

## Chapter 3: Goals and Objectives

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. These are not listed in priority order. Area-wide includes KBSP, KBSWP, and the three State Recreation Sites (SRS) on the north side of the bay.

### Area-wide Goals and Objectives

**Resource Protection Goal:** Protect and preserve park resources while allowing 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.
- Preserve and protect the recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the park units for long-term use and enjoyment, including opportunities for visitors to experience solitude, quiet, and the natural environment including the geology, flora, and fauna.
- Promote education designed to encourage a better understanding of the parks' dynamic ecosystems, food web interactions, and natural and cultural features.
- Facilitate research and encourage inventory and monitoring of the natural and cultural resources of the park units to gain further knowledge to better inform decision making.
- Consider historical information and inventories when making resource management decisions.

**Recreation Goal:** 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 awareness and the ability to mitigate the various hazards presented by weather, terrain, isolation, and wildlife in the parks.

- Expand recreational opportunities within the park units through development of sustainable facilities and trails that are appropriate to the setting and enhance recreational experiences while reducing long-term maintenance needs.
- Work with local, regional, or national partners to support State Park events that focus on engaging new recreational users and introducing people to new experiences.
- Seek funding and resources for long-term maintenance of existing facilities and trails.
- Pursue an International Dark Sky Park designation to promote the Parks' dark sky resources and foster increased tourism and local economic activity.

## Park Unit Specific Goals and Objectives

### Kachemak Bay State Park

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

#### **Goal 1: Protect and preserve the natural resources of KBSP for their unique and exceptional scenic values**

Objectives:

- 1-1. Protect, and enhance areas of unique and exceptional scenic value inherent in the natural geological, faunal, or floral characteristics.
- 1-2. Design facilities, campsites, and trails to blend into the park's natural setting and scenic character while minimizing the impact on resources.
- 1-3. Monitor and assess resource impacts over time to inform future park management.
- 1-4. Identify appropriate vegetation management actions to establish, enhance, and maintain scenic vistas.

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

Objectives:

- 2-1. Monitor and assess recreational use changes over time to adapt future park management.
- 2-2. Develop interpretive and educational outreach programs to promote the protection of park resources.

- 2-3. Manage the separation of recreational uses to avoid conflicts, protect resources, maintain a high-quality recreational experience, and enable site-appropriate activities.
- 2-4. Develop strategies to minimize harmful disturbances such as noise and light.

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

Objectives:

- 3-1. Establish criteria for research activities to meet management needs for information.
- 3-2. Investigate, interpret, and protect the archaeological and historical elements of the park.
- 3-3. Incorporate scientific and educational information into the park’s visitor information programs so users can understand the park’s cultural value.
- 3-4. Establish management practices which employ off-site visitor interpretation of the area’s cultural and historic significance without attracting use to sensitive areas.

**Goal 4: Enable a self-sufficient, year-round, recreational destination by developing collaborative relationships with tourism organizations**

Objectives:

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

**Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park**

Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park was “established and shall be managed as a wilderness park” in AS 41.21.140 (see Appendix B). To further this purpose, the following goal & objectives for KBSWP are provided:

**Goal 1: Preserve and protect the land and water of KBSWP for their unique and exceptional wilderness values**

Objectives:

- 1-1. Ensure that all KBSWP infrastructure developments are primitive in nature and constructed to minimize the physical and visual impact to the resources.

- 1-2. Limit the negative impacts of research, experimentation, and environmental monitoring to protect the wilderness resource and experience.
- 1-3. Establish management practices which employ off-site visitor interpretation of the area's cultural and historic significance without attracting use to sensitive areas.
- 1-4. Limit noise and light disturbances to preserve the wilderness character of the park.
- 1-5. Limit commercial use of the park to those activities which enhance park purposes.

### **Overlook Park SRS, Diamond Creek SRS, and Eveline SRS**

These three State Recreation Sites on the north side of Kachemak Bay are managed under this plan. The following comprise the management goal and objectives for these sites:

#### **Goal 1: Provide a variety of year-round recreational opportunities within road accessible units**

##### Objectives:

- 1-1. Design and develop trailhead facilities that provide adequate parking for vehicles, public restrooms, orientation/informational kiosks, and interpretative panels.
- 1-2. Re-route or upgrade existing trails to increase recreational opportunities and safety.
- 1-3. Develop guidelines for self-guided nature walks for bird watching and wildflower viewing.
- 1-4. Foster collaborative relationships with user groups to develop multimodal sustainable looped trails for year-round use.
- 1-5. Expand winter recreational opportunities.
- 1-6. Promote proper trail etiquette among diverse users.