

~~SECRET~~  
~~IN KETCHIKAN~~  
~~ALASKA~~

**FY 2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**  
**For Ketchikan Area State Parks**  
**Submitted By Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board**

**Project-(1): Totem pole Restoration, Rehabilitation, & Infrastructure Support at Totem Bight State Historical Park**

**Project Summary and Overview:** This project has 3 components within it. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$350,000 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. Totem Bight State Historical Park is the only park in the Alaska State Park system that is dedicated to SE Alaska Native Culture. It is one of Ketchikan's major attractions and contributes to the economic vitality of the community, and provides a source for commercial utilization. The park exhibits a clan house and 14 free standing totem poles in varying degrees of needing mandatory restoration, preservation, and stabilizing intervention. This funding is expected to stabilize 8-10 of the totem poles in the worst condition and provide for deferred maintenance on the clanhouse.. It will also provide more efficient access, enabling minimal maintenance to occur, an essential investment to these cultural and historic structures.

P100, 223  
\$11.5  
P101, 25  
\$45.0  
P101, 27  
\$5.0  
P101, 29  
\$50.0  
P101, 212  
\$50.0  
P101, 214  
\$25.0

Volunteer caretaker housing consolidated with park office headquarters, would provide additional security to the 3-4 million dollars invested in the park's cultural and art facilities. Volunteers provide an invaluable service that cannot be met by staff. They provide front line information to visitors and perform minor maintenance. The caretakers provide duties on site 24 hours a day. It is extremely difficult to find volunteers who have the ability and means to live on site with their RV.

**Project Funding Specifics:**

A). Totem Pole Restoration & Rehabilitation; estimated \$150,000: The bases at the totem poles are rotting and some will soon be in jeopardy of falling over. The totem poles need to be taken down, hollowed out from the back side, and reinforced by attaching a metal or wood post. While in a horizontal position they can then be rehabilitated, and finally re-erected. State Parks received \$70,000 for FY 07 which only addresses the need of 2-3 totem poles.

B). Totem pole access road built of geo block \$25,000  
Like the White House lawn supports emergency vehicles; Geo block technology will support man-lifts and equipment to readily access the totem poles to provide safe and efficient regular maintenance. Maintenance efforts have previously been to erect scaffolding on uneven and wet ground surfaces which is dangerous, time consuming and inefficient. The road (trail) will be 12' wide to accommodate a man-lift and 75' long. The geo block will be filled with sand and gravel, and have grass reseeded on top. You will not be able to distinguish the road in the display area from surrounding lawn.

C). Volunteer Caretaker/Ranger Office with Water & Septic Upgrades at Totem Bight State Historic Park; estimated \$125,000; The old park office would be rebuilt to consolidate additional living quarters for volunteer caretakers and the park office. The facility would be upgraded to have running water, showers and restroom facilities. Currently the office is without these common place amenities, and is substandard for working conditions. The current office and maintenance shop is the headquarters for the 8 area state parks. The small 10' x 20' ranger office serves as visitor information & permitting office, meeting & conference area, access to the 20'x 20' shop, and as a lunch area for 3-4 staff and up to 4 volunteers daily during the summer. Besides not having basic water and septic amenities, it is inadequate in its ability to provide efficient service to the public and to accomplish day to day chores without interruption. State Parks maintains a volunteer staff of about 3 volunteers to every paid employee. Volunteers are required to provide their own on-site housing which limits the pool of caretakers. Park caretaker coverage could also be provided during the winter months. A volunteer caretaker and office headquarters would provide additional security to the 3-4 million invested at this site.

State Parks received \$50,000 for FY 07 for deferred maintenance on this project. It is expected that the funds will upgrade the water and septic system, along with some improvements to the shop. Much more is needed to meet basic compliances.

## **Project-(2): Infrastructure and Improvements at Settlers Cove for Health & Safety**

**Project Summary and Overview:** This project has 3 components within it. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$135,000 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. Settlers Cove is an extremely popular park that not only provides for camping, but has tremendous day use activities that include sunbathing, swimming, hiking, picnicking, berry picking, etc. There are two small parking lots that at most will accommodate 25- 30 vehicles in total. \*There are 2 deteriorating outhouse buildings with 4 stalls each. State Parks ability to attract and provide a high quality experience and/or collect camping and day use fees from either local residents or outside visitors will continue to lessen as the conditions and safety of the outhouses, road, campsites and lack of parking are deferred. \*One outhouse has received funding for its replacement, in which construction should be between November 2006 & March 2007.

### **Project Funding Specifics:**

- A). Outhouses replacements at Settlers Cove SRS; estimated \$35,000 each: The outhouse vaults appear to be cracked because they do not hold water and likely are leaking septic water into the environment. The roofs, ceilings and walls of the buildings are rotting, and does not hold paint any longer due to the constant dampness. Both outhouse buildings need to be replaced with cement buildings that do not require as much maintenance.
- B).Expand day use parking at Settlers Cove State Recreation Site; estimated \$50,000: Lack of parking forces people to park vehicles along side the road exiting the park which often extends out to north Tongass Hwy, about a quarter mile along the highway. Road side parking leaves only enough room for single lane traffic. Safety is a major concern in the park, as children dart out from between parallel parked cars into the oncoming traffic lane. Additional parking places or lot expansion needs to be created. Rough field counts for day use traffic during 2004 totaled 18, 900 vehicles coming and going.
- C). Road Repair and Park facilities upgrade at Settlers Cove State Park; estimated \$50,000: The park entrance road, the parking lots, and campground loop road need more gravel, grading, resurfacing and better drainage. Most parking bumpers are rotting, and have been used as chopping blocks and no longer effective. The park entrance road and parking lots have not had any major improvements since 1985, and require resurfacing. The park road is full of large potholes-*lakes*, and has gullies, that become rivers during wet spells. This erosion of the road bed will eventually lead to total road destabilization. To reduce continuous deterioration and maintenance costs the road should be chip seal

### **Project-(3): Facility & Infrastructure Improvements in Parks for Health & Safety**

**Project Summary:** This project has 3 components within it. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$61,500 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. It addresses health and safety issues of facilities and/or roads in two parks that have deteriorated because of lack of maintenance funds. They need to be repaired and upgraded. Refuge Cove State Recreation Site is along Sunset Drive, a short distance from town, and is very popular for evening and weekend family picnics. There is only one small designated parking area for about 5-6 cars, and that area is sloughing into the ocean. All the other parking is along side Sunset Drive where there is no road shoulder, and is a safety problem.

Black Sands Beach State Marine Park has historically been used as an outdoor recreation area. It is within 1.5 miles safe boating distance to Ketchikan in most all weather conditions. A badly deteriorated Black Sands Beach outhouse posed a health and safety concern and was removed from the site several years ago. A skeleton of a picnic shelter remained from before State Parks took over management from the U.S. Forest Service. At one time it would have been possible to repair the shelter, but now people have taken chainsaws to the posts and it has become a safety problem and a liability. Rebuilding the picnic shelter will provide park users protection during inclement weather, at least so they can cook and stay warm.

#### **Project Funding Specifics:**

A). Parking Improvements at Refuge Cove State Recreation Site; estimated \$45,000: After the parking lot is full, vehicles park alongside Sunset Drive. Road side parking leaves only enough room for single lane traffic, creating a safety problem for park and neighborhood traffic. Children dart out from between parallel parked cars into the oncoming traffic lane, or vehicles pull to close to the edge to avoid pedestrians or oncoming traffic, and end up in the ditch.

The current parking area needs to be rehabilitated on the ocean-side. The current parking lot will soon be lost to ocean erosion. Additional parking pullouts need to be constructed along Sunset Drive, with direct access to the park and beach provided via staircase from each of the pullouts.

B). Upgrade picnic sites at Refuge Cove State Park; estimated \$5,000: Refuge Cove has 9 picnic sites. The picnic tables need to be replaced with wood, and made ADA compliant. Nine fire grills need to be replaced with appropriate aggregate underneath to prevent fires in the forest duff.

The picnic tables were replaced about 13 years ago with recycled plastic wood. This material is now substandard. All of the 9 fire grills have completely rusted out and have been removed because of concerns they could topple over and injure someone.

Page 2; Facility & Infrastructure Improvements in Parks for Health & Safety, C)  
continued:

C). Replace outhouse & picnic shelter at Black Sands Beach State Marine Park; estimated \$11,500: A 4 x 4, framed outhouse, with a buried 55 gallon drum or replaceable drum needs to be installed at BSB, and on Blank Island (within the park boundaries). A 16' x 20' picnic shelter needs to be reconstructed, to replace the partially dismantled, vandalized picnic shelter skeleton that currently is standing.

Currently, the popular picnicking and camping beach has no sanitary/outhouse facilities. Human waste is a common occurrence throughout a concentrated area on beach and the island proper, especially during high-use summer months. The adjacent small Blank Island is also very popular and attracts many overnight campers. The island's north facing beaches offer added protection from southern storms. The health and safety issue continues to remain a concern throughout the park. Waste litter adds to the health issues and sanitation problems.

**Cost Estimate breakdown:** \$500 for each outhouse; \$8000 for picnic shelter; \$2500 to transport materials to the site.



# THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



## Totem Pole Restoration, Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Support at Totem Bight State Historical Park

FUNDING REQUEST	
REQUESTED	\$350,000 ✓
MATCHING/LOCAL	In-kind
TOTAL	\$350,000 ✓

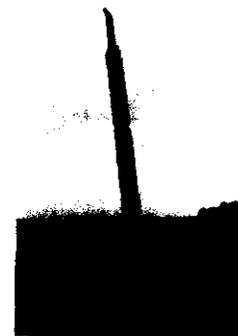
**Project Summary:** This project has three components within it. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$350,000 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. Totem Bight State Historical Park is the only park in the Alaska State Park System that is dedicated to Southeast Alaska Native Culture. It is one of Ketchikan's major attractions and contributes to the economic vitality of the community, and provides a source of commercial utilization. The park exhibits a clan house and 14 free-standing totem poles in varying degrees of needing mandatory restoration, preservation, and stabilizing intervention. This funding is expected to stabilize 8-10 of the totem poles in the worst condition and provide for deferred maintenance on the clan house. It will also provide more efficient access, enabling minimal maintenance to occur, an essential investment to these cultural and historic structures.

Volunteer caretaker housing consolidated with park office headquarters would provide additional security to the \$3-4 million invested in the park's cultural and art facilities. Volunteers provide an invaluable service that cannot be met by staff. They provide front line information to visitors and perform minor maintenance. The caretakers provide duties on-site 24 hours a day. It is extremely difficult to find volunteers who have the ability and means to live on-site with their RV.

### Project Funding Specifics:

- ◆ **Totem Pole Restoration and Rehabilitation; estimated \$150,000** ✓ *500 0*

The bases at the totem poles are rotting and some will soon be in jeopardy of falling over. The totem poles need to be taken down, hollowed out from the back side, and reinforced by attaching a metal or wood post. While in a horizontal position they can then be rehabilitated, and finally re-erected. State Parks received \$70,000 for FY07 which only addresses the need of two to three totem poles.



- ◆ **Totem Pole Access Road Built of Geo-block; \$25,000** ✓

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*(Continued from page 41)*



Like the White House lawn supports emergency vehicles, geo-block technology will support manlifts and equipment to readily access the totem poles to provide safe and efficient regular maintenance. Maintenance efforts have previously been to erect scaffolding on uneven and wet ground surfaces which is dangerous, time-consuming and inefficient. The road (trail) will be 12 feet wide to accommodate a manlift and 75 feet long. The geo-block will be filled with sand and gravel, and have grass reseeded on top. You will not be able to distinguish the road in the display area from surrounding lawn.

◆ **Volunteer Caretaker/Ranger Office with Water and Septic Upgrades at Totem Bight State Historic Park; estimated \$125,000**

The old park office would be rebuilt to consolidate additional living quarters for volunteer caretakers and the park office. The facility would be upgraded to have running water, showers and restroom facilities. Currently, the office is without these commonplace amenities, and is substandard for working conditions. The current office and maintenance shop is the headquarters for the eight area state parks. The small 10-foot by 12-foot ranger office serves as visitor information and permitting office, meeting and conference area, access to the 20-foot by 20-foot shop, and as a lunch area for three to four staff and up to four volunteers daily during the summer. Besides not having basic water and septic amenities, it is inadequate in its ability to provide efficient service to the public and to accomplish day-to-day chores without interruption.



State Parks maintains a volunteer staff of about three volunteers to every paid employee. Volunteers are required to provide their own on-site housing which limits the pool of caretakers. Park caretaker coverage could also be provided during the winter months. A volunteer caretaker and office headquarters would provide additional security to the \$3-4 million invested at this site.

State Parks received \$50,000 for FY07 for deferred maintenance on this project. It is expected that the funds will upgrade the water and septic system, along with some improvements to the shop. Much more is needed to meet basic compliances.





# THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



## Infrastructure and Improvements at Settlers Cove for Health and Safety

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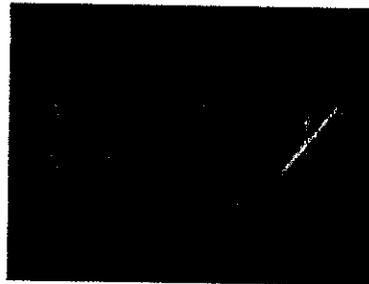
FUNDING REQUEST	
REQUESTED	\$135,000
MATCHING/LOCAL	In-kind
TOTAL	\$135,000

**Project Summary and Overview:** This project has three components within it. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$135,000 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. Settlers Cove is an extremely popular park that not only provides for camping, but has tremendous day use activities that include sunbathing, swimming, hiking, picnicking, berry picking, etc. There are two small parking lots that at most will accommodate 25- 30 vehicles in total. There are two deteriorating outhouse buildings with four stalls each. State Parks' ability to attract and provide a high quality experience and/or collect camping and day use fees from either local residents or outside visitors will continue to lessen as the conditions and safety of the outhouses, road, campsites and lack of parking are deferred. One outhouse has received funding for its replacement. Construction should begin between November 2006 and March 2007.

### Project Funding Specifics:

- ◆ **Outhouse Replacements at Settlers Cove SRS; estimated \$35,000 each** ✓

The outhouse vaults appear to be cracked because they do not hold water and likely are leaking septic water into the environment. The roofs, ceilings and walls of the buildings are rotting, and do not hold paint any longer due to the constant dampness. Both outhouse buildings need to be replaced with cement buildings that do not require as much maintenance.



- ◆ **Expand Day Use Parking at Settlers Cove State Recreation Site; estimated \$50,000** ✓

Lack of parking forces people to park vehicles along side the road exiting the park which often extends out to North Tongass Highway, about a quarter mile along the highway. Road side parking leaves only enough room for single lane traffic. Safety is a major concern in the park, as children dart out from between parallel parked cars into the oncoming traffic lane. Additional park-

*(Continued on page 44)*



# THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



*(Continued from page 43)*

ing places or lot expansion needs to be created. Rough field counts for day-use traffic during 2004 totaled 18,900 vehicles coming and going.



♦ **Road Repair and Park Facilities Upgrade at Settlers Cove State Park; estimated \$50,000**

The park entrance road, the parking lots, and campground loop road need more gravel, grading, resurfacing and better drainage. Most parking bumpers are rotting, and have been used as chopping blocks and are no longer effective. The park entrance road and parking lots have not had any major improvements since 1985, and require resurfacing. The park road is full of large pot-holes-lakes, and has gullies that become rivers during wet spells. This erosion of the road bed will eventually lead to total road destabilization. To reduce continuous deterioration and maintenance costs the road should be chip sealed.





## Facility and Infrastructure Improvements in Parks for Health and Safety

FUNDING REQUEST	
REQUESTED	\$61,500
MATCHING/LOCAL	In-kind
TOTAL	\$61,500

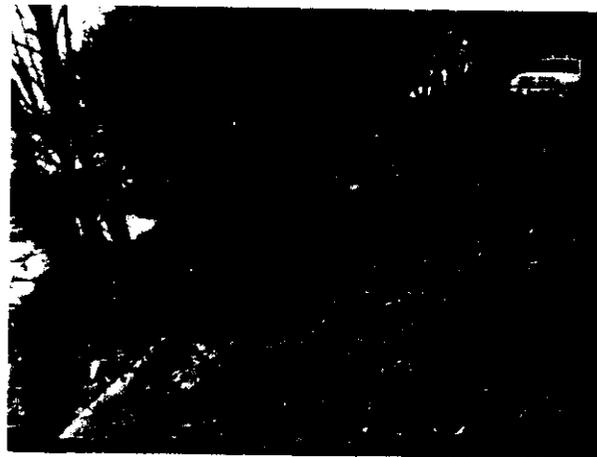
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Black Sands Beach State Marine Park has historically been used as an outdoor recreation area. It is within 1.5 miles safe boating distance to Ketchikan in most weather conditions. A badly deteriorated Black Sands Beach outhouse posed a health and safety concern and was removed from the site several years ago. A skeleton of a picnic shelter remained from the time before State Parks took over management from the U.S. Forest Service. At one time it would have been possible to repair the shelter, but now people have taken chainsaws to the posts and it has become a safety problem and a liability. Rebuilding the picnic shelter will provide park users protection during inclement weather, at least so they can cook and stay warm.

### Project Funding Specifics:

- ◆ **Parking Improvements at Refuge Cove State Recreation Site; estimated \$45,000**

After the parking lot is full vehicles park alongside Sunset Drive. Roadside parking leaves only enough room for single-lane traffic, creating a safety problem for park and neighborhood traffic. Children dart out from between parallel parked cars into the oncoming traffic lane, or vehicles pull too close to the edge to avoid pedestrians or oncoming traffic and end up in the ditch.



The current parking area needs to be rehabilitated on the ocean-side. The current parking lot will soon be lost to ocean erosion. Additional

*(Continued on page 46)*



# THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



*(Continued from page 45)*

parking pullouts need to be constructed along Sunset Drive with direct access to the park and beach provided via staircase from each of the pullouts.

♦ **Upgrade Picnic Sites at Refuge Cove State Park; estimated \$5,000** ✓

Refuge Cove has nine picnic sites. The picnic tables need to be replaced with wood and made ADA compliant. Nine fire grills need to be replaced with appropriate aggregate underneath to prevent fires in the forest duff.

The picnic tables were replaced about thirteen years ago with recycled plastic wood. This material is now substandard. All of the nine fire grills have completely rusted out and have been removed because of concerns they could topple over and injure someone.

♦ **Replace Outhouse and Picnic Shelter at Black Sands Beach State Marine Park; estimated \$11,500** ✓

A 4-foot by 4-foot framed outhouse, with a buried 55-gallon drum or replaceable drum, needs to be installed at Black Sands Beach and on Blank Island (within the park boundaries). A 15-foot by 20-foot picnic shelter needs to be reconstructed to replace the partially dismantled, vandalized picnic shelter skeleton that currently is standing.

Currently the popular picnicking and camping beach has no sanitary/outhouse facilities. Human waste is a common occurrence throughout a concentrated area on the beach and the island proper, especially during high use summer months. The adjacent small Blank Island is also very popular and attracts many overnight campers. The island's north-facing beaches offer added protection from southern storms. The health and safety issue continues to remain a concern throughout the park. Waste litter adds to the health issues and sanitation problems.

*Cost estimate breakdown:* \$500 for each outhouse; \$8,000 for picnic shelter; \$2,500 to transport materials to the site

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