MASTER PLAN  
June 27, 2014

# Access Roads and Parking

## ACCESS ROADS

The current egress from the parking lot has very limited site lines with the two private roads creating a Y-intersection on steep grades. People exiting the park often narrowly avoid hitting vehicles accelerating to get up the grades and through the intersection. School buses occasionally turn around in this semi-blind three way intersection. In order to improve safety and vehicle access into the park, access/egress for the park is being reversed. Park visitors will now enter directly into the parking lot via a new entry point at the end of 56th Street NW. The former entrance will become the exit, giving those exiting the park more adequate sight distance.

## BEACH ACCESS

To improve access to the beach for disabled visitors and those wishing to launch car-top boats, a new remotely-operable gate will be installed near the current gate location. All new gates will be remotely operable and will include cameras for security and monitoring. The existing road is steep and graveled, making it difficult for pushing strollers, pulling kayak trailers, or using wheelchairs. In order to better accommodate visitors to the beach, this road will be paved with either pervious or impervious asphalt. If impervious, water bars will direct surface runoff to the north side of the road but a space approximately 4' wide will remain smooth for walkers, strollers, wheelchairs, and carts. The paved surface will extend to the new restroom and view points. The existing gravel road will continue beyond a second gate to a hammerhead turnaround for emergency vehicles only. Two parking spaces will be provided for temporary parking for car-top launches. This improved water access will likely increase kayaking and canoeing from the park. Two ADA parking spaces adjacent to the new beach restroom will connect on an accessible route to the two scenic viewpoints. These improvements will allow people with disabilities to reach the beach and fully participate with family and friends in enjoying the park and vistas. Service and emergency vehicles will be able to turn around at a new hammerhead near the old restroom site.



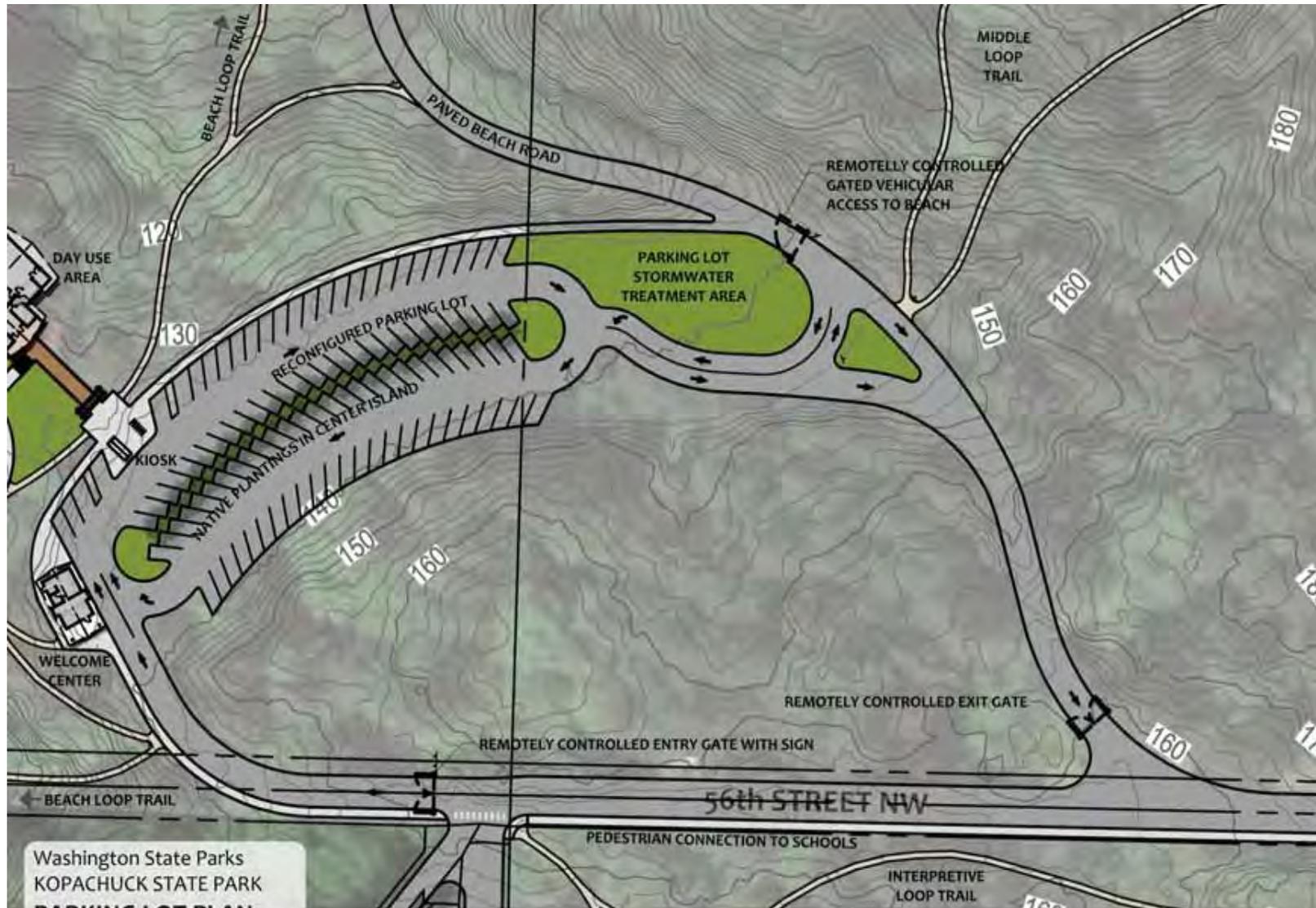
CURRENT PARK EXIT (TO BE RECONFIGURED TO ENTRY)



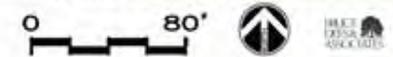
PROPOSED FUTURE PARK ENTRY

## PARKING

Parking will be changed from 90° to 60° parking and circulation will be counter-clockwise, one-way. Changing the entry location will also facilitate the inclusion of a welcome center building immediately inside the park at the south end of the parking lot. This will provide an excellent control point for staff and an information point for visitors, the majority of whom will begin their visit at the day use area. Angled parking will provide an opportunity for native plantings down the center of the lot. The new parking lot will accommodate 107 cars, including four ADA-compliant stalls. Parking at the beach will be for four vehicles, two of which will be ADA/van compliant. The other two stalls are intended to provide temporary parking for car-top launches. A new six car parking lot will be added next to the interpretive trail head along 56th Street NW.

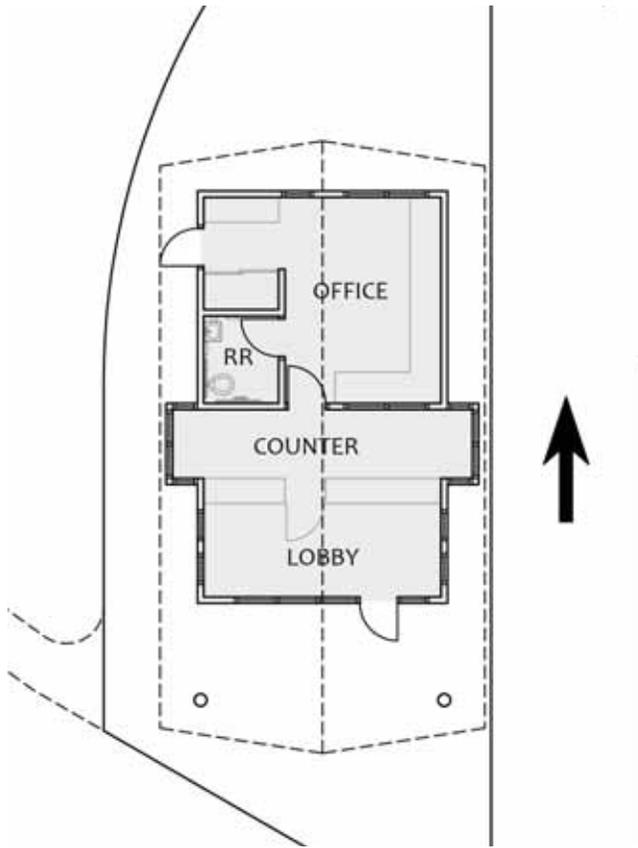


Washington State Parks  
KOPACHUCK STATE PARK  
**PARKING LOT PLAN**  
June 27, 2014



# Upper Day Use Area





## WELCOME CENTER

The new welcome center is intended to be a point of control for park staff and a point of information and communication for visitors to the park. Its purpose is to streamline and simplify for both park staff and visitors the purchase of Discover Passes, provide a main location for visitors to obtain park information, and enhance security in the park. The building will include space for an office, a staff restroom, and a lobby – separated by a counter – for contact with the public. The lobby could also serve as a small store. The building will be rectangular (30' long by 20' wide) with extensions off of the lobby for ranger visibility and communication with park visitors in their vehicles. Architecture will be Northwest Cascadian.



WELCOME CENTER AT OCEAN SHORES

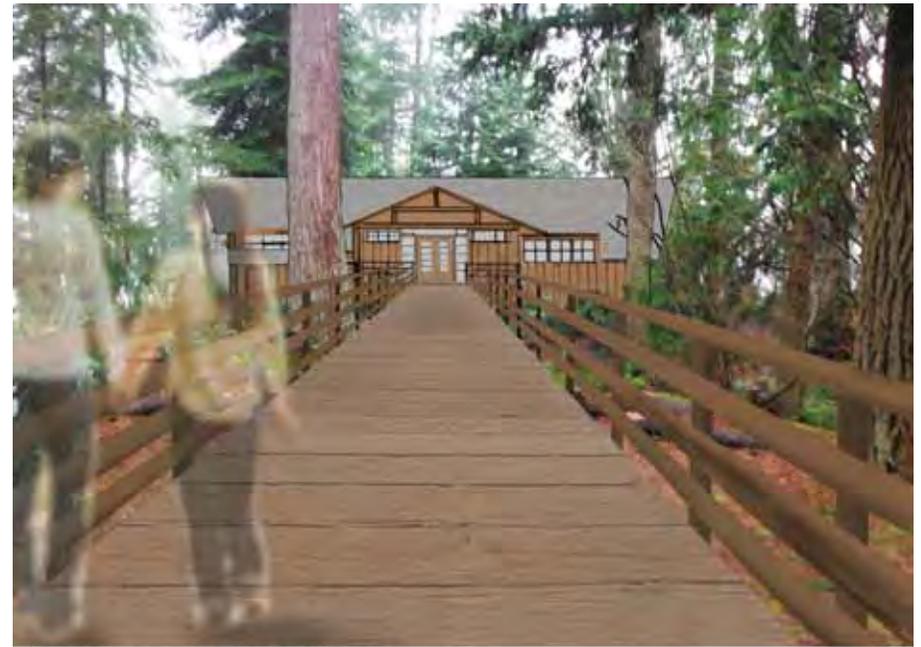
# Upper Day Use Area

## KITCHEN / SHELTER / RESTROOM

The Ad Hoc Committee and public advocated an attractive new picnic shelter that could be enclosed and utilized year round. The public had expressed awareness of the need for generating revenue and felt that a new all-season shelter would be very popular. This building is intended to serve as a picnic and restroom facility for the day use area as well as a multi-use facility for weddings, receptions, meetings, etc.

The building was sited and designed to enhance viewing opportunities of Henderson Bay and the surrounding forest. Scaled to be visually attractive and integrate seamlessly into the site as a whole, this new facility will establish character and quality for the rest of the proposed park improvements. The building will be rectangular (approximately 75' long by 30' wide) and will be oriented east to west to provide water vistas and avoid large trees. In order to accommodate both large and small groups, it will be dividable by folding walls. A small kitchen will occupy one end of the building while an outdoor patio – which will include two large, 20' long serving areas, both equipped with barbeques – will be available for outdoor gathering and cooking. The building doors can be opened up so that people can move easily between indoor and outdoor spaces. Two men's restrooms and two women's restrooms will serve the interior of the building and two unisex restrooms (accessible from the exterior of the building) will serve the picnic area.

Unlike all of the existing shelters, this new building will be fully accessible for people with disabilities. The new building will be accessible via a walk bridging the elevation changes between the parking lot and shelter, passing but not impacting the large Douglas fir tree near the building. The bridge will ensure ADA access in an area of challenging site topography and provide a fun and exciting tree walk for visitors and educational programs. During construction, efforts will be made to protect the area around the tree from compaction. Small trees within the building footprint will be removed. The building will be set back 40' from the head scarp as recommended by the geotechnical study, but visitors will be able to use the space between the head scarp and building as a gathering space. The existing small shelter will be relocated to a view point and covered picnic spot south of the building. After the building is constructed, visual access to the water should be analyzed. Limbing of trees to maintain visual access of water will likely be needed.



KOPACHUCK STATE PARK - KITCHEN / SHELTER PERSPECTIVE



POTENTIAL VIEW FROM PROPOSED STRUCTURE



SOUTH ELEVATION



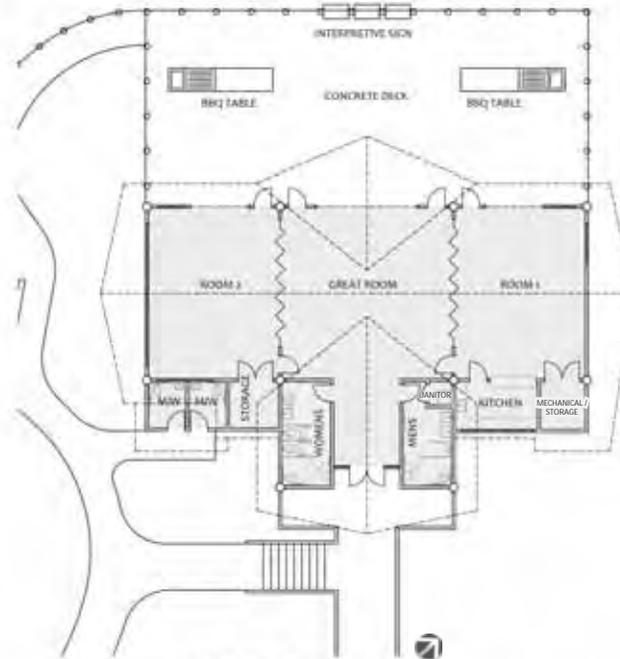
NORTH ELEVATION



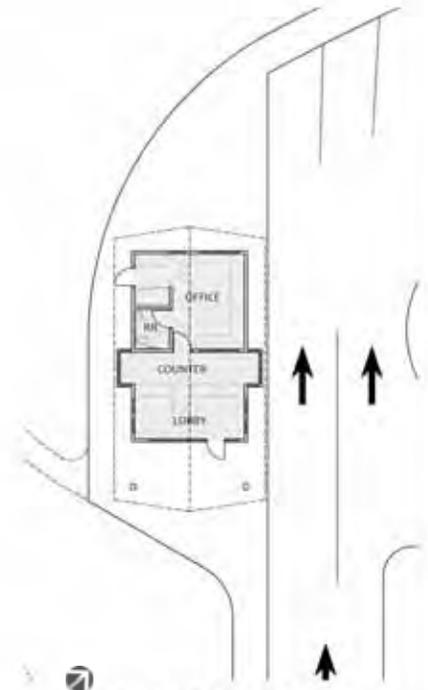
WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



KITCHEN / SHELTER PLAN



WELCOME CENTER PLAN



Washington State Parks  
 KOPACHUCK STATE PARK  
**KITCHEN / SHELTER PLAN AND ELEVATIONS**  
 June 27, 2014

## Upper Day Use Area

### CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The C.A.M.P. study identified a need for a children's play area but there was mixed support for this from the public and ad hoc committee. Those against the idea of a play area viewed the entire park as a play area in and of itself and, therefore, thought that manufactured play equipment was both unnecessary and undesirable. Those in favor of a children's play area, however, noted that a play area would attract more people with children to the park and be appreciated during special events in the new shelter and amphitheater. In response to the thoughts and concerns expressed by both groups, a compromise was reached that will add a children's play area, comprised solely of play structures in harmony with the rustic character of the rest of the park (i.e. primarily natural wood structures). The site, at the south end of the picnic area, will be fenced and in clear view of the new building and entire picnic area.



### OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER

A new outdoor amphitheater with seating for approximately fifty people will be located at the northwest corner of the picnic area and oriented to the south and east. The amphitheater is to serve as an outdoor classroom and a space for small weddings, social gatherings, and other events. The intention is that the amphitheater can be reserved either separately or in conjunction with the shelter. These new multipurpose facilities will attract and serve both organized group events and smaller, more casual recreation (e.g. family picnics). A central fire ring that can serve as a small stage is recommended. To avoid conflict with neighboring properties and to reduce impacts to wildlife, the ad hoc committee did not recommend electronic amplification systems or night lighting.





## PICNIC AREA

An ADA-compliant walk will provide access from the parking lot to the existing picnic area. The same walk will provide access from the south end of the picnic area to the relocated picnic and view point. The west side of the site adjacent to the head scarp will be fenced using a three rail fence with black mesh to prevent small children from venturing beyond. The picnic area will continue to be available to individuals as well as groups.



## VIEW POINT

A new viewpoint, located at the southwest corner of the day picnic area, will afford good views of the water. This site replaces the viewpoint/picnic shelter displaced by the kitchen/shelter, but provides the same unique promontory and solitary picnicking spot. The shelter will be constructed on a concrete pad accessible via the ADA-accessible walk serving the picnic area. This is an excellent location for interpretative story point signs. Carefully selected and limited pruning of trees may be done to improve visibility of the water.

# Beach Area

## IMPROVED BEACH ACCESS

A key program element from the C.A.M.P. study is improved access from the water to land for boaters. Direct access to the beach will be across from the new restroom and ADA parking. This location along the hillside was chosen because of its stability and therefore, the capital investment and public safety protection that it offers.

A viewpoint deck will incorporate the kiosk and three existing interpretive signs. Elevated structures will protect hillside vegetation, increase sightseeing capabilities, and provide ADA access which, due to challenging topography, is currently unavailable at Kopachuck and many other shoreline parks on Puget Sound. From the upper viewpoint deck, a grated ADA-accessible ramp will lead to a lower viewpoint deck which will also include interpretive signs. The existing nearby stair access to the beach will be replaced by extending the back shore to create a pocket beach. The pocket beach will extend landward at its current slope (approximately 4:1 beyond the backshore). This will afford direct access to the beach for all park users. There will be no stairs or bank. Drift logs will occur on their own.

This location was selected due to the higher elevation of the existing beach area. The improvement will provide direct access to the beach in a protected area. Existing picnic tables and facilities will be relocated to the back of the expanded beach. Due to their popularity and excellent views, the existing picnic areas to the south will remain as is for as long as bank erosion allows. A future phase may include the construction of an additional pocket beach to serve increasing visitation.

## CASCADIA MARINE TRAIL CAMPSITE

The existing Cascadia Marine Trail campsite will be relocated to the north side of the new pocket beach for the convenience of those using the Cascadia Marine Trail. It will be a defined area with a picnic table and space for a tent. The existing kayak storage rack will be relocated to the new site.

## RESTROOM

This building will include two ADA-compliant unisex restrooms, an outdoor rinsing shower, and a small custodial storage area. It will have adjacent parking and direct access to two viewpoints.

## ADA-ACCESSIBLE VIEWING DECKS

Two viewpoints with connecting ramps, all bordered with wood railing, afford excellent views and interpretation. The existing three-sided kiosk will be retained.

## CUTTS ISLAND

In an effort to protect its cultural and natural resources, Cutts Island is managed by the state and is to remain natural and undeveloped. Plans are currently underway for additional signage at Cutts Island to reinforce that camping and fires are not allowed. The eight existing buoys at Cutts Island will remain. No other improvements are proposed.

## MOORING BUOYS

Mooring buoys are in high demand on Puget Sound. The two existing buoys just off the park's shoreline were recently replaced and an additional two buoys will be added within park waters for a total of four mooring buoys.

VIEW OF THE BEACH

