

A black and white photograph of a pine tree branch, likely a Douglas fir, with long, sharp needles. The branch is in the foreground, filling the left side of the frame. The background is a bright, overcast sky with soft, diffused light. The overall mood is serene and natural.

WASHINGTON OUTDOORS

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A Report on the *Statewide Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan*,
An Element of the State Comprehensive Planning Program



State of Washington
DANIEL J. EVANS, *Governor*

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Department of Commerce and Economic Development
Olympia, Washington

Washington Outdoors highlights the findings and recommendations of the *Statewide Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan*, which was prepared by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development in consultation with the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. Members of the committee are Marvin B. Durning, Chairman, Seattle; Lewis A. Bell, Everett; Warren A. Bishop, Pullman; Keith H. Campbell, Spokane; Thomas O. Wimmer, Seattle; Charles H. Odegaard, Director, State Parks and Recreation Commission; Bert L. Cole, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources; Charles G. Prahl, Director, Department of Highways; John A. Biggs, Director, Department of Game; Thor C. Tollefson, Director, Department of Fisheries; and Daniel B. Ward, Director, Department of Commerce and Economic Development. The action program element of the plan was prepared by the Interagency Committee, with financial assistance from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

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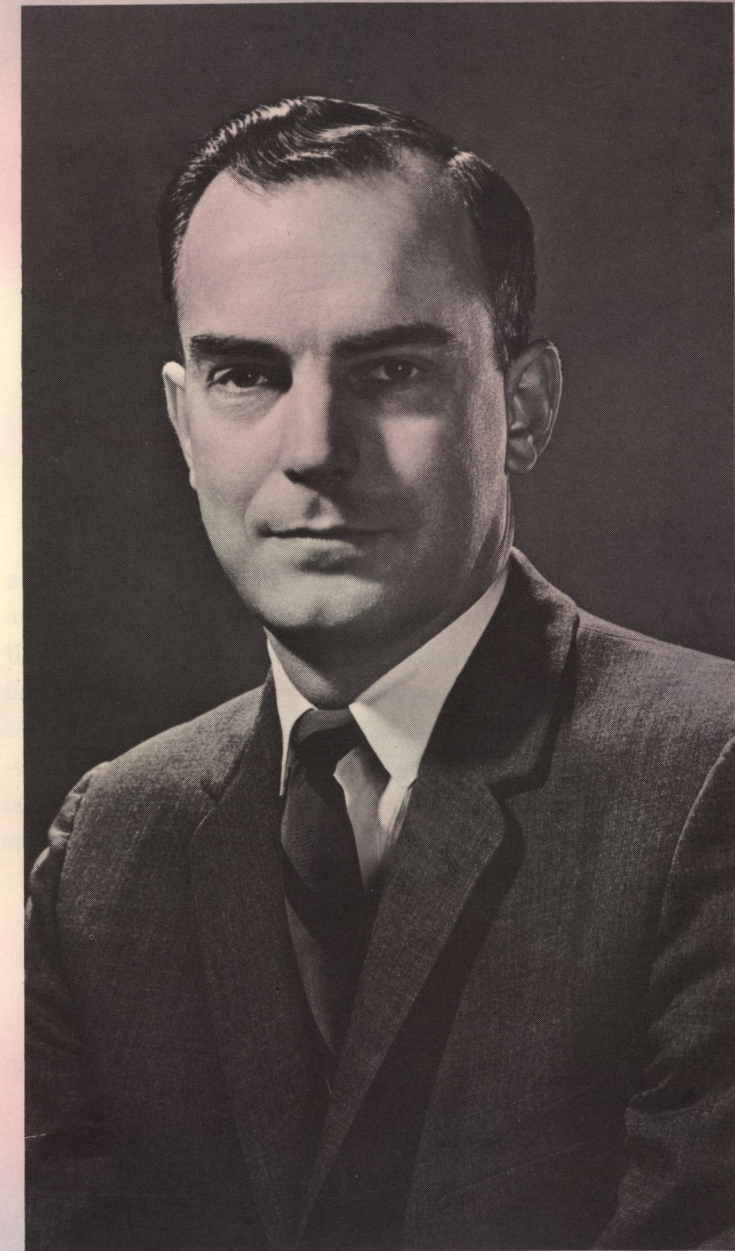
To the people of Washington —

I know you all share my enthusiasm and concern for the outdoor world of Washington. We in the Evergreen State are very proud of this heritage that nature has given us—miles of ruggedly beautiful ocean beaches, an azure blue inland sea with over 200 islands, over 10,000 clear lakes, streams, and rivers, 24 million acres of forest lands, mountains of spectacular grandeur, sun-splashed plains, and semi-arid regions.

Although we have initiated programs to conserve and enhance these resources for outdoor recreational use and to improve the quality of our living environment, much more remains to be done. I am therefore recommending that the State Legislature place on the 1968 general election ballot a substantial new bond issue to support this most important program. I urge you to assess the needs outlined in this report and to join with me in a forward program of action to preserve our state as a wonderful place in which to live.

Daniel J. Evans
DANIEL J. EVANS
Governor

January 1967



We need an environmental ethic that will reach all the way from the preservation of untouched wilderness to the beautification of industrial cities, that will concern itself with saving the still-savable and healing the half-ruined and cleansing the polluted, that will touch not only land but air and water, that will have as its purpose the creation of a better environment for men, as well as the creation or preservation of viable habitats for the species that our expansion threatens.

Wallace Stegner
"Whatever Happened to the
Great Outdoors?"
Saturday Review, May 22, 1965

THE NEED FOR PLANNING

OUR EXPLOSIVE GROWTH

People by the hundreds of thousands are coming to live in Washington. By 1970, as many as a million more people could be living here than in 1960. The impact of this rapid population growth on the resources of the state presents the state's major crisis of the decade. Problems resulting from unplanned, uneconomic spread of development have been on the scene for many years, but now, in one of the fastest growing states in the Union, they are achieving an urgent dimension.

Can the people of Washington guide this immense new growth so that the state will remain a good place in which to live? Meeting the challenge of preserving the state's magnificent scenic and recreational resources and at the same time developing attractive new industrial, commercial, and residential areas requires the active and immediate attention of all citizens, particularly public officials, private developers, and planners. The alternative is a land overrun by haphazard growth — ugly, inefficient, and unpleasant. The choice is still real in Washington. Before ugliness overtakes this part of America, the people can have their say.

The state government has begun a comprehensive planning program that can play an important role in enhancing Washington's livability. The *Statewide Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan* is one product of that program. Together with eventual comprehensive state land use and transportation plans, with local and regional plans, active citizen involvement, and strong leadership by public officials, the plan and the planning program can help create the kind of environment that people want to live in and leave for their children.



OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

PRESERVING OPEN SPACE

Open space is disappearing at a rapid rate. Nationally, open land one and one-half times the area of Rhode Island is being developed for urban uses each year. In Washington, rapid development needs to be guided so that adequate open space for recreation and for other uses is preserved and enhanced.

Major outdoor areas, particularly lands for water access, need protection or the quality and availability of these natural environmental resources may be forever lost. The plan identifies a need for acquiring water access areas and other outstanding land resources costing an estimated \$135,000,000.

Open space for recreation in and near urban areas is also in very short supply. Many more neighborhood parks and playgrounds, community parks and playfields, city and regional parks, scenic drives, and other recreational lands are needed. It is conservatively estimated in the plan that by 1973 the state will need over *twice* as much urban recreational open space as it now has, at an estimated cost of over \$126,000,000. The population increase resulting from recent burgeoning industrial development indicates that an even greater need will actually exist.



Special open spaces are also needed to help improve the livability of cities. These include small parks, plazas, malls, walkways, and viewpoints for downtown and other congested areas, and buffer areas, green belts, or other open land for separating city and country and for separat-

ing incompatible land uses within a city. With continuing rapid urbanization, the need for this kind of open space will be even greater. The plan points out the importance of providing for open spaces of this sort in designing urban areas.

Open space for preserving historic and cultural sites is a fourth type of need. The plan calls for a thorough inventory of sites deserving protection and for increased funding for acquisition. Sites of historic or cultural impor-

tance should be preserved to help the people of Washington to become more fully aware of the unique heritage of their young state.



DEVELOPING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Demand for recreational facilities is skyrocketing. In the short period from 1965 to 1973, use of recreational facilities in the state is expected to increase by 32 per cent. Growing leisure time, income, and mobility will bring a much greater increase in demand than will population growth alone.

It is estimated that by 1973, the state will need at least 81,000 more developed camp sites, 72,000 more picnic sites, 2,500 more miles of hiking trails, 6,900 more parking areas for hunting and fishing, 900 more boat ramps, 57

more golf courses, 860 more miles of bicycle paths, and 640 more swimming pools or beach acres. The total estimated cost of these facilities is nearly \$336,000,000. Other development needs for which price tags could not be calculated, such as construction of facilities at neighborhood playgrounds and community playfields, are undoubtedly large.

Private businesses are expected to help meet part of this demand, but most new facilities will necessarily be developed by public agencies.

MEETING OTHER NEEDS

Recreational and open-space needs are inseparable from the need to protect and enhance the quality of the total environment. Problems of air and water and land pollution, for example, seriously impair enjoyment of the out-of-doors, just as do the more obvious misuses of recreational resources. Providing access to a stream meets only part of the recreational need if that stream is polluted or if clutter scars the landscape. Similarly, a small downtown park can provide lunch-hour diversion or shoppers' rest, but not if the smog is stifling. State, regional, and local agencies should give increased energy and imagination to the problems of controlling pollutants as part of their efforts to create a better human environment.

An improved sense of design in the location and construction of commercial buildings and signs and all public

facilities would also contribute greatly toward enjoyment of the out-of-doors, both in urban areas and in undeveloped regions. Many other environmental design needs are directly concerned with recreational and open-space needs. The private, nonprofit corporation Design for Washington, Inc., is actively involved in helping communities to identify such needs and to create programs for meeting them.

Further planning for outdoor recreation and open space at local, regional, and state levels is needed so that drastically changing patterns of population growth and land development can best be guided toward desired goals. More accurate supply and demand data are needed, as is more effective integration of recreation and open space planning with general land use planning and resource conservation.



THE ACTION PROGRAM

DOLLARS AND PRIORITIES

Action to meet the need for open space and outdoor recreational facilities includes provision of funds for land acquisition and development, preparation of legislation to encourage resource conservation and open-space preservation, and continued planning. The official plan and the action program have made recommendations concerning all three of these aspects.

Anticipated funds for outdoor recreational acquisition and development in Washington for the six-year period to 1973 are estimated to total only a little over \$100 million, or about one-sixth of the identified need of nearly \$600 million. Because of this wide difference between need and dollars available, the Interagency Committee has unanimously recommended a substantial new bond issue for both land acquisition and development.

The Interagency Committee has submitted a proposed budget for the 1967-69 biennium to the Governor, recommending allocation of available state funds. These funds will be used to match local and federal contributions toward state and local project costs.

In order to recommend budget allocations, the Interagency Committee identified the most urgent needs and opportunities. High priority in the allocation of matching funds for specific projects will go to acquisition of waterfront lands, or access to waterfront, on the Pacific Ocean, Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands, and the bays, lakes, streams, reservoirs, and other waters all over the state, in accordance with Initiative 215. High priority will also go to meeting the needs of urban populations, particularly through assisting local agencies to acquire and develop neighborhood, community, metropolitan, and regional facilities. The third category of high priority includes areas

of special scenic, historic, botanical, zoological, ecological, and geological importance which are in danger of being lost to public use.

Specific programs meeting these priorities include:

- local agency projects for all types of outdoor recreational facilities and open space,
- acquisition and development of all types of state parks to provide and preserve recreational opportunities and preserve natural resources,
- acquisition and development of pedestrian stream-bank easements, boat launching ramps, and parking areas on lakes, reservoirs, streams, and salt water, together with the necessary roads and rights-of-way,
- acquisition of sites to permit use of new lakes and reservoirs or the enhancement of existing areas for recreation and fisheries and wildlife management,
- acquisition or control of key big game habitat and hunting areas, waterfowl range and hunting areas, and small game lands, and
- acquisition and development of recreational sites on state dedicated lands for camping, picnicking, boating, and related activities.

A continuing program of state planning for open space and outdoor recreation is being undertaken not only to gather better data and revise goals and procedures, but also to keep the state qualified to receive federal matching money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. An orderly state plan for outdoor recreation is also required under the terms of Initiative 215, which established the Interagency Committee.



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