



Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **Open Data Plan**

2024 Open Data Report and Update

Mandate

This plan was adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) pursuant to Open Data Policy 187 established by the Washington State Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), and is intended to satisfy the requirements of applicable statutes, including RCW [43.105.351](#).

This plan was adopted on September 23, 2016, and is referenced in agency IT Services standards.

Commitments

State Parks commits to the following priorities and actions:

Incorporate open data when acquiring, building, or redesigning information systems

- State Parks information systems assessed as Major IT Projects (with OCIO oversight) will consider including open dataset outputs as components of the requirements and system design.
- State Parks will maintain a principal system inventory that identifies the category of data held in agency databases – aiding agency staff in determining the level and appropriateness for open data sharing.

Determine roles and establish standards to facilitate the management, assessment, and posting of agency open data

- Designated agency staff will oversee and coordinate the open data initiative for the agency and facilitate the assessment of datasets.
- Designated agency staff will collaborate with agency program areas and process owners to identify open data opportunities, evaluate content, and help with dataset assessment tasks.
- Designated agency staff will facilitate the posting process of open datasets either directly or by partnering with our vendors for any hosted system datasets.

Develop processes to determine which information is most in demand

- State Parks will utilize web analytics to determine the most sought-after information from the Washington State Parks website.
- State Parks will review public disclosure requests to help determine the types of information most asked for by the public.
- State Parks will review legislature requests for information since legislators are representatives of the people.
- State Parks will elicit feedback from customer facing Parks employees.
- All the above will help determine what are relevant open datasets for publication.

Utilize assessment standards and methods to readily withhold or mask non-disclosable data

- State Parks will assess prospective datasets against current state and agency data policies and standards meant to protect personal and non-disclosable data.

- For potential open datasets, State Parks may apply *small numbers*, *linkage*, and *de-identification* standards to assess datasets before opening those that may contain real or potential personal identifiers. These standards are summarized as follows:
 - *Small Numbers* evaluates identity disclosure risk in aggregate groups of data containing observable/physical characteristics (e.g., age, income, race, et cetera). Per section 1210.2-10.5 of the CNCHES Staff Manual of Confidentiality,¹ The identity of an individual could be deduced if the number of observances is too small.
 - *Linkage* evaluates identity disclosure risk by looking for records that can be linked to other records in other data sources possibly revealing personal identifiers.
 - *De-identification* aims to mitigate identity disclosure risk by removing or replacing personal identifiers as outlined by the federal National Institute of Standards and Technology criteria in the *NISTIR 8053 De-Identification of Personal Information*.²

Develop and employ technical mechanisms for posting open data

- State Parks will identify the location(s) where it will be posting its datasets.
- State Parks will identify the IT tools necessary for extracting, transforming, and loading datasets to these sites for public access.
- State Parks will utilize the tools and platform of data.wa.gov to post this plan.

Report on the status, progress, and evolution of the agency's Open Data Plan

- Per the Open Data policy, the agency will report to OCIO regarding the progress of these commitments and what datasets were published.

2024 Report on Accomplishments

State Parks reaffirms its commitment to Open Data and has built on this foundation by advancing its processes and enhancing data reporting and sharing. These efforts aim to increase transparency and provide actionable data during the agency's period of system modernization and data maturity.

State Parks GIS Program Update:

Since 2021, State Parks has been dedicated to expanding and publishing Geographic Information System (GIS) data through the GIS Open Data Portal for State Parks. For this year's update, the following data layer maps, added in 2023, have been further developed in 2024 and include:

¹ *NCHS Staff Manual on Confidentiality*. Hyattsville, MD: Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics; 2004. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/misc/staffmanual2004.pdf>

² *NISTIR 8053 De-Identification of Personal Information*. Gaithersburg, MD: Simson L. Garfinkel, National Institute of Standards and Technology; 2015. Retrieved from <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2015/NIST.IR.8053.pdf>

- Expanded version of the [Washington State Parks Web Map](#) website where datasets are consumed and graphically displayed, allowing users without GIS software to review data.
- Washington State Parks ADA Map for parks with ADA features and services: [WA State Parks ADA Map](#)
- A Winter Parks Recreation map for looking at recreation opportunities: [WA State Parks Winter Recreation Map](#)
- Mobile Map Packages have been made available to the public as extracts of the *Washington State Parks Web Map – Staff Version* using the “ArcGIS Field Maps” mobile application developed by ESRI, which is free to the public.
 - State Parks currently offers unique packages for 125 parks via the GIS Open Data Portal.

The following areas offer shared datasets that are available for public use:

- Stewardship Data:
 - *Expanded Datasets:* Noxious Weed Points, Noxious Weed Lins, Noxious Weed Areas, Historic & Old Growth Trees, and Vegetation Surveys, Ecological Integrity Assessment 2021, Significant Natural Resources – Importance, and Significant Natural Resources – Sum SNR.
- Winter Recreation Data:
 - *Expanded Datasets:* Winter Rec Motorized Trails, Winter Rec non-Motorized Trails, Winter Rec Sled Dog Trails, Winter Rec Warming Shelters, and Winter Rec Temporary Closures, and Winter Rec SnoParks.
- Land Use and Facilities Data:
 - *Expanded Datasets:* Park Boundaries, Park Boundaries (KML format), Land Classification, Conditional Uses, Trails, Long Distance Trails (also known as, Cross State Trails), Walkways, Roads, Parking Areas, Campsites, Facility Inventory, Metal Detection Areas, Park Accommodations, Park Activities, Land Acquisitions, Park Entrances, Parking Areas and Parks Administrative Boundaries.
- “Other” Data:
 - *Expanded Datasets:* Enriched Travel from Park Entrances (30/60/90 minutes) and new ADA Information Points.

State Parks **Visitation Data:**

State Parks continues to track annual visitation numbers for both [overnight and day-use visitors](#) each calendar year. Please note that these visitor counts are estimates based on a specific methodology and may not represent exact numbers. No claims are made regarding the accuracy of this data or its suitability for any particular use.

State Parks Website Update:

Following the launch of its new [website](#) in October 2023, State Parks continues to focus on further development. The goal is to provide an easy-to-navigate, centralized hub for all parks-related information and data needs. In addition to improving public access to data and information, the project aims to streamline processes for reporting, disseminating, and sharing data, addressing previous inefficiencies.

The new website provides the following for public and state personnel:

- Real time alerts and burn bans.
- Internal training focused on streamlining information and data reporting for public consumption.
- Improved governance with two committees being formed for developing and assigning staff created primary content (for public use) and the second committee to liaison with executive staff on strategic website needs.
- We have successfully completed the first and second stages of deep linking our reservable properties to the reservation system, ensuring seamless customer service between the two platforms.
- Introduced new alert options to provide visitors with important information during peak usage days at parks.

2025 Update on Commitments

As State Parks fulfills its current commitments with a focus on continuous improvement and equitable inclusion for both public and government use, the Open Data Plan will undergo an annual review to assess what best serves the needs of State Parks data consumers and agency personnel who produce and utilize the data.

Over the coming year, State Parks intends to enhance its reporting capabilities through Power BI, with particular emphasis on customer survey results from in-park surveys and the Discover Pass program. Additionally, the Parks Planning department is working to make survey data and information from planning processes and public meetings accessible online at parks.wa.gov.

State Parks is also in the process of migrating from shared drives to SharePoint as part of its M365 transition, with completion anticipated by the end of the year. This migration is designed to streamline processes for agency staff, improving data sharing and organization, while also enhancing the management of current and historical data. A key goal of the project is to expand access to open data sources and materials that may have previously been overlooked, fostering greater collaboration and reducing the number of data sources that require sorting and management.