

Snohomish County's Puget Sound Initiative

Open Space Preservation



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Snohomish County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department has more than 12,000 acres, spread out over 110 park properties with 47 miles of fresh and saltwater shorelines. The Parks Department is the largest land steward in the county, and its parks, trails, and open spaces contribute to the clean water, clean air, healthy forests, and great beaches our residents enjoy. Annually, more than 5 million visitors use our parks and trails.

These parks represent the range of landscapes that are present in the county and include high elevation forests to lowland estuaries and shoreline access. In aggregate, park open space is a significant contributor to wildlife habitat and functioning natural systems, especially the health of Puget Sound.

Kayak Point, Meadowdale Beach, Picnic Point and holdings in the Snohomish River Estuary are examples of lowland parks with shoreline areas directly connected to Puget Sound and provide important wildlife habitat. County holdings in the Snohomish River Estuary alone protect over twelve miles of river and slough shoreline. These miles of shoreline provide important transition areas for salmonids moving from salt to fresh water, as well as food and shelter for numerous species.

The Parks Department works to improve park sites through restoration, both through an internal park mitigation/habitat program, and successful partnerships with other groups such as the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation, the Marine Resources Council, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others. These partnerships have resulted in acres of improved shoreline habitat areas for the benefit of Puget Sound.

