

Make a difference

There are many ways you can help park staff keep the Horan Natural Area as pristine as possible, including:

- Remain on gravel trails.
- Keep pets on leash at all times.
- Leave bikes locked up at designated trailheads.
- Practice pack-it-in, pack-it-out principles. Take any trash with you and dispose of it in containers provided at either end of the trail.
- Respect the rights of others who may be on the trail by staying to the right as you go around corners with limited visibility.
- Tell park staff about any hazards you may see such as a tree fallen across the trail or a washout in the trail.
- Obey all signs and rules.
- Remain out of the closed area from Dec. 1 through March 1. This is necessary to protect bald eagles.
- Leave the wildlife in the wild. Please do not take any flowers, plants, bird eggs or driftwood.
- Leave birdhouses untouched. These give researchers valuable information that can help the Natural Area in the future.

The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: \$30 • One-day pass: \$10

(transaction and dealer fees may apply)

The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov or call (866) 320-9933.

Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.

Information for groups or organizations

School groups and other organizations that would like to have a guided tour of the Horan Natural Area may contact Wenatchee Confluence State Park at (509) 664-6373. To organize a tour, a group must:

- Have at least 20 members.
- Have an agenda for its tour.
- Contact park staff at least 20 days before the desired tour date.



Wenatchee Confluence State Park

333 Olds Station Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 664-6373

State Parks information:
(360) 902-8844

Reservations: Online at www.parks.wa.gov or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688

Other state parks located in the general area:

Lincoln Rock, Peshastin
Pinnacles and Squilchuck



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If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks.

Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. For more information, visit www.parks.state.wa.us/donations

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission



P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
(360) 902-8500
www.parks.wa.gov

Commission members:
Ken Bounds Mark O. Brown
Laurie Connelly Sophia Danenberg
Michael Latimer Steve S. Milner
Holly Williams
Director: Diana Dupuis

All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. P&R 45-67000-01 (06/22)

Washington State Parks

The Horan Natural Area

Your Guide to the Wetlands



www.parks.wa.gov

History of the Horan Natural Area

The area's written history began in 1811 when explorer David Thompson paddled the Columbia River while trapping for the Northwest Fur Company. Many trappers and miners followed Thompson's first visit, leading to the establishment of the first trading post in 1866. During this time, alfalfa for livestock was one of the first crops, but orchards and vineyards soon followed.

In the past hundred plus years, the land was used for a variety of things, from a golf driving range to thriving pear orchards. In 1990, the Chelan County Public Utility District #1 acquired about 100 acres of pear orchard from the Horan family for the purpose of building a manmade wetland. After construction, the wetland was given to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to administer and is now part of the Wenatchee Confluence State Park. The wetland was named the Horan Natural Area to honor the historic Horan family.

The Horan Natural Area consists of about 100 acres of wetlands. There are 2 miles of gravel trail that connect 15 viewing stations for walkers. These viewing stations allow individuals to learn about and experience a variety of habitats.

What to expect while on your walk

While taking your walk, try to use all of your senses. Each season brings new experiences.

Spring

In spring, the Horan Natural Area is used by numerous waterfowl, birds and mammals. Waterfowl use the tall green grass as a safe haven to lay their eggs and hatch their young. Song birds will build nests in the cottonwood trees and other high places so that predators like the skunk, raccoon or coyote don't disturb the eggs. Mammals of all shapes and sizes will use the Horan Natural Area. They will raise their young in the tall grass or under the shade of a tree. After a few hours, the baby deer (called fawns) will be up on their feet following their moms (called does) as they eat the tender green shoots to help feed both the does and their fawns. This also is the time flowers start blooming and fragrances fill the air.

Summer

Summer is a time for the wildlife to get fat and grow strong. The young birds need to develop strong muscles so that when fall arrives, they can fly south to their wintering grounds and be able to search for food on their own. The large mammals, such as skunks and deer, use this time to relax and eat. They don't move south during the winter. They

will winter right in the Horan Natural Area. The more they are able to eat during the summer, the larger their fat reserves will be. This will help them survive the frigid winter months. This also is the time the majestic cottonwood trees start to expel seeds in the air with white puffs. These white puffs enable the tiny seeds to travel far distances in the air and start a new forest of cottonwoods. If you watch, it looks as though it's snowing.

Fall

Fall brings in the colder air from the north. The cooler temperatures start to turn the grasses from green to brown. The waterfowl start to band together in flocks and eventually they will move south to warmer climates. The deer and other mammals start to grow their winter coats. Their coats will change from a reddish summer coat to a dark brown/gray winter coat. This also is the season the deer mate. If you listen, you may be able to hear two male deer (bucks) sparring in the brush. They will use their antlers and body size to win the courtship of the does.

Winter

Winter in the Natural Area can be one of the most exciting times. Most trees, shrubs and other plants lose their leaves, so watching your favorite wildlife species will be easier. This also is the time of year the bald eagles migrate to the warmer river valleys where fish and other food are easier to gather. You may see numerous bald eagles perched in trees or diving into the water to catch unlucky fish. For the wildlife, winter is the season they prepared for all year. Most years the snow depth is not too deep but the frigid winds can be ferocious. Turn your cheek toward the wind and feel how it bites. Then imagine yourself being a deer having to seek shelter away from the wind. Could you survive here all winter?

Whatever the season, the Horan Natural Area will have something for everyone to enjoy and see. There are numerous species of mammals, song birds, waterfowl and even species that migrate hundreds of miles to survive the winter. All the plants play an important role in the survival of the wildlife who call this area home. Please help the wildlife survive by not picking plants, flowers or berries.

Use common sense and caution when walking through the Horan Natural Area as biting and stinging creatures do call this home. Ants, bees, snakes and other species may cause injury if disturbed.

