



## Park history

Columbia Hills Historical State Park is layered in natural and cultural history. The end of the last Ice Age saw catastrophic floods sweep through the region, carving and scouring features that still can be seen in the basalt formations and walls of the Columbia River Gorge.

Prolific salmon runs provided sustenance for the Native American tribes who lived along the shores of the Columbia and for others who traveled hundreds of miles each season, passing through Columbia Hills on their way to fish at Celilo Falls.

In October 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped by Horsethief Lake on their way to the Pacific Ocean. In the mid-1800s, Euro-American settlers began establishing homesteads in the hills above the river. Their land claims were eventually combined into the Dalles Mountain Ranch, which became a state park in 1993.

**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)

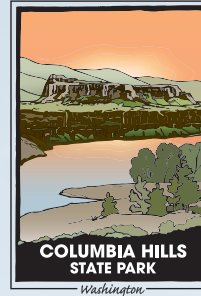


The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit [www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov) or call (866) 320-9933.

**Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.**

## Things to remember

- **Park hours** – April 1 to the fourth Sunday in October.
- **Winter schedule** – The campground and lake are closed from the fourth Sunday in October through March 31. Although most parks are open year round, some parks or portions of parks are closed during the winter. For a winter schedule and information about seasonal closures, visit [www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us) or call the information center at (360) 902-8844.
- Wildlife, plants and all park buildings, signs, tables and other structures are protected; removal or damage of any kind is prohibited. Hunting, feeding of wildlife and gathering firewood on state park property is prohibited.
- One camping party is allowed per site. Maximum of eight people per campsite.
- Campsites may not be held for other parties.
- Camping check-in time is 2:30 p.m., and check-out time is 1 p.m.
- Extra vehicle overnight - \$10 per night in designated area for each vehicle in excess of the one allowed per site. Does not apply to vehicle towed by a recreational vehicle.
- Pets must be on leash and under physical control at all times. This includes trail areas and campsites. Pet owners must clean up after pets on all state park lands.
- Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.
- Engine-driven electric generators may be operated only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Be aware that park conditions are often extremely windy.
- Some rattlesnakes live in the area, but they are fairly rare. The bullsnake is more common. Its color and markings are similar to a rattlesnake's, but they don't have rattles and they are not venomous.
- Watch out for poison oak in the rock climbing areas of the butte. They appear as woody shrubs along the base of some rockwalls. When foliated, they have glossy leaves in groups of three and little round white berries.
- Spring is tick season. Ticks vary in color from brown to green. Be sure to check for ticks when hiking the guided tour or visiting undeveloped areas.
- Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by both federal and state laws, and their disturbance and/or removal is illegal and carries severe penalties.



## Columbia Hills Historical State Park

Milepost 85 State Route 14  
Dallesport, WA 98617

**State Parks information:**  
(360) 902-8844

**Reservations:** Online at [www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us) or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688

**Other state parks located in the general area:** Maryhill, Brooks Memorial, Doug's Beach, Goldendale Observatory, Klickitat Trail and Spring Creek Hatchery

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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](http://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](http://www.parks.wa.gov)



### Commission members:

Ken Bounds      Mark O. Brown  
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Douglas Peters      Rodger Schmitt  
Lucinda S. Whaley

Agency director: Don Hoch

*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 45-71200-01 (05/17)



## Washington State Parks

# Columbia Hills

## Historical State Park



EMBRACE YOUR NATURE

[www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us)

# Welcome to Columbia Hills Historical State Park and Natural Area

Columbia Hills Historical State Park borders the Columbia River and is a great place for camping, boating, fishing and picnicking. The park features more than 3,500 acres of pristine shrub-steppe and waterfront. A wealth of historical, natural and recreational resources awaits park and the natural area visitors.

The Horsethief Lake section of the Columbia Hills Historical State Park is a National Historic Site. One of the best collections of Native American pictographs and petroglyphs (rock art) in the northwest is concentrated at the park. The Temani Pesh-wa site is available during park day-use hours. "She Who Watches" pictograph trail requires a guided tour by reservation. To make a reservation, call the park at (509) 439-9032 or (509) 773-3145. If you reach the answering machine, leave a detailed message with your party size, the dates you have in mind, your name and phone number.

Dalles Mountain Ranch area offers a variety of trails with spectacular views of the Columbia River Gorge, snow-capped mountains and fields of spring wildflowers. Outstanding historical, cultural and natural features can be seen in the form of early homesteads, timber cultures, historical ranch buildings and rare native flora and fauna.

Horsethief Butte is the most prominent rock outcropping in the mid-Columbia Gorge and offers some of the best rock climbing in the region. This enduring basalt survived the Ice Age floods which carved out the rest of the gorge more than 10,000 years ago and became a meaningful backdrop to the nearby villages of the Native Americans.

Just a mile east of Horsethief Butte is the Crawford Oaks Trailhead. An early stage-coach road connecting Fort Dalles to Fort Simcoe, built during the Yakima Indian Wars in 1856, crosses 8-Mile creek just above the waterfalls nearby. This road was used by Ben Snipes and his cowboys during their famous cattle drives to Canada in those early days.



## Overnight accommodations

The park offers four standard campsites, eight utility sites with water and electricity only that accommodate RVs up to 60 feet long, four walk-in standard sites, two platform tents, a teepee and a primitive campsite for non-motorized hiker/biker camping. Campsites are reservable between May 15 and Sept. 15; available first come, first served the remainder of the year.

## Park amenities and facilities

Columbia Hills Historical State Park and natural area offer several amenities and facilities to make your visit more enjoyable and comfortable, including:

- Large shady, grassy lawns suitable for croquet, soccer and one horseshoe pit.
- The lake is usually open for fishing the fourth Saturday in April through Oct. 31. Fishermen should consult regulations to be sure of the dates.
- Horsethief Butte is a very popular rock-climbing location. Two areas are signed "no climbing" for cultural resource protection. Please note: Climbers are directed to limit their use of chalk when climbing at the butte.
- The park has two watercraft launches. Motorized boats are permitted on the lake; however, power boat are limited to 5 mph/no wake operation. The park also has peddle boats and kayaks available to rent for half and full day rates. Rental craft availability may be limited due to weather or staffing conditions at times.
- There are 35 unsheltered picnic tables located around the day-use area. Nine braziers are available. Facilities are first come, first served.
- Modern restrooms with hot showers.
- Trailer dump station.
- Approximately 12 miles of pedestrian trails and 6.5 miles of trail open to horses and mountain bikes.

	Hiking		Ranger station
	Fishing		Parking
	Boat launch		Camping
	Boating		Swimming
	Picnic area		Restroom
			Park boundary

