

**Board of County Commissioners  
Kitsap County Washington**

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**Kitsap County Parks Planning Team**

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website updates: [kitsapgov.com/parks](http://kitsapgov.com/parks)

3.30.15



**KITSAP COUNTY PARKS**

**PORT GAMBLE**

**HERITAGE FOREST**



**STEWARDSHIP PLAN**

# Stewardship Plan

**Purpose:** The County will manage 535 acres of forested uplands and saltwater shoreline via a stewardship steering committee and a resource stewardship plan, with the direction to protect key resources and provide appropriate public use.

## Stewardship Requires:

**An understanding** of the landscape’s natural, cultural and historical heritage,

**An assessment** of high quality features: superlative species, vistas, critical areas, water features, habitat, and

**A determination** to preserve and conserve resource values while balancing public access and recreation.

## Stewardship Plan Elements:

**Property Profile** – compiling maps and narrative perspectives about existing resource and public use conditions

**Issues, Concerns & Opportunities** – evaluating current resource impacts, public access and recreational use opportunities

**Resource Management Approach** – addressing resource protection issues and allowable public activities

**Resource Management and Recreation Development -- Landscape Classification Plan** –determining “zones” of resource protection and acceptable public use

**Final Recommendations and Action Priorities** – to be reviewed by the Kitsap County Parks Advisory Board and County Commission.

# Guiding Principles \*

## Protect, Restore and Enhance Natural Resources:

- ⇒ Work toward a forest restoration regime for forest health and habitat diversity
- ⇒ Protect the aquifer recharge function
- ⇒ Protect and enhance shoreline habitat and protect the water quality of the Bay through management of shoreline and uplands
- ⇒ Understand the importance of the Pacific flyway (avian “highway”) and this landscape’s key role
- ⇒ Plan for stewardship and public use as part of the large-scale surrounding landscape

## Respect Historical and Future Cultural Integrity:

- ◇ Preserve cultural and historical aspects of the lands and shore, inclusive of all Tribes
- ◇ Recognize and protect populations of medicinal plants and other culturally significant flora
- ◇ Preserve and enhance the State Scenic Highway 104 viewshed along the Heritage Forest alignment

## Promote Responsible Recreation and Public Use:

- \* Meet recreational needs of the Region
- \* Develop a cohesive trail system
- \* Develop safe public access points
- \* Plan for connecting corridors for trails and wildlife travel
- \* Recognize and plan for “water trails”
- \* Explore land adjacent to the Shoreline Block which is intended for a mountain bike ride center
- \* Engage all users/activities to create excitement about nature-education and conservation

\* Plan Guiding Principles by Port Gamble Heritage Forest Stewardship Steering Committee

