

Chapter 2 – Goals and Objectives

Introduction

This chapter provides management goals and objectives for the park units addressed in this plan. These goals and objectives were developed considering the enabling statutes (see Appendix B), regulations, and mission statements for the park units and DPOR. They have been developed to establish values that aid in decision making associated with the issues identified in this plan. Goals and objectives are arranged under the headings of Area-wide Goals and Objectives and Park Unit Specific Goals and Objectives, and are not listed in priority order.

Area-wide Goals and Objectives

Recreation: Enhance opportunities for year-round recreational use of the park units while maintaining the scenic, wilderness, and other natural resource values in the plan area.

Objectives:

- Increase public use of park units through development of sustainable facilities that are appropriate to the setting and enrich recreational experiences.
- Work with interested groups and resident experts to promote and conduct First Day Hikes.
- Work with local, regional, or national partners to promote Trails Day events that focus on engaging new recreational users and introducing people to new experiences.
- Initiate/Encourage the Adopt-A-Trail programs.
- Foster community involvement in trail maintenance and creation by developing an Adopt-A-Trail program.

Resource Protection: Protect park resources to allow for diverse visitor experiences and an understanding of the unique and exceptional features of the park units.

Objectives:

- Foster collaborative relationships that promote responsible use and stewardship.

- 1 • Preserve and protect park unit recreational and cultural resources for long-term
2 use and enjoyment, including opportunities for visitors to experience solitude,
3 natural environment integrity, and scenic beauty.
- 4 • Incorporate scientific and educational information into visitor information
5 programs for better understanding of the parks' values and management direction.
- 6 • Facilitate research on the natural and cultural resources of the park units to gain
7 further knowledge to better inform decision making.
8
9

10 **Park Unit Specific Goals and Objectives**

11 **Kachemak Bay State Park**

12 The purpose of Kachemak Bay State Park as described in AS 41.21.131 is to “protect and
13 preserve this land and water for its unique and exceptional scenic value” (Appendix B). To
14 further this purpose, the following goals & objectives for KBSP are provided:
15
16

17 **Goal 1: Protect and preserve the land and water of KBSP for their unique and** 18 **exceptional scenic values**

19 Objectives:

- 20 1-1. Identify, establish, protect, and enhance areas of unique and exceptional
21 scenic values.
- 22 1-2. Define the park's landscape character and apply visual quality criteria to the
23 park's management programs, developments and land use practices.
- 24 1-3. Assess resource impacts over time to provide information for day-to-day and
25 future park management.
- 26 1-4. Identify appropriate vegetation management actions to establish, enhance and
27 maintain scenic vistas.
28
29
30

31 **Goal 2: Provide for recreational use and enjoyment by the public, with consideration to** 32 **public preferences, resource values, regional setting and legislative intent**

33 Objectives:

- 34 2-1. Monitor, quantify, and assess recreational use changes over time for future
35 park management.
- 36 2-2. Develop interpretive and educational outreach programs for public users to
37 protect and explain park resources.
- 38 2-3. Develop educational outreach programs for commercial users to protect park
39 resources.
40

- 1 2-4. Manage the separation of recreation uses and users in time and space to avoid
2 conflicts, protect resources, maintain a high-quality recreation experience, and
3 enable site-appropriate activities.
- 4 2-5. Design facilities, camp sites, and trails to blend into the park’s natural setting
5 and scenic character while minimizing impact on resources.

6
7 **Goal 3: Preserve and protect the park’s cultural resources**

8
9 Objectives:

- 10 3-1. Establish criteria for research activities to meet management needs for
11 information.
- 12 3-2. Investigate, document, evaluate, interpret, and protect the archaeological and
13 historical elements of the park.
- 14 3-3. Incorporate scientific and educational information into the park’s visitor
15 information program so users can gain a better understanding of the park’s
16 cultural value and management direction.
- 17 3-4. Establish management practices which employ off-site visitor interpretation of
18 the area’s cultural and historic significance without attracting use to sensitive
19 areas.

20
21 **Goal 4: Enable a self-sufficient, year-round, recreational destination by developing**
22 **collaborative relationships between DPOR and regional and statewide visitors’ bureaus**

23
24 Objectives:

- 25 4-1. Promote the park’s tourism potential through marketing commercial
26 operations, concession activities, visitor accommodations, and services within
27 the park.
- 28 4-2. Develop partnerships between DPOR and businesses to help create
29 sustainable revenue streams for the park.

30
31 **Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park**

32
33 Kachemak Bay State Wilderness park was “established and shall be managed as a wilderness
34 park” in AS 41.21.140 (see Appendix B – Enabling Legislation). In this case, a wilderness
35 park is defined in AS 41.21.990(2) as:

36
37 “an area whose predominant character is the result of the interplay of natural
38 processes, large enough and so situated as to be unaffected, except in minor ways, by
39 what takes place in the non-wilderness around it, a physical condition which activates
40 the innermost emotions of the observer and where development of man-made objects
41 will be strictly limited and depend entirely on good taste and judgment so that the
42 wilderness values are not lost.”

1
2 The following goal for KBSWP is set in accordance with these statutes.
3

4 **Goal 5: Preserve and protect the land and water of KBSWP for their unique and**
5 **exceptional wilderness values**
6

7 Objectives:

- 8 5-1. Ensure that all KBSWP infrastructure developments (trails, trailheads, or
9 campsites) are of a primitive nature.
- 10 5-2. Identify and develop minimum-impact terra and water trails that provide
11 access to KBSWP during snow free periods.
- 12 5-3. Identify type and general location of structures that may be constructed to
13 facilitate use while minimizing physical and visual impact to the resources.
- 14 5-4. Allow natural ecological processes to operate freely to the maximum extent
15 feasible to promote, perpetuate, and where necessary, restore the wilderness
16 character of the park unit. Minimal human manipulation may be permitted to
17 restore human-disturbed environments, or offset human-induced restrictions
18 on natural processes.
- 19 5-5. Permit monitoring, measuring, and scientific study of the wilderness
20 environment using methods and techniques that are as unobtrusive as possible.
21 Restraint should be applied to and by researchers to limit the negative impacts
22 of research, experimentation, and environmental monitoring to protect the
23 wilderness resource and experience.
- 24 5-6. Establish management practices which employ off-site visitor interpretation of
25 the area's cultural and historic significance without attracting use to sensitive
26 areas.
- 27 5-7. Monitor park use and respond to such use to protect the wilderness character
28 of the park as necessary.
29

30 **Overlook Park SRS, Diamond Creek SRS, and Eveline SRS**
31

32 These three SRSs on the north side of Kachemak Bay (easily accessed by the public and
33 limited in area) are managed under this plan. The following comprise the management goal
34 and objectives for these sites.
35

36 **Goal 6: Provide a variety of year-round recreational opportunities within road**
37 **accessible units**
38

39 Objectives:

- 40 6-1. Foster collaborative relationships that promote use and stewardship of these
41 recreation sites.

- 1 6-2. Identify and develop trailhead facilities that provide parking for large
2 vehicles, public restrooms, and orientation/informational kiosks. Identify
3 location and capacity of new parking locations.
- 4 6-3. Increase safety of recreational use by re-routing or upgrading existing trails.
- 5 6-4. Develop guidelines for self-guided nature walks for bird and wildflowers
6 watching.
- 7 6-5. Develop and install interpretive panels at key access points that provide
8 information on trails, allowed public uses, and natural and cultural resources.
- 9 6-6. Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)s with user groups and work
10 with these organizations to develop multimodal sustainable looped trails for
11 year-round use.
- 12 6-7. Develop more winter recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life
13 for visitors and residents.
- 14