



# Division of State Parks

<b>Policy &amp; Procedure #01-4</b>	<b>Naming Park Units/Park Classification</b>	<b>Rev. 10/2009</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>
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**REFERENCES:** N.R.S. 407.065 & N.R.S. 338.200

**PURPOSE:** Areas administered by the Division of State Parks will be given geographical or historical names, although specific management units, facilities or buildings within a division administered area may be named after a person. The division will use established criteria to determine the appropriate designation of the park unit administered.

**ORGANIZATION:** To act as a guide to naming state park units and to establish a system of classification for park units to distinguish the types of features and values they present and provide parameters for their basic long-term management.

**PRIOR POLICY:** This policy supersedes the prior policy dated 3/13/01.

## **PROCEDURES:**

I. Designations of park units (Attachment A) will be made as follows:

- A. State Park
- B. State Recreational Area
- C. State Historic Park
- D. State Historic Site

The designated names for management areas are shown in Attachment B.

II. Implicit in the classifications are a set of specific criteria and management objectives. The classifications are defined by the following criteria:

- A. Natural Features/Scenic Qualities: types, degree of emphasis.
- B. Cultural Features: types, degree of emphasis.
- C. Development: relationship to resource management objectives, degree of development, carrying capacity.
- D. Relationship of recreational activities to resource management objectives, emphasis.
- E. Size: objectives.
- F. Location: objectives.
- G. Visitor Services: types or range.
- H. Significance: degree of significance.
- I. Ownership/Management: types, conditions.
- J. Other uses: general types, conditions.

**RULE:**

- I. Units of the state park system will not normally be named after living persons, but can contain historical names.
- II. Facilities within state park units may memorialize a living or deceased person by naming a specific facility after that person. Such facilities must not be named after a person unless the person made significant contributions to the state. Additionally, it must be at least three (3) years or more after the date of the person's retirement or death.

Original signed by:  <b>SIGNED</b>  _____	<b>10/21/09</b>  _____
<b>David K. Morrow, Administrator</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>

Original signed by:  <b>SIGNED</b>  _____	<b>10/21/09</b>  _____
<b>Allen Biaggi, Director</b>	<b>Date</b>

Copy to Regions: 10/23/09

Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## STATE PARK CRITERIA

Definition: Spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character often containing historical, archeological, ecological, geological, and other such values of statewide significance, and having compatible types of recreation. Management will involve a balance between recreational resources and preservation of natural or cultural resources.

1. State parks are established to preserve and protect exceptional or unique natural feature(s) of ecological, geological, scientific or similar nature, or exceptional scenic qualities.
2. Cultural features of historical, archaeological or other significance may exist on the site, complimenting the natural features or scenic qualities.
3. Development will be complimentary, but not dominant. Development will be limited to that which is necessary to protect and preserve the scenic and natural values, provide public access, protect public health, provide adequate interpretive programs, and other recreational public use facilities. Carrying capacity will generally be low moderate.
4. Recreational activities will compliment the natural and scenic park values, and will be appropriate for natural surroundings. Emphasis will be placed on passive recreational activities.
5. Parks will be adequate in size and have appropriate boundaries to; a) Protect the significant feature(s) and the dominant scenic values; b) provide a buffer/barrier sufficient to insure the park's integrity; c) Accommodate development so that various types of public use will not conflict, impair, damage or detract from the natural environment.
6. Location must be based on inherent qualities and not geographic, demographic or other factors.
7. A full range of appropriate visitor services may be provided.
8. Parks will be of statewide significance, that is, sufficiently distinctive to attract and interest people from other parts of the state.
9. Ownership should be fee simple with no special conditions, which do not meet with approval of the Division of State Parks. A long-term lease with another government entity is an acceptable alternative to fee simple ownership. Scenic easements may be considered where a large area is necessary for protection of scenic values and where fee ownership is not feasible.
10. Generally, non-recreational uses will not be permitted. However, other uses that enhance the visitor's experience and park objectives can be permitted.

## STATE RECREATIONAL AREA CRITERIA

Definition: Areas selected and developed to provide recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. Such areas are selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to population centers, major travel routes and proven recreational resources such as bodies of water. The management emphasis is the promotion of recreational opportunities.

1. State recreational areas will possess natural or man-made features or scenic qualities of distinctive or unusual value suitable for a variety of outdoor recreational activities. Such features include topographic, open space, streams, lakes or reservoirs, which afford excellent potential for outdoor recreational facilities.
2. The existence of cultural features of historical, archeological or other significance may exist on the site, but are not necessary. When significant natural and cultural features are present, these resource values will be protected through management.
3. The scope and types of development should enhance and promote the safe use and enjoyment of the natural and recreational resources of the area. Development may significantly alter the natural environment since resource protection is a secondary objective. In general, development will provide public access, protect public health and provide for outdoor recreational use and enjoyment of the area in a manner compatible with the character of the surroundings. State recreational areas can achieve a comparatively high recreational carrying capacity, consistent with the type of recreation allowed.
4. State recreational area may be designed and developed for single or multiple use outdoor recreational activities. Activities may vary from those of high intensity on limited areas of land to those of low intensity, which require considerable open space in order to provide meaningful recreational experiences.
5. State recreational areas will be adequate in size and have appropriate boundaries to; a) Protect the recreational resources and other features or scenic values; b) provide a variety of appropriate recreation for current and future needs; c) Provide a buffer sufficient to insure the area's integrity and control; d) Accommodate development of various recreational opportunities with minimum conflict and limited impairment, damage or detract from the environment.
6. Location will be based primarily on demographic or geographic distribution factors. Emphasis will be made on accessibility to concentrations of population.
7. A broad range of appropriate visitor services may be provided.
8. State recreational areas will be of statewide or a multi-county rather than local significance. They will provide recreational opportunities capable of attracting significant visitation.
9. Ownership should be fee simple with no special conditions that do not meet with the approval of the division. A long-term lease with another governmental entity is an acceptable alternative to fee simple ownership. Easements may be considered where a large area is necessary for protection of scenic values and where fee simple ownership is not feasible.
10. non-recreational uses may be considered, provided that have little or no impact on the visitor's experience and area objectives.

## STATE HISTORIC PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES

**Definition:** State historic and historic sites are established to preserve and protect historical and archeological resources and are intended to provide a direct link for the park visitor with Nevada's past. Such area can include public or private historical buildings or a group of historical buildings, battlegrounds, and town sites, significant sites of native culture, historical trails or routes, arts or other sites associated with a significant person or event. The primary distinction between a historic park and a historic site is the relative degree of development. A historic park may have a variety of complimentary visitor facilities while a historic site will have little or no complimentary development. The management emphasis for bother types of areas should be on the historical or cultural features.

1. Natural features which maintain the integrity of the site and/or necessary to enhance the cultural, historical or other significance of the area should be maintained.
2. The area must contain an identifiable site, artifact and/or structure capable of being interpreted.
3. Development for either type of area may include stabilization, restoration and reconstruction of historical or archeological features, and should be planned and executed to help the visitor develop a historical and prehistorically perspective. Any additional development should be in a style and design, which is supportive to the objectives of interpretation, safety and management. However, historic sites will normally have no complementary development other than parking, interpretive signs, sanitary facilities and possibly a few picnic sites.
4. Recreational activities for state historic parks will compliment the cultural values and will be appropriate for natural surroundings. Emphasis will be placed on passive recreational activities. Recreational activities are secondary to the area's purpose.
5. State historic parks and historic sites will be adequate in size and have appropriate boundaries to; a) Completely include the historical or archeological feature(s) the area is established to preserve and protect; b) Provide sufficient land area to protect the feature(s) from outside influences or encroachments; c) Permit the development of interpretive devices if these can be provided without damage or impairment of the primary purpose of preserving the feature(s).
6. Location must be based on inherent qualities and not geographic, demographic or other factors.
7. A full range of appropriate visitor services may be provided for historic parks, but not for historic sites. Recreational facilities, i.e. camping and picnic facilities may be provided to facilitate the public's visits to the site. However, since these facilities and activities are secondary to the site's purpose, they would be located on the perimeter of the area or otherwise non-obtrusive.
8. State historic parks and historic sites will portray items, sites or places of historical occurrences which play a prominent role in state history and which command statewide interest.
9. Ownership can be fee simple, private or a combination of special conditions and easements that meet with the approval of the division and the objectives of historic parks or sites. Long-term leases, historic easements and cooperative management with the private sector and other agencies are examples of management and ownership arrangements that may be acceptable.
10. Generally, non-recreational uses will not be permitted. However, other uses which enhance the visitor's experience and park or site objectives can be permitted.

**NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE PARKS**  
**DESIGNATED NAMES FOR MANAGEMENT AREAS**

Beaver Dam State Park  
Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site  
Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park  
Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area  
Cathedral Gorge State Park  
Cave Lake State Park  
Dayton State Park  
Echo Canyon State Park  
*Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Park*  
Fort Churchill State Historic Park  
Lahontan State Recreation Area  
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park  
Kershaw-Ryan State Park  
Mormon Station State Historic Park  
Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park  
Rye Patch State Recreation Area  
South Fork State Recreation Area  
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park  
Spring Valley State Park  
Valley of Fire State Park  
*Walker Lake State Recreation Area*  
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park  
Washoe Lake State Park  
Wild Horse State Recreation Area