

# STATE PARKS' 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND  
RECREATION COMMISSION



**+ 40 million**

\*Annual Visitors



**+ 10,000**

Full-time & seasonal  
jobs supported



**+ \$1.6 billion**

Economic contributions to  
the state



**+ \$116 million**

State & local tax revenue

*\*Represents 2022 data.*

*Other figures represent 2019 data.*



**Funded by  
earned revenue**  
(operating budget)

## Overview

Governor Inslee's budget proposals provide solid support of the Park and Recreation Commission's priorities for the 2024 supplemental session. These investments prioritize the stewardship of natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building relationships with tribal governments and care for historic and recreational facilities.

## OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

### Cost Allocation Adjustment (\$2.3 million GF-S and corresponding decrease in PRSA)

Parks uses earned revenue from the Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account to cover 100% of the agency's central service model charges for statewide services. This request aligns a proportionate share of costs from the state general fund to better reflect the agency's funding sources and provide more support for direct park operations.

### Clean Energy and Climate Adaptation (\$2.1 million Climate Commitment Account/Natural Climate Solutions Account)

Due to the vast number of historic buildings and lands we manage, Parks faces unique challenges for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. Funding is requested to conduct a historic building energy assessment, establish adaptation strategies for the agency's coastal parks that are directly impacted by sea level rise and replace gas-powered lawn mowers and equipment with electric alternatives.

### EV Charging Facilities (\$500,000 Carbon Emissions Reduction Account)

Requested funding will help Parks develop a comprehensive approach for the delivery of a publicly-accessible electric vehicle charging network by assessing infrastructure capacity at our parks and developing cost analyses and an implementation plan.

### Fort Worden Public Development Authority (\$450,000 GF-S)

In 2013, Parks agreed to a 50-year lease with the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center PDA to manage and operate the main campus at the park. The PDA is currently unable to cover the cost of maintaining campus grounds and facilities until a cost recovery plan to fund this work can be developed. Parks will provide the PDA one-time support to offset the cost of grounds and facilities maintenance.

### Assess and Protect Natural Resources (\$550,000 GF-S)

The requested funding will support:

- Ecological integrity assessments that will improve the management of priority ecosystems
- Restoration of sagebrush habitat that was burned by wildfire and an Environmental Impact Statement on the use of a central trail at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park
- Replacement of surveying equipment used for development and maintenance projects

### **Staff Housing Needs (\$500,000 PRSA)**

For many Parks staff, finding affordable housing near their park is a challenge. The agency is having difficulty in recruiting and retaining seasonal positions that support increased visitation during the spring and summer months. Funding will support the purchase of seven housing units in park areas that lack affordable housing options.

---

### **Tribal Relations Support (\$153,000 GF-S)**

Parks is experiencing increasingly complex workloads tied to state agency legal and stewardship obligations with tribal communities. This request funds a permanent position to support the Tribal Relations Director whose primary responsibility is representing the agency and developing working relationships with Washington's 29 federally recognized sovereign tribal nations and other legally recognized tribes.

---

## **CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS**

### **Twin Harbors: Office and Maintenance Planning (\$1.3 million)**

Our coastal office and maintenance facility at Twin Harbors State Park frequently floods, which displaces staff and damages equipment. The requested funding will support the design and permitting of a new facility that will support the entire South Beach area.

---

### **Nisqually State Park: Roundabout (\$3.7 million)**

This funding will provide an enhanced entrance to the newest state park under development by the agency and improve safety for vehicles and RVs entering and exiting State Route 7.

---

### **Fort Flagler Historic Theatre Restoration (\$1.4 million)**

The park's popular World War II Theatre is in danger of collapse. This restoration project will allow the theater to be used as a community meeting space.

---

### **Lake Sammamish Dock Planning (\$250,000)**

The requested funding will support the design and permitting of a boat dock for passenger loading and short-term mooring in this popular urban park's Sunset Beach area.

---

## **LEGISLATION**

### **SB 5902: Reinvesting account revenue for the purpose of supporting the State Park system**

This Commission request legislation requires the proportionate share of interest earnings generated by user fees and other park earned revenue to accrue to these user-based accounts rather than the state general fund. The bill provides additional support for direct park operations and winter recreation by providing the agency flexibility in managing resources.

---

### **HB 1997: Concerning gubernatorial appointments for the State Parks and Recreation Commission**

This Commission request legislation provides direction to the Governor when making appointments to the Parks Commission. The bill establishes that appointees should be from different regions of the state and represent the diversity of Washington through a variety of lived experiences.

---



#### **Contact Information**

**Owen Rowe, Policy and Governmental Affairs Director**  
360-701-5326 | [owen.rowe@parks.wa.gov](mailto:owen.rowe@parks.wa.gov)