



THE CENTER FOR WOODEN BOATS
at CAMA BEACH STATE PARK

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 - 2017

Changing lives one boat at a time



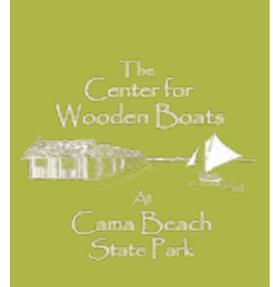


CAMA BEACH STATE PARK
THE CENTER FOR WOODEN BOATS

20 CAMA BEACH

CAMA B

Our Mission is to provide a gathering place where maritime history comes alive through direct experience and our small craft heritage is enjoyed, preserved, and passed along to future generations.



A FOUNDER'S VISION

“It was 1991 and The Center for Wooden Boats was running out of room. The time had come for more space in order to let our programs grow.

I was contacted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to take a look at a site they were considering buying. They told me evaluations from visitors at state waterfront parks noted that, aside from skipping rocks, there were no opportunities to play on the water. The Commission asked for my reaction to the property and if it would be usable for boating.

The property turned out to be the old Cama Beach Resort on Camano Island. I spent a day walking through a time capsule. It was a 1930s-built fishing resort; before that it had been a seasonal gathering place for Native Americans, dating back at least 2,000 years. There was 6,000 feet of beach, a grassy area above the high tide line, 46 historic structures, 430 acres of old growth forest behind the resort and a lake with surrounding wetlands. The site was a refuge for indigenous plants and animals and a wildlife habitat. The grey whales came each spring to feast on ghost shrimp along the sand and mud shores of Saratoga Passage. Sturgeon fed in Port Susan waters and the Orcas enjoyed the area's salmon. Snow geese came to rest on the Still-

aguamish estuary every fall. The old gang of deer, river otters, bald eagles, herons, loons, crabs and clams were where they had always been.

The First Peoples' gatherings at Cama Beach left a shell midden that is one of the largest and most integral of those remaining. The oldest cultural deposits of shells, fish bones, stone and bone tools are in the mile-long midden. Stake molds have been found, indicating tie-downs for portable mat-covered shelters or drying racks for clams and fish.

The resort itself is the last one standing in Washington. At their peak, there were 145 active waterfront resorts on Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Pacific Coast with cabins and boathouses. Today there is one: Cama Beach on Saratoga Passage.

When I saw the cabins and the Boathouse – with 50 boats still in it – I remembered the Great Depression of the 1930s. The working class used their dollars to buy essentials. Recreation had to be cheap. The resorts were essential family getaways with simple cabins, cast-iron wood-burning stoves and small boats for crabbing and fishing, all at affordable prices.

Cama Beach Resort opened in 1932 and closed in 1989 and yet the tidelands and near-shore are the Puget Sound waterfront site closest to

pre-occupation condition. Cama Beach is an overwhelmingly significant native and cultural history place. Its stories are endless.

My report to the Parks Commission was that Cama Beach is a living museum that can't be found anywhere else, that the buildings were repairable, the boats could be documented and replicas made. The Commission and the heirs to the Cama property were excited about my report and wanted to restore the resort as it was with CWB as a partner in its operation.

After all the bureaucratic procedures, meetings, plans, contracts and construction, Cama Beach State Park, with CWB as an enduring partner, opened in 2008.

How could we, State Parks and the heirs of Cama Beach have turned down this opportunity? There is absolutely no place in our state that has such a magnificent amount of history. Our Campus I was built on dumped waste and the leavings of 75 years of asphalt plant operation. What a counterpoint of history to Cama Beach! Our lake Union campus will always be the Mother of CWB but it never can match the environment of Cama Beach and its history.))


DICK WAGNER

WHY CWB IS AT CAMA BEACH

Imagine a place where tourists and residents can view, build and use traditional watercraft along the most pristine beach tidelines of Puget Sound.

1. PRESERVATION

During the 1930s, dozens of waterfront resorts with simple cabins and fleets of good little boats were tucked away in spots around Puget Sound. With its original cabins, and CWB's boats and world-renowned hands-on history programs, Cama Beach State Park is not only the last intact waterfront fishing resort of its kind within the Puget Sound region, but the only one that preserves the stories and experiences for today's generations.

Uniquely at Cama:

- Authentic experience in a site named to the National Register of Historic Places
- Row boats designed and built for use at resorts like Cama Beach
- Interpretation telling the story of the Boathouses of Puget Sound

2. YOUTH

450 acres of forest, a mile of beach and Saratoga Passage frame the environment for CWB's youth programs at Cama Beach State Park. Young people can take a break from modern day pressures and video screens to learn new maritime skills and connect with nature and each other.

Uniquely at Cama:

- Affordable overnight accommodations for youth groups
- Immersive environment for weeklong maritime intensives
- Partnership with Stanwood/Camano schools
- Job skills training for youth from Snohomish and Island Counties.
- Special events like the Youth Fishing Derby



3. LIFELONG LEARNING

CWB at Cama Beach envisions a future when people of all ages use their hands and calm their minds to continually learn and use new skills and discover new insights about the sea, the forest, themselves, and each other.

Uniquely at Cama:

- A family getaway – stay in a rustic cabin while learning traditional maritime skills
- Volunteer shifts on the shores of Saratoga Passage
- A great setting for retreats and conferences, like the national “Teaching with Small Boats” conference held in Spring 2012.



The authenticity of the natural and historic features of Cama Beach and the tangible evidence of the human history of the site provide a direct conduit for learning for students of all ages.



4. COMMUNITY

People of all ages and cultures connect, talk, play, and work on hands-on projects together and tell stories outdoors around campfires, then, refreshed and inspired, take these positive human experiences back home to strengthen the world.

Uniquely at Cama:

- Free public sail on the Saturday of Mother’s Day weekend.
- Easy community for children riding bikes and families staying overnight
- Labor Day small boat festival and Sail CamIsle regatta
- Other community events in the Park like the Cama Quilt Show, CamOcean, Harvest Festival and Beach Art Festival.

5. ACCESS

With its rustic beachfront facilities on the west shore of Camano Island, Cama Beach State Park gives people who don’t own waterfront property access to the beautiful salt water shore. CWB gives people a chance to get on the water without owning their own boat or outboard motor.

Uniquely at Cama:

- Go fishing
- Go crabbing
- Rent a skiff with an outboard motor
- Follow the shoreline to the bluffs
- See a whale
- Watch boats heading north in Saratoga Passage

6. INSPIRATION

Cama Beach State Park is more than a sum of its natural and cultural resources. It is a new chapter in the textbook of park concepts: a partnership of a government agency, a non-profit historical museum, volunteer groups and a small private café, building on a tradition of giving and collaboration at the heart of the State Park network.

Uniquely at Cama:

- A pioneering partnership with Washington State Parks and Washington State Parks Foundation
- A venue for community volunteers from Island and Snohomish counties

This year I watched several high school students blossom in a CWB program that culminated in the launch of a new wooden boat they built from scratch. You may have seen a story and photo about it in the Stanwood/Camano NEWS. It’s part of a national effort to spark young people’s minds and attitudes through learning teamwork, boat building and seamanship. It works like magic!

John Dean, CWB Volunteer and former Island County Commissioner

PROGRAMS

 *Bold and italicized text indicates future plans.*

BOAT RENTALS

CWB rents many types of small boats to the public at Cama Beach in its “livery”. *CWB will pilot offering electric-powered boats and may grow electric powered offerings pending results. Once the railway is in place CWB will offer slightly larger rowboats, make it easier to carry a larger family and to go out in slightly windier conditions. The selection of additional livery boats will reflect Cama’s unique physical constraints and Collections Committee priorities.*

WORKSHOPS

Cama Beach provides an ideal location for maritime skills workshops offered in a multiple-day format. *CWB will continue to build an optimal selection of offerings.*

“Too many of our local youth have been learning their life lessons from the school of hard knocks. You can open the door to a whole new world of learning at The Center for Wooden Boats at Cama Beach State Park – the programs will excite their curiosity as they explore the wonders of boating.”

- Marty Arellano, Youth Educator and Advocate

TOURS & INTERPRETATION

In addition to a place to have fun, Cama Beach State Park is a place to learn about the history of the northwest. *CWB will develop additional interpretation to tell the stories of the small boats on display and tell the story of the fishing resorts of Puget Sound, highlighting the history of Cama Beach. CWB will train volunteers to provide historic tours of the site, and will explore offering historic tours by water.*

YOUNG PARK VISITORS

CWB’s young park visitors can build a toy boat using hand tools and their imagination or make a hand fishing line (see photo above right.) *CWB will expand opportunities for toy boat building by hiring Job Skills graduates to help with livery and support summer youth offerings. CWB will also add a “Boatshop Storytime” program. CWB will contact local youth service agencies to develop more daytime programs that serve their needs. CWB will also work with partners at the park and the Stanwood/Camano School District on developing new programs that map to academic curriculum.*

EVENTS

As Cama Beach State Parks grows a number of regular events have emerged led by various partners in the Park. *CWB will work closely with Park partners in support of*



greater collaboration for all events occurring in the Park.

JOB SKILLS TRAINING

This valuable program involves underserved teens who work at CWB while learning job skills. *CWB will keep building partnerships with local youth service agencies and maritime industry, and will participate in the Youth Program Quality Initiative to develop strong evaluation practices.*

MARITIME INTENSIVES

In week-long boatbuilding classes students develop woodworking and communication skills. *CWB will grow scholarships for underserved youth to participate in these immersive week-long experiences.*

CONFERENCES

CWB is recognized nationally as a leader in offering maritime skills programs to people of all ages. In April 2012 CWB hosted a national conference “Teaching with Small Boats” (TWSB) for 80 participants from around the country. *CWB will host TWSB again and attract other conferences and similar events.*

MAJOR GOALS

CWB's highest priority is to pursue our mission faithfully by prioritizing these major goals to guide us over the next five years. CWB's efforts at Cama Beach are

1a. Build on stakeholder experience and impact through connections to human and natural history

- Continue to preserve the extended history of Cama Beach and Camano Island and the immersive experience of living in a natural environment. "Partner with nature."
- Continue developing Cama Beach as a week-long destination for a couple or families who seek a range of activities, for example learning to sail, building a boat, touring wetlands or birding.
- Improve Boathouse interpretation displays and exhibits emphasizing connection with Puget Sound's salmon sport fishing industry.
- Continue to build connections between CWB's urban campuses on Lake Union and the natural oasis of CWB's campus at Cama Beach. Explore voyaging expeditions by boat and programmatic connections for people learning to sail or other maritime skills.
- Increase access to Cama Beach and CWB programs for low-income students and families.

1b. Build on stakeholder experience and impact by growing partnerships.

- Increase communication about event coordination, joint marketing and shared programming with Cama Beach State Park partners: Cama

Beach Foundation, Cama Cafe, Friends of Camano Island Parks, and Washington State Parks.

- Continue to build partnerships with community youth service organizations, the Stanwood / Camano Family Resource Center, the YMCA, churches, Naval facilities, and regional youth groups.
- Continue to build community awareness and participation at Cama Beach in the Stanwood / Camano community and Skagit and Snohomish counties through advertising, participation in community events, Chamber of Commerce involvement, island art organization partnerships, Warm Beach Camp partnership, service club presentations and outreach to our region's Navy families.

2. Improve Facilities

- Short-term: Provide new infrastructure and equipment to increase the ease, efficiency, and safety of launching boats.
- Long-term: Work with State to complete railway and mooring buoys.
- Build necessary safety boats to meet operational needs and Collection priorities.
- Continue to upgrade outboard motors at Cama Beach and pilot use of electric motors.



CWB welcomes the challenge of harmonizing entrepreneurial spirit with sustainable ideals. For CWB, this means ensuring revenue streams exist to support our operations, programs and activities and to scale only as appropriate to increase our audience and impact.

Still the finest saltwater resort on Puget Sound!

Cama Beach

This 1957 map shows the region's Saltwater fishing resorts. CWB at Cama Beach preserves this experience for today's families.

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1957 Saltwater Fishing Resorts Map



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