

FINAL MASTER PLAN



Final Master Plan - Components of the Master Plan

The Final Master Plan improvements heighten the recreational experience of the Dungeness Recreational Area(DRA) by expanding some recreational opportunities while preserving the current quality of the site. The addition of the entry contact station and the realignment of Voice of America Road facilitates improved circulation within the DRA, further improvements enhance existing camping facilities, serve new yurt/bicycle campgrounds, expand group picnic and camping areas, and extend trail networks. Restoration of the natural environment and valuable habitat will further enrich the camping and day use experience. Coordination between USFWS and DRA at a shared contact station will eliminate confusion and foster better communication with visitors. With these improvements to DRA, the hunting program is no longer compatible and will be phased out within the next five years as components of the master plan are phased in.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative(Figure 19 and 33) reflects decisions made by Clallam County in response to previous meetings, interviews, surveys and the feedback from the public at the meeting held on October 10, 2007 regarding the alternatives presented at that meeting. This plan combines elements of both Alternative A and B reflecting the general concept of improving and expanding facilities to accommodate regional recreational uses while limiting certain other uses to retain the local character of the park.



Figure 19: Final Master Plan

Components

Road and Parking Improvements

Major and minor road improvements will occur in response to an increase in use and the need for safety at the park. The major improvements include the relocation of Voice of America Road at least 200 feet away from the bluff (Figure 20) and the addition of a large traffic circle at the entry contact station (Figure 26). Voice of America will require widening to accommodate present day use, RV vehicles passing in opposite direction and consideration of a shoulder area for bikes coming in off the main road. The widening will continue all the way to the refuge parking lot at the Northeast corner of the site. A width of 28 ft, two 10 foot lanes with two 4 foot shoulders, is recommended for Voice of America Road (Figure 21). Other road and parking improvements include:

- Improvements to road surface in both camp ground loops
- Additional roadway for the group campground and yurt campground (at the time these components are phased in).



Figure 20. Road Realignment

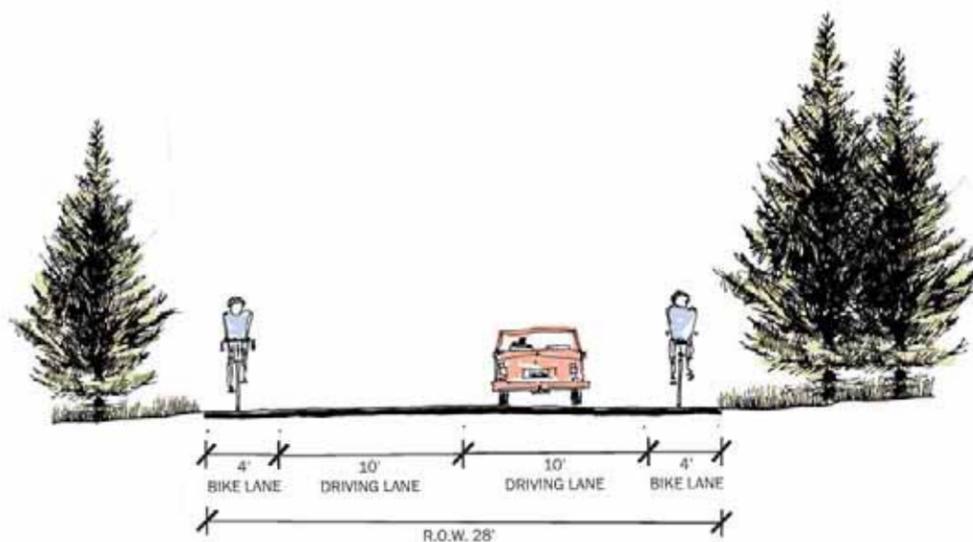


Figure 21. Voice of America Road

- Day use parking areas at the quarry site, near realigned bluff road, and at DNWR entry
- Campground overflow and day-use parking at quarry site.

Camping

The existing campground will be upgraded adding paved campsite pads in Loop A & B, and electric hook ups to Loop B (eastern loop). Several sites will be expanded to allow for either tent camping or RV camping. These improvements will provide better accommodations for camping while minimizing additional development or disturbance to the park. The restrooms in both Loop A and B have been recently replaced and Clallam County will utilize them for the next 20 years to retain their investment. They are sized for the present loops and are functioning well.



Figure 22. Concept Alternative Thumbnail

The group camping and picnic area (Figure 27) will be the first component added to the camping program. The existing group camp area is well utilized. The current facilities will be upgraded with power and water, parking, and clearing to make a larger camping/picnic area. A loop road around the perimeter of the group area provides a versatile camping experience for both car and RV campers.

Entry Contact Station (Figure 26)

The new USFWS Visitor Center was a major catalyst in initiating the development of the master plan for the Dungeness Recreational Area. The desire for some combination of services and resolution to issues of public awareness of the County Park vs. the National Refuge Area resulted in the following proposal;

- A shared entry contact station in or near the location of the current quarry site. USFWS personnel could staff this station on occasion and could function as a common point for disseminating information and the collection of relevant fees.
- This shared entry station could be incorporated with a combined maintenance site also located at the quarry site. The County and USFWS currently share equipment and both would benefit from sharing such a facility.

Figure 26 illustrates the concept of shared point of contact for visitors where necessary information regarding fees, rules and regulations covering both County and National Wildlife Refuge facilities would be available. The advantages inherent in such an arrangement convinced the County the concept was worth retaining.

The jointly-operated Contact Station will provide visitor information, camping registration, camping reservations and other services for visitors. The contact station will be completed in multiple phases. Therefore, the existing camp registration booth, located near the existing camp loops will remain until the completion of the contact station. Phase one will include construction of the center traffic circle with underground utilities for the future contact station, the day use parking areas, and the trailhead facilities. The contact station will only occur in this phase if funding is provided and the hunting issues are fully resolved.

Trail Improvements

The bluff trail will undergo realignment and resurfacing to address erosion issues, especially around the bluff picnic area. Overlooks and viewpoints will be relocated and upgraded as current locations erode.

The Master Plan utilizes most of the existing trails with some of them to be widened or resurfaced. The trail system retains nearly five miles of existing trails and adds approximately two miles of new trails. The extended trail network provides separate trail loops for bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian use (Figures 31). A shared trail (bicycle and pedestrian) parallels the entry road and connects to the picnic area and campground facilities. Figures 28-30 show a cross section for each type of trail in the extended network. In other areas of the park bicycles are encouraged to use the roadway bike lane.

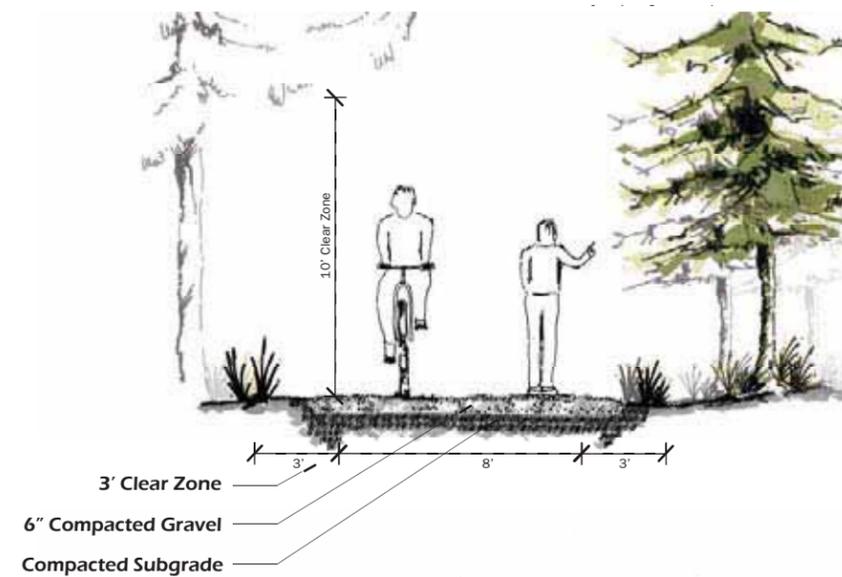


Figure 28. Typical Shared Trail Cross Section

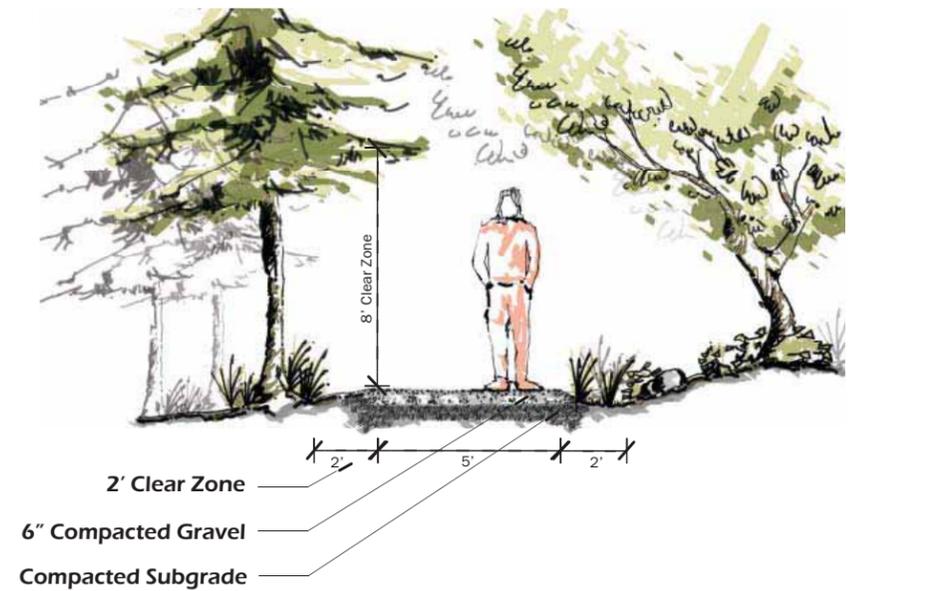


Figure 29. Typical Pedestrian Trail Cross

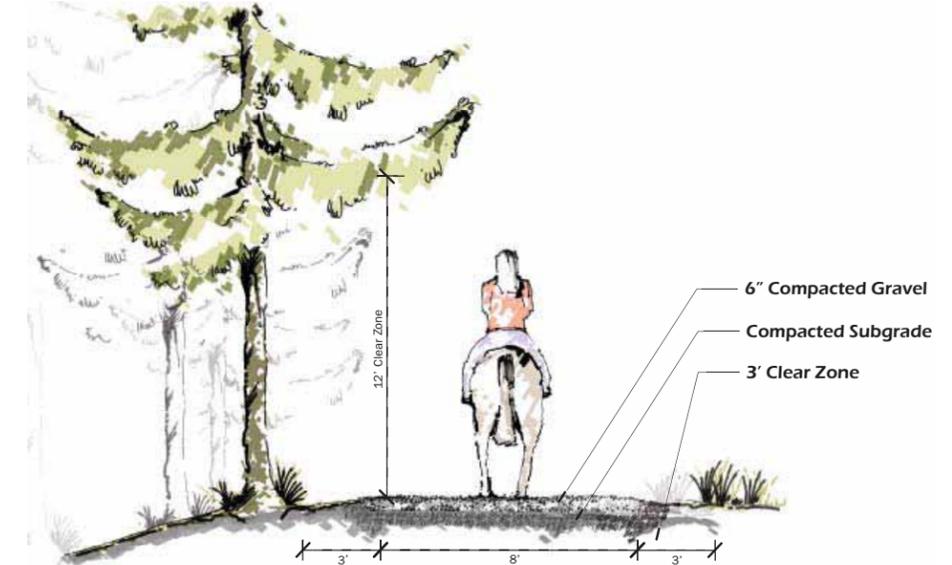


Figure 30. Equestrian Trail Cross Section

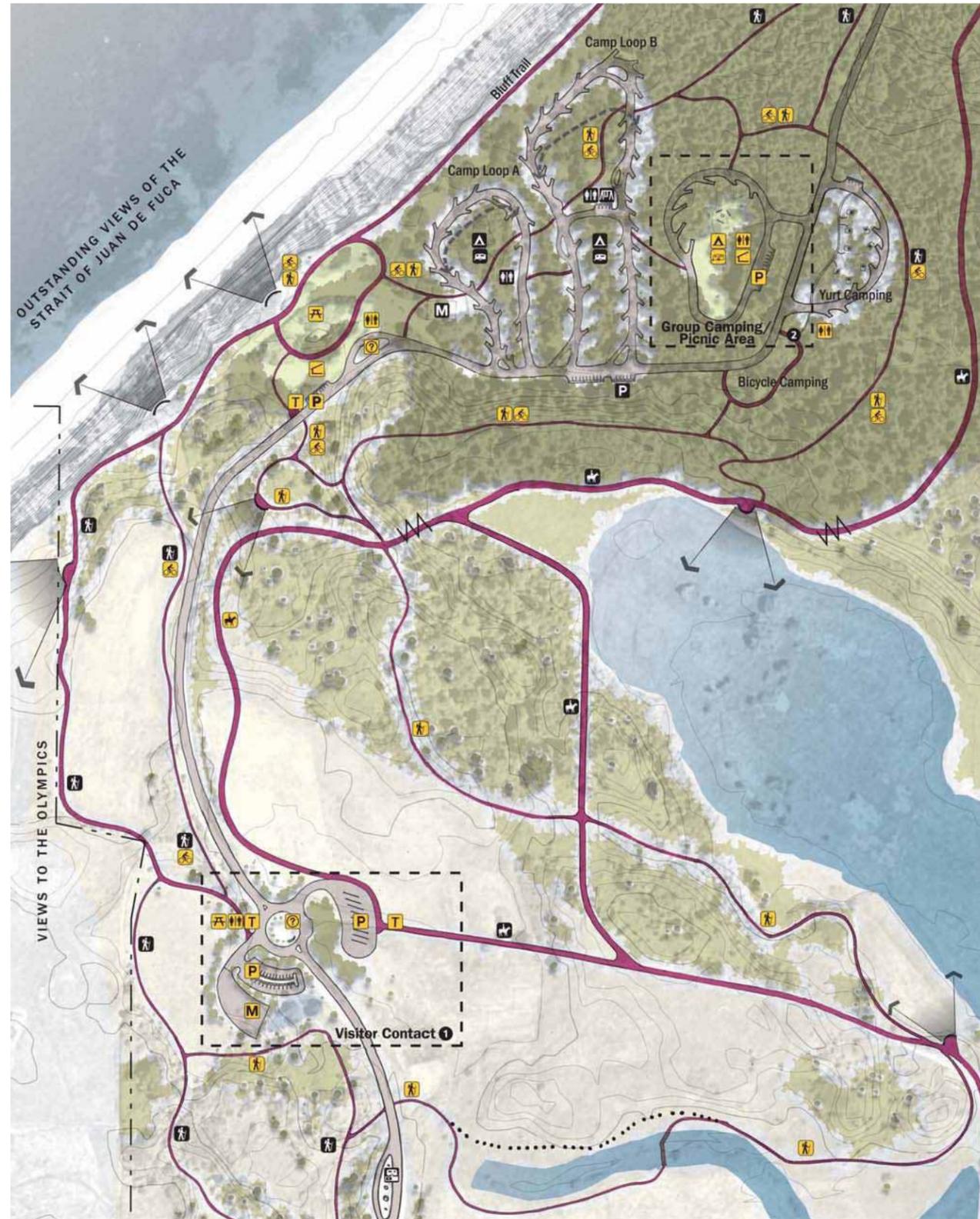


Figure 31. Master Plan Trail Enlargement



Figure 32. Preferred Alternative

Vegetation and Habitat Management

Following the recommendation outlined in the Ecological assessment report, Clallam County wants to rehabilitate the natural environment and wildlife habitat within Dungeness Recreational Area. The enhancement of the natural area will require different types of habitat maintenance appropriate for wetlands and upland conifer forests.

Hunting Lease Agreement

The preferred alternative is not compatible with the current hunting program. County staff and GreenWorks recommends that hunting end at the expiration of the present WSDFW/County lease agreement, as some of the major long term improvements are implemented. The County may consider granting one additional lease period of three years. This will give WDFW and the hunting community sufficient time to find another location for this activity.

Any consideration of an additional lease period is contingent on the following conditions by order to minimize conflicts with proposed uses:

- WDFW must prepare and provide the County with a draft proposal covering operation of a three year hunting program beginning on the expiration of the present lease. This must be provided to the County no later than 6 months prior to expiration of the present lease. Proposed changes to lease operations must be published in a timely fashion in park and camping literature by WDFW so that the park users and hunting community are adequately notified.
- The area to be leased will not include the entire property but a defined area which is compatible with activity of other park uses. WDFW and County will determine this area and create a map.
- WDFW will propose the types of hunting to be allowed, seasons, days of the week, etc. These activities will not start prior to mid-October and will not include any kind of big game hunting, bow hunting, or deer hunting. Hunt days may differ from what is allowed at the present time. The pheasant release program and duck hunting may be allowed within the allotted hunting days and season as agreed to by the County.
- WDFW will demonstrate how they purpose to maintain the site including the pond and vegetation and otherwise manage the area included within the program.
- WDFW will take responsibility for hunting program liability, damage and clean up activities to the satisfaction of the County legal staff.
- Farming (to whatever extent considered) of the area and water to the pond will be included in any new lease.

The extension of the lease agreement will outline when the hunting activities can take place and the responsibilities of the WDFW.

Conclusion

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The proposed improvements to Dungeness Recreational Area County Park will benefit the local and regional community alike. The preferred alternative highlights the extraordinarily diverse landscape and promotes necessary upgrades to enhance the recreational experience of future visitors. Of the total 216-acres, 163-acres remains undisturbed area prime for vegetation management and rehabilitation.



Preferred Alternative - Final Master Plan
Dungeness Recreation Area Master Plan
 November 2007
 Greenworks, P.C. - Landscape Architecture - Environmental Design

Figure 33. Final Master Plan (Scale: 1"= 400')