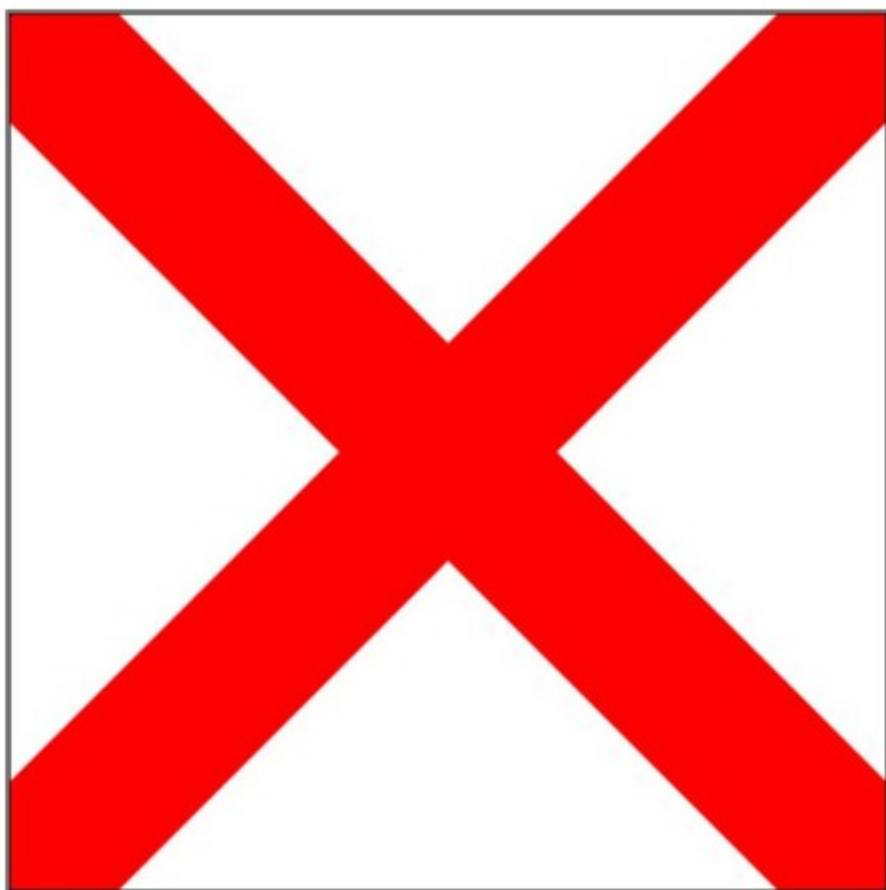


# WindWord

The Newsletter of the Footloose Sailing Association

Leave your disability at the dock



The symbol above is the international maritime flag signal for "I REQUIRE ASSISTANCE".

We have raised it because we need your assistance in stopping Washington State Parks cutting off our access to Blake Island. Please see the notes on Page 3 regarding Blake Island and let Parks know how important it is to Footloose.

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Footloose is a member of



Move United is the national leader in community adaptive sports.

*Footloose is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization funded entirely by donations.*

## At The Tiller Spring 2026



Ahoy Footloose sailors!

Happy spring! Let's hope that it gets all it's rainy Saturdays out of its system before our sailing season starts on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our mid winter potluck was a success with 22 people attending. Two of our members were on a cross Atlantic sailing adventure. The annual volunteer Loose Screw was awarded to Eulalie Sullivan and Eric Laschever.

Last year the event reservation system on the website started reserving boats with no one sailing them so we shut it down. This year for participants to reserve a boat, contact Footloose through e-mail at [info@footloosedisabledsailing.org](mailto:info@footloosedisabledsailing.org) to answer questions, discuss needs and decide on the right boat. Then you can prepay through the PayPal button on the website. Please print out and bring the paper reservation and liability forms from the Footloose website with you to the event. The forms only need to be done once a year.

Footloose volunteers also need to print out and bring the paper reservation and liability forms from the Footloose website to the event (done just once a year) and also be processed through the Move United background check and disability sensitivity program.

Our two night camping trip to Blake Island will be July 19,20,21 this summer. Reservations for that will be separate from the regular daysails on Lake Washington and will be done through me at [info@footloosedisabledsailing.org](mailto:info@footloosedisabledsailing.org).

Please note here in the newsletter that WA State Parks is considering changes to the park at Blake Island. One of these changes would eliminate our annual camping trip by getting rid of the marina. Please go to the website found here in the newsletter and give your input!

Footloose is currently looking for more volunteers to help at events, keep the boats ship shape, tow the black trailer to events and other projects.

Footloose is also perennially looking for an accessible home on the water with good parking where we can have our sailing events, have some office space, store our boats and equipment, have meetings and generally hang out.

Footloose has ongoing efforts by volunteers and board members in events, meetings, fund raising, administration, outreach, paperwork, accounting and maintenance. A big thank you to the Footloose Volunteers as well as all the businesses and organizations that support us!

You can keep up with Footloose on our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FootlooseSailingAssociation/>

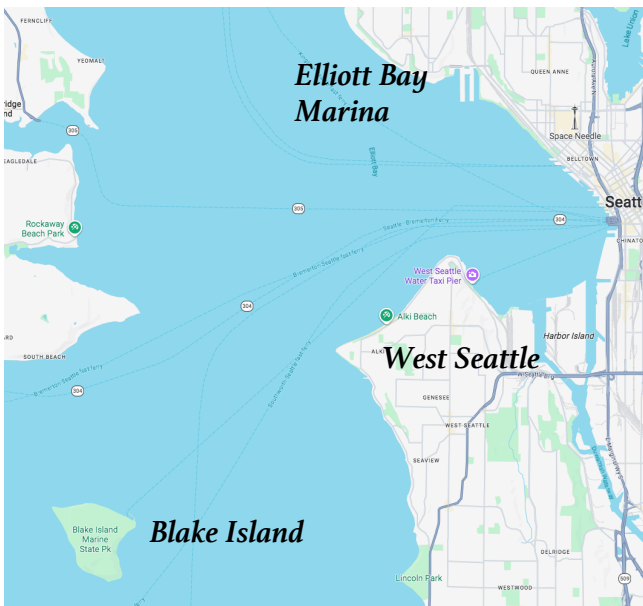
or at our website:

[footloosedisabledsailing.org](http://footloosedisabledsailing.org).

Looking forward to another safe and fun filled sailing summer!

fair winds, Captain Bob

## The Future of Footloose and Blake Island



Blake Island is a state park located in Puget Sound, west of West Seattle. It has been a camping destination for Footloose since 1992. Campers gather at Elliott Bay Marina to board sailboats then sail the 6.5 nautical miles to the Island. The Island harbor docks provide moorage and access to the campgrounds.

Camping is basic, with campers staying in tents and cooking their food. However, there are accessible toilet facilities. With multiple volunteers assisting them, the participants can get out of the city, spend time closer to nature and spend time with like-minded people. It is an experience we do not want to lose.

From parks.wa.gov:

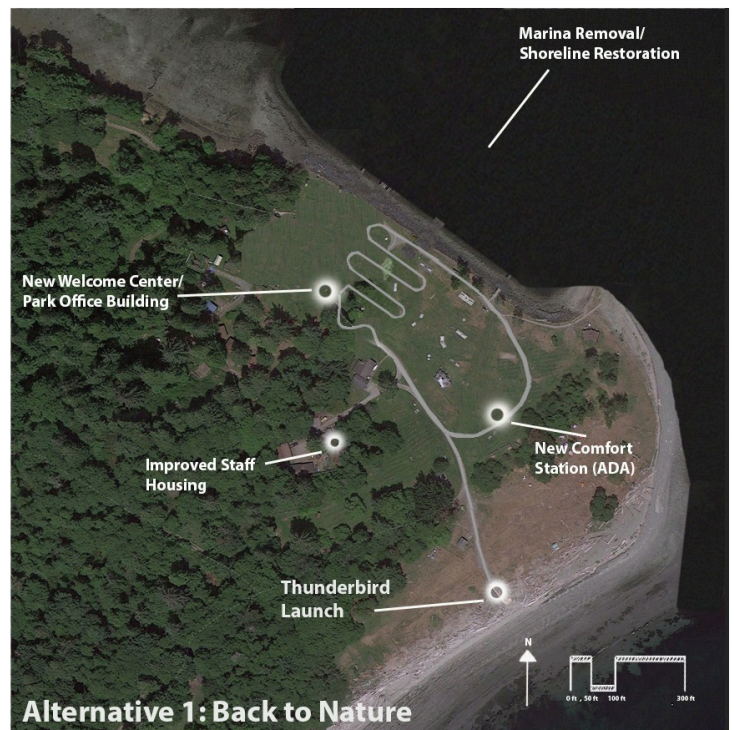
*Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is undertaking a planning process to develop a Master Plan for the future of Blake Island Marine State Park.*

State Parks is going through a multi-stage process to develop a Master Plan that is expected to go to the Commission this year.

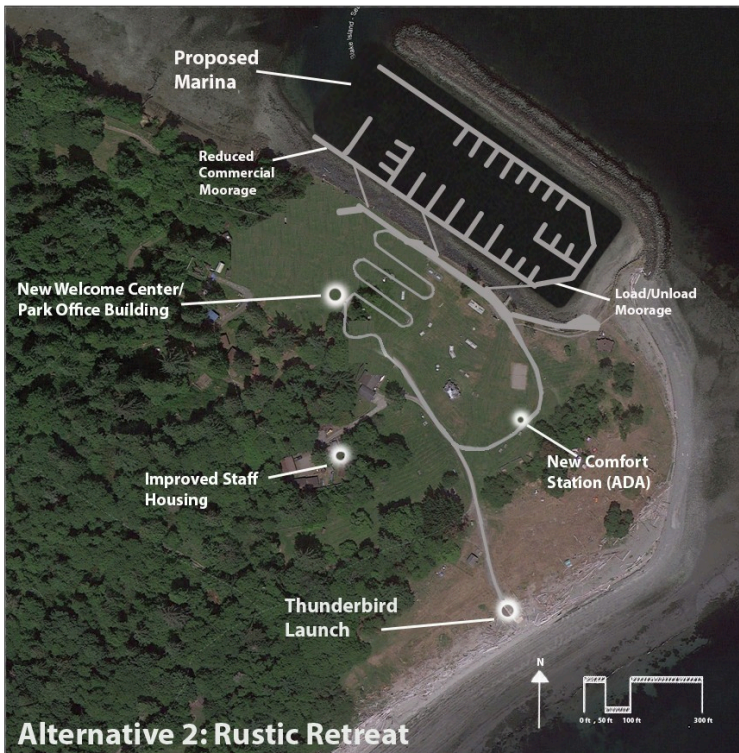
To date, four alternative plans have been developed.

**Alternative 1: Back to Nature** would end Footloose's camping trips. As shown on the photo to the right, the marina would be removed, taking away any fixed-keel sailboat access. Park's report states it will have a boat launch "for the continued use of the Parks Thunderbird vessel and have it be an ADA access point." How this would work for us is not described. Thunderbird is a landing craft vessel that requires no dock. Without a proper dock our trips are over.

### Blake Island Master Plan- Alternatives Survey



(Continued on Page 4)



### **Alternative 2: Rustic Retreat**

- Upgrades the marina
- Demolishes Tillicum Village
- Upgrades utilities
- Constructs an ADA accessible park office with an expanded store
- Constructs an updated ADA accessible comfort station
- Constructs upgraded staff housing
- Creates ADA accessible pathways throughout the day use area, connecting water access to campsites, comfort station, the park office, and other facilities.
- Adds 5 marine buoys

This alternative meets the needs of Footloose.

Alternative 2: Rustic Retreat



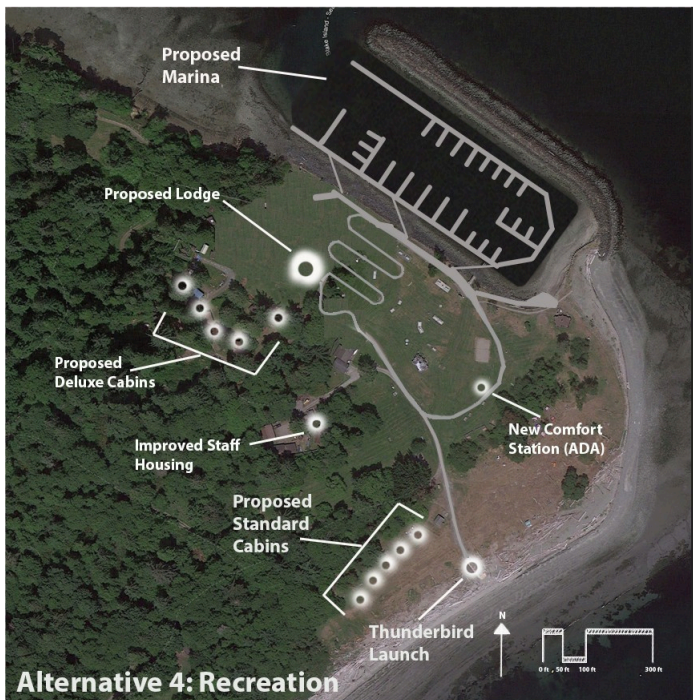
### **Alternative 3: Concession**

This Alternative includes the Alternative 2 improvements and adds a Concessionaire. The concessionaire signs a lease agreement for the designated area and is responsible for improvements to existing buildings, or demolition and construction of facilities within the lease area.

Although this would mean a busier park it does hold advantages for Footloose. The Concessionaire would be required to provide commercial transport to and from the island. This would allow campers that couldn't transit by sailboat to attend, if only for a day trip.

Tillicum Village, a previous concessionaire, held a salmon dinner and display of Native American culture. This was part of Footloose's experience while it operated.

(continued on Page 5)



**Alternative 4: Recreation**

- Upgraded marina
- Boat transportation from Bremerton and Seattle
- Tillicum Village buildings demolished
- Two-story lodge constructed
- 5 deluxe cabins constructed
- 5 standard cabins constructed
- utilities and infrastructure upgraded
- updated ADA accessible comfort station
- updated staff housing
- Creates ADA accessible pathways throughout the day use area, connecting water access to campsites, comfort station, the park office, and other facilities.

This includes a number of features not required by Footloose, although the cabins would allow non-campers to join us.

What Can You Do To Insure Blake Island Continues To Be A Footloose Tradition?

Several people have responded that they received our March 14 email and have filled out the questionnaire. To them and anyone else who has already filled it out our heart-felt thanks. For those that haven't done so we ask that you fill out Washington State Parks' Blake Island Master Plan – Alternatives Survey. **THE DEADLINE FOR THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS APRIL 30.**

To find the questionnaire click on the link included in the email that delivered this edition of WindWord.

([https://www.research.net/r/HQR3FJV?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://www.research.net/r/HQR3FJV?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)) and enter your answers.

We recommend choosing Alternative 2 as choosing Alternative 3 or 4 may result in support for a design that is too expensive to implement. This could mean Parks would fall back to Alternative 1. Please, whatever way you choose to vote, mark Alternative 1 as the least desirable. We thank you in advance for your support.

Why do people go camping? For some, it's about embracing adventure and waking up to fresh air and open skies. For others, it's about the peace and stillness, reducing stress, reconnecting with yourself and friends or family, or healing through nature. There are countless reasons to go camping. [Fridieoutdoors.com](http://Fridieoutdoors.com)

## Footloose's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Footloose started out as the dream of its founders, Ron Singleton, Fred Hayes and Bob Ewing in 1989. They procured two donated two sailboats (*Klickitat* and *Eoghan*) and signed up for moorage at Leschi. In 1991, Footloose had its first sailing season.

Footloose grew with four Access dinghies, two Martin 16s and a chase boat joining the fleet, providing sailing experiences for 35 years.

Some of our sailors have shared what Footloose means to them:

*Being on the water and outdoors is so important to my wellbeing...Joining Footloose this year has given me an outlet and lets me be a water baby again! It's also so important to me that it's affordable. – Amy*

*There's absolutely nothing like the feeling of leaving your chair and disability at the dock, making your way out of the marina and watching the wind fill your sails...Thank you Footloose - Aaron*

*The wind picked up, and we were gone. I had a new independence. I could go in any direction I wanted. That really hooked me on sailing. – Faron*

*It really meant the world to me to be accepted by the sailing group. The sailing is awesome, but the volunteers are right up there too! – Rich*

*I therefore have had the opportunity to sail with Footloose every summer. As a result, I not only had some good times, I met several of the fellow sailors who are now new friends...Now I can say that my sailing days are not over. – Barry*

*As a former avid sailor I had given up on the idea that I could ever sail again being permanently in a wheel chair. You guys made it so simple and handled everything so professionally...Please keep doing what you're doing. You're making a lot of people live their dream. - Don*

## 2026 Sailing Schedule

April 25 – setup 10 a.m. – no sailing

May 2 – day sail

May 16 – day sail

May 30 - day sail

June 13 – day sail

June 27 – day sail

July 11 – day sail

July 19 – 21 – Blake Island camping trip

August 8 – day sail

August 22 – day sail

September 12 – day sail

September 26 – day sail

October 3 – Shut down 10 a.m. – no sailing

### Day Sail

Volunteers at 10 a.m.

Sailors at 11 a.m.

Start loading boats at 11:30

First sail 12:00 to 2:00

Second sail 2:30 to 4:30