



CONCLUSION

This document sets the foundation for future Master Planning at Point Defiance Park. It contains the descriptions of potential elements and programs for achieving the highest standards of service in resource conservation, management, interpretation, public access, education and recreation. This plan also guides the stewardship and development of the park. Maintaining and preserving the Park's character is a priority.

Through the coordinated efforts of many, Metro Parks Tacoma has produced successful programs and activities, maintaining a balance of conservation and recreational interests, while conservatively managing the District's financial resources. Working with constituents and staff, Metro Parks Tacoma will continue to oversee the Park, programs and partnerships as the founders did – with respect, integrity and opportunity.

Point Defiance Park will continue to see an influx of visitors thanks to increased access, stimulated in part by the connecting trail from Point Ruston, and added amenities, facilities and programming. This plan will help park staff be in a better position to assist the current visitor, as well as to better understand and accommodate future needs of the Park.

This document will become just one of several tools that will be used to inform park-wide activity and capital projects to ensure consistency in design, scheduling, community outreach and efficiency. Master Planning will include developing and completing a half-mile section of the promenade from Ruston Way to Point Defiance, restoring the Marina basin, creating a new waterfront park on the peninsula, enhancing experiences and services in the 28-acre underdeveloped southeast portion of the Park, and updating both Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum. Additional planning efforts support stewardship, restoration, access, programs, academics, parks and recreation, and retail.

Just as Point Defiance Park draws visitors for different reasons, Destination Point Defiance will affect different stakeholders, in different ways and for different reasons. The ability of Metro Parks Tacoma to cooperatively operate and promote Point Defiance Park to these audiences over time will affect the success of Destination Point Defiance and the positioning of the Park and its attractions, activities and facilities now and for the future.

By taking the time to develop near-term and long-range plans, Destination Point Defiance fosters the Park as a vital natural, recreational and educational resource that will serve the community and its visitors for generations to come.