



PARK RULES & REGULATIONS

The following is an overview of the most frequently asked about rules and regulations governing the public use of Washington State Parks. A full list of park rules and regulations can be found in the complete [park rules publication \(PDF\)](#) or [Chapter 352-32 WAC](#). As a volunteer and representative of State Parks, it is imperative that you understand and follow State Parks' rules and regulations and set a good example for visitors. Being familiar with the rules and regulations will also help you explain them when asked or when you see a violation.

Ask your supervisor at each park which rules are an emphasis for the area. Certain rules are higher priorities in different parks. Always make sure the verbal and written information you give visitors is up-to-date, accurate, and provided or approved by the park manager. This may prevent any misunderstandings if a situation or violation should occur. Don't ever be hesitant to let visitors know that you are not sure of a rule. Ask your supervisor. You will know the information next time.

IMPORTANT: Volunteers are prohibited from enforcing rules, regulations, and laws and should not engage with a visitor that is agitated or approach a visitor more than once about the same rule. Your role is to educate and inform, such as letting a camper know that gathering firewood is not allowed or informing them of the requirement to keep pets on a leash. Any violations, illegal activity, or emergencies observed by volunteers or visitors should be reported using appropriate methods of communication (e.g., radioing the Park Ranger, calling 911, calling non-emergency police number, etc.).

Alcohol and Drugs

All state laws regarding alcohol apply in State Parks. In addition, possessing alcoholic beverages or consuming alcoholic beverages in any state park is prohibited except in the following designated areas and under the following circumstances:

- In designated campsites or other overnight accommodations by registered occupants or their guests.
- In designated picnic areas and sites where picnic tables, benches, fireplaces, and/or outdoor kitchens are available.
- In any reservable group day use facility by authorized groups that have paid the reservation fee and applicable damage deposit and obtained prior permit authorization to have alcohol by the park manager.

- In any building, facility or park area operated and maintained by an approved and licensed concessionaire.

Kegs or containers larger than two gallons are not permitted without prior written park manager approval. Being, remaining in or loitering in any state park area while in a state of intoxication is prohibited.

Recreational use of marijuana is prohibited in public places, including Washington state parks.

Bicycles

Bicycles, tricycles, rollerblades, skateboards, or similar operator-propelled equipment are allowed in state parks but are restricted to roads and trails. Riders are to obey all regulatory signs, and all devices must be operated in a safe manner.

Camping

State Parks camping facilities are designed and administered specifically to provide recreational opportunities for park visitors. Use of park facilities for purposes which are of a nonrecreational nature, such as long-term residency at park facilities, obstructs opportunities for recreational use, and is inconsistent with the purposes for which those facilities were designed.

- Camping is only allowed in areas specifically designated and/or marked for that purpose.
- Campground check-in begins at 2:30 p.m. Check-out is at 1:00 p.m.
- Campsites cannot be held for someone who might arrive later.
- Continuous occupancy by the same camping party is limited:
 - From **April 1 through September 30**, the maximum length of stay for the entire camping party in any one park is 10 nights, after which the camping party must vacate the park for three consecutive nights. The park ranger has the discretion to extend the maximum stay to 14 consecutive nights if the campground is not fully occupied.
 - From **October 1 through March 31**, the maximum length of stay is 20 consecutive nights in one park, after which the camping party must vacate the park for three consecutive nights. Campers cannot exceed a total of 40 days in a 60-day period.
- A maximum of eight people is permitted at a campsite overnight.
- The number of tents allowed at each campsite is limited to the number that will fit on the developed tent pad or designated area as determined by a ranger.
- The number of vehicles occupying a campsite is limited to one car or one recreational vehicle (i.e., a vehicle/trailer unit, van, pickup truck with camper, motor home, converted bus, or any similar type of vehicle that contains sleeping and/or housekeeping accommodations). One additional vehicle without built-in sleeping accommodations may be allowed to occupy a campsite based on the judgement of a ranger; however, all additional overnight vehicles are considered extra vehicles and are subject to an overnight vehicle fee of \$10. Ask your supervisor how the park handles

additional vehicles; individual park rules will dictate whether they can park in the main campsite, or if they will need to park in extra vehicle parking areas or lots.

Collection of Firewood

Collecting firewood is prohibited within the park area. Exceptions may be made for pre-approved beach and park areas with excessive down and dead tree materials. Park managers may issue firewood permits for a fee so park users can collect excess debris in these designated areas during a specific window of time.

Feeding of Wildlife

No person shall intentionally feed, attract, or artificially sustain wildlife in state park areas. The feeding of indigenous wildlife is prohibited in all state park areas unless otherwise posted.

Firearms or Other Weapons

All state laws regarding firearms apply in State parks. Open carry is legal in the state of Washington. It is legal to carry a concealed firearm while engaging in lawful recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking or horseback riding or traveling to legitimate outdoor recreation areas. Some state parks abut areas that allow hunting access, and it is legal to traverse through a state park in order to hunt in a legal area. However, no person shall discharge a firearm across, in, or into any state park area.

No person shall display or discharge a bow and arrow, spear, spear gun, harpoon, or air or gas weapon, or any device capable of injuring or killing any person or animal, or damaging or destroying any property, except where specifically authorized by the agency.

Fires and Campfires

All fires, except campfires, fires for stoves, candles, torches, barbeques, and charcoal are prohibited in state parks. Campfires are restricted to within the designated campfire pit, ring or other provided campfire enclosure and the flame must be no higher than two feet. On ocean beaches, recreational fires must be at least 100 feet from the dunes, no more than four feet in diameter and no more than four feet high. Park rangers may impose additional restrictions on fires for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public, park visitors or staff, or for the protection of park resources.

Fireworks

Fireworks are prohibited on all state public lands, including state parks and beaches that front state park lands. This includes firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets, fireworks, explosives, or substance harmful to the life of safety of persons or property.

Geocache

In order to place a cache on state parks property, an individual or organization must obtain a geocache placement permit from state parks. Any cache located on state parks property that does not have a permit on file is subject to removal.

Metal Detectors

Use of metal detectors is allowed within selected state parks and under certain conditions. Use is permitted only within specified portions of approved state parks and limited to daylight hours. Maps of approved metal detecting areas are located on park bulletin boards. Any person wishing to use a metal detector must self-register and indicate to personnel where the use will occur.

Persons operating metal detectors should conduct themselves with thoughtfulness, courtesy, and consideration of others, and not interfere with other recreational activities. Metal detectors may not emit a sound audible to other park users. Destruction or disturbance of park facilities, natural features, or historical or archaeological resources is not permitted. Items that appear to be of historical or archaeological significance cannot be removed and any such items found must immediately be reported to park personnel, and the area should not be disturbed further. Users must properly dispose of found or recovered trash.

Park Hours

Park hours vary depending on weather and season. However, all day-use areas close at dusk. Park hours are posted at the park entrance and at the park office. No person may enter or be present in a state park area after the posted closing time except for currently registered campers who are camping at the park. Guests of a currently registered camper may enter and remain until 10:00 p.m.

Peace and Quiet

To ensure peace and quiet for park visitors, no person shall at any time, use sound-emitting equipment including musical instruments, at a volume which emits sound beyond the user's vehicle, immediate area of use, or campsite without specific permission of the park ranger. Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. and engine-driven electric generators may only be operated between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted at the park.

Pets and Animals

Pets are allowed in most state parks but must be under physical control on a leash no more than eight feet long, or otherwise physically restrained, at all times. Except for assistance animals for persons with disabilities, pets are not permitted on designated swimming beaches or in natural preserve areas. Pets are allowed inside designated pet-friendly vacation houses, yurts, and cabins.

Horses, llamas, sled dogs or similar animals for recreation are allowed only where designated and posted specifically permit such activity. They are not allowed in any designated swimming areas, picnic areas, or natural area preserves but are allowed in designated horse or pack-oriented camping areas.

Pets or other animals may not be allowed to:

- Dig or otherwise disturb natural/cultural features.
- Bite or in any way molest or annoy other park visitors.
- Bark or otherwise disturb the peace and tranquility of the park.

Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. Pet waste is to be placed in a plastic or paper bag and deposited in garbage cans. Any person bringing in a horse, llama, sled dog or similar animal shall clean up animal feces in parking lots, trailheads and other central locations used by park visitors.

Rubbish

No person shall leave, deposit, drop, or scatter bottles, broken glass, ashes (except human crematory ashes), wastepaper, cans, or other rubbish, in a state park area, except in a garbage can or other receptacle designated for such purposes. Additionally, no person shall deposit any household or commercial garbage, refuse, waste, or rubbish, which is brought as such from any private property, in any state park area garbage can or other receptacle designed for such purpose.

Sanitation

Visitors must use designated disposal areas or receptacles for dumping refuse and waste from any trailer, camper, car or other vehicle or vessel. In addition, the following activities are only allowed, in designated areas: cleaning fish or food, washing clothing or other items for personal or household use, or any dog or other animals; or cleaning or washing any automobiles or other vehicles.

Self-registration

In parks that have posted self-registration information, park visitors shall register for the use of facilities and shall pay the appropriate fee upon arrival in accordance with all posted instructions.

Solicitation

Only permitted concessionaires or authorized cooperating associations, such as Friends Groups, are allowed to sell any services, goods, wares, merchandise or food and drinks in any state park area.

Use of Remote Controlled Aircraft and Drones

Washington State Parks allows the use of remote controlled aircraft, also known as drones or unmanned aircraft systems, on a limited basis and permits are required for each instance of their use. Remote controlled aircraft may be permitted on a single occurrence or limited duration basis and permittees are required to comply with all state and federal rules and regulations, including the Federal Aviation Administration guidelines on use of drones.