

Chapter 6

Facility Recommendations

The recommendations for the recreational and interpretive facilities are designed to rectify management problems, correct deficiencies in the present number and type of facilities, and to provide opportunities for a variety of park visitors. Figures 6.1 and 6.2 show existing and proposed facilities.

Miller Point

The two major components of the Ft. Abercrombie military installation are Miller Point and Piedmont Point. Of the two, Miller Point receives the majority of the use and has become the cultural focus of the park. The Kodiak Military History Museum housed in the now-restored Ready Ammunitions Bunker and the various other World War II remnants in the area offer a unique historical experience. In addition, Miller Point offers opportunities for whale watching, hiking, and one of the best locations in Kodiak to view the seascape.

A major challenge at Miller Point is adequately accommodating the variety of uses occurring in the area. Commercial tours access the area to visit the museum and hike the trails but their buses have difficulty parking and turning around on the steep, narrow roads and small parking areas. Limited parking (about 4 parking spaces) is available at Miller Point for day-use visitors and overflow parking causes traffic flow problems. The campground located amongst the World War II remnants compromises the cultural resources and creates unique challenges for campground maintenance. As a result of these challenges and in an effort to provide a quality experience, many changes are proposed for the area. Figure 6.2 shows facility recommendations for Miller Point.

Below are recommendations related to solving the congestion problems at Miller Point. Other sections of this chapter contain more detailed facility proposals for campgrounds, public use cabins & shelters, caretaker housing, interpretative facilities, historic restoration, and road recommendations associated with Miller Point.

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Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<p><u>Bus turnaround.</u> Develop a bus turnaround area near Miller Point.</p>	<p>The following location options are under consideration to accommodate a bus turnaround:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) near the Ready Ammunitions Bunker/Museum, 2) in the existing campground, or 3) below the spotting and plotting room. <p>The above location options are preliminary and subject to further review and study during the design and site planning process.</p>	<p>The current situation at Miller Point makes it difficult to safely turn a bus around.</p> <p>Park design should accommodate all levels of mobility and access, especially in the Miller Point area. Commercial tours often cater to elderly travelers who may not be able walk very far, therefore reasonable access needs to be provided.</p>
<p><u>One-way road.</u> Develop a one-way road from the Ready Ammunitions Bunker/Museum to the parking lot below the Spotting and Plotting Room (Lake Gertrude Beach parking lot).</p>	<p>Single lane, one-way road would be developed if needed to facilitate traffic flow. This road proposal should be considered only as a last resort to solving the traffic congestion problems at Miller Point.</p>	<p>This road in conjunction with additional parking may be needed to route traffic efficiently around Miller Point and eliminate the need for a turnaround at Miller Point.</p>
<p><u>Museum security.</u> Increase security in the museum area.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve lighting to properly illuminate both entrances of the museum; 2) Provide electronic security for the museum; 3) Construct caretaker residence in the area for year-round presence. 	<p>The museum contains many valuable artifacts and resources. Since the introduction of a single floodlight at one entrance, the incidence of vandalism has decreased.</p> <p>Additional measures are needed such as an electronic alarm system that would alert not only of intruders, but also of environmental control failures.</p> <p>Should the campground be removed, a camp host will no longer reside on-site providing oversight of the area. A residence will then be needed to provide this valuable service.</p>
<p><u>Cultural resource survey.</u> Conduct a cultural resource survey at Miller Point prior to major facility enhancements. Once the survey is completed the ensuing archaeological report should be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review and concurrence prior to major facility development.</p>	<p>Survey would be conducted according to DPOR standards.</p>	<p>The previous cultural resource survey should be updated. A cultural resource survey will aid managers in the subsequent design & site planning phase to know where cultural resources are and protect them as appropriate.</p>

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Visitor services area.</u> Develop a visitor services area at Miller Point.	Facilities such as a day-use fee station, restrooms, information kiosk, pet waste station, trash disposal and picnic tables could be included.	Miller Point is a major focus of the park. These types of facilities would enhance the visitor experience.

Figure 6.1: Facility Map

Figure 6.2: Miller Point Detail Facility Map

Camping Facilities

Overnight camping has been a long debated issue in the park. Currently a 13-unit camping area at Miller Point serves primarily car campers and walk-in type or backpacking users, many without vehicles. The campground is most beneficial to the latter type of user because of its close proximity (2 miles) to shopping amenities. The Miller Point campsites are scattered throughout the core historical portion of the park utilizing the only suitable flat places in the area, the historic foundations of WWII structures. The campground was not designed for this purpose making it difficult to maintain and potentially adversely affecting the integrity of the historical resources.

Parking in the campground is very limited with very small pullouts, difficult turnarounds, and no safe way to accommodate RVs. As a result RV camping in the park is discouraged but has been accommodated in the lot near the Spotting and Plotting Room. This use creates congestion and conflicts with those that use the lot to access the Lake Gertrude Beach. A second problem has been conflicts between recreational short-term campers and the seasonal transient worker/long-term campers. The park has adopted seven-day maximum stay limits to promote recreational camping and discourage the use of the park for seasonal housing.

Previous planning efforts have recommended that camping in the park be eliminated, relocated to more suitable borough or city land or at least deemphasized so as not to conflict with day use activities or the primary mission of the park. This plan also recommends moving the existing campground. Convenience camping will continue to be emphasized instead of attempting to provide a quality camping experience. The existing campground will be relocated away from Miller Point and the area will be rehabilitated to provide additional parking for day-use visitors.

There are two options for campground relocation that are to be considered. Between six to ten walk-in sites may be accommodated in a forested area above the War Reserve Magazine between the road and the Group Recreation Site where drinking water and restrooms are located nearby. Limited RV camping may be provided in the parking lot across from the park headquarters facility providing ownership of that area is resolved, or overnight RV parking would be eliminated altogether now that the Buskin River State Recreation Site provides camping more suitable to RVs.

The next relocation option is the City of Kodiak's former "Cry of the Wild Ram Site" (Ram Site). If this area is added to the park, camping would be sited there instead of above the War Reserve Magazine. The Ram Site has more space to provide quality campsites with good screening. See the following section for more information on the Ram Site and proposed facilities for the area.

Ram Site

The City of Kodiak’s former Cry of the Wild Ram Site abuts the southwestern edge of the park. This 77-acre tract of land is bisected by Monashka Bay Road. The portion between the road and the park is the primary area of interest in this plan. The Ram Site area was originally conveyed to the City by the Bureau of Land Management to be used as a cemetery site but attempts to use it for this purpose proved unsuccessful due to the area’s high ground water table. One monumented gravesite exists. Deed restrictions on the land require that it be used for recreational purposes only. For many years the land had an open air amphitheater where local residents produced the historic “Cry of the Wild Ram” drama. Long since disbanded, the site has been cleared of most of the production’s infrastructure with the exception of a few features. The land includes an important Alutiiq cultural site along Monashka Bay and is used by residents of nearby Spruce Island as a drop-off/pick-up point for boats, passengers, and supplies. The open waters off Miller Point can make mariner passage to town dangerous at times, and the Ram Site Beach offers an alternative.

The Ram Site is outside of the city limits making it difficult for the City to manage and maintain. The site has a history of vandalism, litter problems and there have been serious assaults at the site as well. For this reason consideration must be made for the additional patrols by park enforcement staff that will be required should the site be acquired. Should this area become available, it would be desirable to add it to the park to provide space needed for important recreational park infrastructure.

Below are recommendations for how the Ram Site may be used if the park acquires it in the future either through purchase, land exchange or management agreement. These recommendations are grouped here but portions may also be repeated under other facility headings. See figure 6.1 for a depiction of proposed Ram Site developments. Any development must avoid cultural sites to the extent practicable.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Campground.</u> Develop a campground to replace the Miller Point Campground.	A 10-15 unit campground (primitive – no hookups) designed for car-camping or tent camping with a few pull through sites large enough to accommodate an RV.	Move incompatible use from a cultural zone to a recreational development zone. If demand warrants, the campground could accommodate limited RV camping.
<u>Storage yard.</u> Construct a secured (fenced) park storage yard.	Utilize the area near the current Weatherport for a secured storage yard.	Move incompatible use to a more appropriate location for security and aesthetics purposes.
<u>Group Use Cabin.</u>	Construct a public use cabin that is larger than a conventional cabin to be available for meetings, classes, events, or larger group overnight use.	Provide a new high recreational demand opportunity that currently does not exist.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Public Use Cabin/Campground Shelter.</u>	Construct small simple cabins for overnight use in the campground in lieu of tent pads.	Provide a new high recreational demand opportunity that currently does not exist.
<u>Boat launch – Motorized.</u>	Construct a boat launch facility at the current beach access.	Provide a new high recreational demand facility that currently does not exist in this part of the Kodiak road system; improve boat access to Kodiak by residents of neighboring communities; improve recreational boating access to popular off-shore sportfisheries.
<u>Boat Launch – Non-Motorized.</u>	Construct a small launch facility to facilitate paddle boat (kayaks) launching and easier access for motor boat drop-offs and pickups.	Provide a new high recreational demand facility that currently does not exist; improve non-motorized boat access.
<u>Bike Path.</u> Continuation of the Community Bike Path Network.	Construct bike path from the terminus of the planned Abercrombie Drive extension, to continue southwest toward the Monashka Bay Road, Lakeview, and Bayview Drive areas.	Extension of the current trail system as part of an overall community trail network.
<u>Visitor center/offices.</u> Develop a new park visitor center and office facility.	Replace existing office facility with larger facility, possibly housing multiple offices for other compatible organizations.	Provide a more efficient office facility that would provide expanded visitor services to the public and generate revenue to offset expenses.
<u>Interpretative displays.</u> Develop an Alutiiq cultural exhibit near the existing cultural site.	Construct interpretive displays.	To help foster an appreciation for the island’s rich cultural heritage.
<u>Restrooms.</u> Construct restrooms as appropriate for cabins, campground, or other high use site.	Double or single vaulted designs.	Health and safety considerations.

Public Use Cabins and Shelters

Public use cabins have been increasingly popular throughout the nation and well received in other units of the Alaska State Park System. They provide a type of overnight accommodation that is between camping and commercial hotel/motel/B&B lodging. These cabins may be located in an established campground or in more remote, secluded locations.

In an effort to provide an experience that is in keeping with the park’s historical purpose, the feasibility and restoration of a Quonset hut for use as a cabin should be explored. If any overnight use structure is constructed within a cultural zone of the park, it must be historic in design to fit the location and should minimize impacts to cultural features. As part of a historic restoration project, the preferred location would be on an original Quonset hut site. To provide some privacy, a quonset hut should be located in a somewhat screened location, preferably with gated road access. While the structure will be authentic, the interior furnishings will be more contemporary with wood bunk beds, tables and chairs. Ease of maintenance must be considered with any design. Should the cabin be located outside of the cultural zone, it will not be required to be historic, but could be if desired. As a general rule, the cabins or huts will be primitive in nature with no electricity, running water, or flush toilets. Heat, if provided, would be generated from wood, oil or propane.

The concept of a campground shelter is being proposed. A shelter would be smaller than a conventional cabin, and basically eliminate the need for a tent. Shelters would occupy the space in a campground where a tent pad would normally be located. No heat source would be provided in the shelter.

Cabins and shelters would be available by advance reservation using State Park’s current reservation system. Stay limits would be imposed for all cabins types similar to existing campground stay limits. Cabin design and siting should be done to carefully screen the cabins from prominent views, to promote visual aesthetics, and blend in with the site whenever possible through color, size and location. Final cabin or shelter locations will be determined at a later date after more design study and review.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Campground Shelters.</u>	Several small unheated simple cabins to be located in a campground with basic wooden bunks and a small table. Shelter users will have access to common campground water and toilet facilities.	Shelters provide an alternative to tent camping for the short-term camper.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Public Use Cabins.</u>	Quonset huts to be built on previous historical pads if sited in the cultural zone, or standard style cabin built in more secluded areas of the park screened from prominent view. Vaulted toilets will need to be provided unless sited near existing toilet facilities.	Quonset hut cabin would provide a cultural experience in keeping with the park’s historical focus. Other style cabins would provide a more varied overnight experience.
<u>Group Use Cabin.</u>	A larger group use cabin to accommodate groups of up to 10 people. Facility will require a separate vaulted toilet, be located in a place of reasonable seclusion and likely need its own gated access. A suggested location would be on the knoll between the Ram Site Beach and the Group Recreation Area.	Cabin could be used for small meetings, events, retreats, classes, etc. If developed in a cultural zone, must be developed to be historically appropriate.

Interpretative Facilities

A primary management goal of the park is to interpret the natural and especially the historic features of the area. The unique historical features that established the park should continue to be the primary management focus. Over the years many of the World War II remnants have deteriorated and need stabilization and restoration. The Ready Ammunition Bunker was rehabilitated in 1999 to house the Kodiak Military History Museum. The museum compliments the park’s historical focus providing great educational opportunities, and housing many unique objects of special military importance.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Kodiak Military History Museum.</u> Continue to operate the Ready Ammunition Bunker as the Kodiak Military History Museum and improve facilities as needed and funds allow.	Provide heat, light, ventilation and special climate controls. Provide new interior entrance doors for the bunker. Construct nearby restroom that would specifically service the museum.	Continue relationship with non-profit organizations for the operation of the museum. Improve climate control efficiency to reduce high heating and humidity control costs. Strive for museum 100% self-sufficiency. Provide a more convenient restroom for museum staff and patrons, existing restroom is too distant for elderly visitors or those with mobility challenges.
<u>Outdoor displays.</u> Continue to enhance outdoor displays around the Museum.	Update interpretive kiosk panels.	Old information panels are outdated and in very poor condition.

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<u>Observation kiosk.</u> Continue to provide an observation kiosk adjacent to Miller Point.	Covered kiosk with information on recent wildlife sightings and a place to log observations.	Kiosk is popular with visitors and well used. Needs to be maintained.
<u>Miller Point displays.</u> Maintain natural history display at Miller Point.	Additional interpretive panels and supports.	Continue building on the whale identification panels currently in place, include information on cetacean life histories, including other marine mammals and birds commonly seen.
<u>Spotting & plotting bunker.</u> Restore the spotting and plotting bunker (war room).	Reinstall electrical service, provide lighting and ventilation. Replace floor vault covers. Short-term use as WWII artifact storage or tours. Long-term use to restore to original use as a war room.	Lack of power to this building makes it hazardous to use with open floor vaults. Lighting would permit tours or storage of displays or artifacts pending conservation.
<u>Quonset huts.</u> Acquire and reconstruct several Quonset huts.	Restore a hut with period furnishings. Furnish the hut as troop quarters with mannequins. Several viewing windows should be provided. Electrical service will be necessary for lighting and limited heating to control humidity and security. If multiple huts are acquired, they may be left empty to recreate the feeling of a hut compound in the area.	High priority historic preservation project that will serve a primary objective for the park. Original Quonsets are becoming very scarce, and they were a common feature in the park during the war.
<u>Piedmont Point Historic Area.</u> Maintain the historic structures in the Piedmont Point areas in a state of arrested decay.	No facility development other than bunker stabilization or trail improvements necessary to safely access the area. This includes judicious use of safety fencing along hazardous bluffs in the Searchlight Bunker and DEC Bunker areas. Interpretation of the structures and ruins should be limited to brochures or small unobtrusive signage due to vandalism concerns.	The management goal for this area is to maintain the abandoned or "ghost fort" atmosphere that currently exists.
<u>Eight-inch gun battery.</u> Reconstruction of Miller Point Eight-Inch Gun Battery.	Acquire parts needed for re-articulation, a representative model, and/or historic photos.	Only three guns of this type are known to survive in the world, two are at Miller Point. There are no surviving completely intact guns, nor any photos of the guns in place or being used.
<u>Park headquarters displays.</u> Develop ongoing natural history displays in the park headquarters.	Static displays that promote the appreciation of the park's natural resources.	A primary management goal of the park is to interpret the natural and especially the historic features of the area.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Self-guided trail.</u> Continue development of a self-guided trail to showcase the park’s WWII history.	Develop a new trail in the Miller Point area with high quality interpretive displays. Upgrade existing park brochures about WWII infrastructure.	A primary management goal of the park is to interpret the natural and especially the historic features of the area.
<u>Ram Site cultural exhibit.</u> Develop an Alutiiq cultural exhibit near the existing cultural site on the City’s Ram Site property.	Construct interpretative displays.	If the Ram Site is acquired by the park, this sort of development would be appropriate and would help foster an appreciation for the island’s rich cultural heritage.

Historic Preservation

Most of the military structures in the park have been lost to theft, vandalism, and natural elements. The wet, maritime climate is very hostile to structures that are not properly waterproofed. For this reason, only the most durable structures have survived to this point. This includes the concrete bunkers and concrete support structures, and some of the more massive steel structures such as the eight-inch gun tubes. These structures are also degrading, some at a rapid pace. All of the concrete bunkers are currently spalling and frost-shattering as the porous concrete has been exposed through the gradual loss of asphalt waterproofing layers. This spalling is most apparent on the two DEC bunkers, but is occurring on all concrete structures in the park. Many structures exhibit lime-leaching due to percolating water through cracks in the concrete, and resulting in stalactite-like growths in their interiors. All restoration efforts shall be coordinated with the Office of History and Archaeology.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
Replace waterproofing asphalt on all concrete structures.	In order of priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two DEC Bunkers • Two Searchlight Bunkers • Spotting and Plotting Bunker • War Reserve Bunker • Two Generator Bunkers • Showerhouse building 	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.
Apply sealant to other exposed concrete structures.	All concrete structures that require sealant, such as the entrance wings at the Ready Ammunitions Bunker and the War Reserve Bunker.	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.
Replace steel supports in DEC Bunkers.	Both Miller Point and Piedmont Point structures.	Preserve safety and structural integrity.
Continued Restoration of the Miller Point Ready Ammunitions Bunker.	Continue authentic restorative efforts to recover actual or period-appropriate artifacts or structural components of the facility.	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.

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Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
Restoration of the Spotting and Plotting Bunker.	Reseal building exterior and replace soil revetments. Reset fresh air intakes. Continue authentic restorative efforts to recover actual or period-appropriate artifacts or structural components of the facility.	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.
Restoration of a Quonset Hut.	Recover and restore authentic Kodiak Quonsets. Continue authentic restorative efforts to recover actual or period-appropriate artifacts or structural components of the facility.	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.
Restoration of a Search Light Bunker.	Continue authentic restorative efforts to recover actual or period-appropriate artifacts or structural components of the facility. Acquire authentic searchlight and generator.	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.
Restoration of a Distant Electrical Control Bunker.	Continue authentic restorative efforts to recover actual or period-appropriate artifacts or structural components of the facility.	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.
Restoration of the War Reserve Bunker.	Continue use as a maintenance/storage facility until alternative facility is constructed. Cover structure with overburden as originally constructed during the war. Continue authentic restorative efforts to recover actual or period-appropriate artifacts or structural components of the facility.	Historic preservation of rapidly deteriorating structures; preserve structural safety and integrity.

Park Headquarters/Storage Facilities

The park headquarters facility at Ft. Abercrombie serves many purposes. The building serves as the main information and visitor contact center for the park, office for staff, dry storage for sensitive documents and materials, ranger residence and is used for meetings and presentations. The building is small and the uses have far outgrown the space. Additionally, there is little protected storage and inadequate parking available at the current site.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Parking.</u> Improve and expand parking in front of park headquarters building.	Redesign and expand to 10 vehicle lot with ADA parking and appropriate signage.	Parking is insufficient and does not comply with ADA requirements.
<u>Storage Yard.</u> Construct a storage yard that could be sited at one of the following: 1) wooded knoll area between the District Office and the War Reserve Bunker. Access would be from the Group Recreation Area access road. 2) area currently being used for storage between the Ram Site and the park; or 3) forested area along the north side of the Group Recreation Area access road.	Storage yard with locking gate and fence at minimum of 100 x 100 feet to securely store vehicles, boats, park furniture, and construction materials which do not need to be stored in a dry area. A pull through design would be preferred to allow for easy trailer storage.	Current storage area is small, visible, and not secure. There is little storage available at the current time for large items that need to be secured. Storage yard must be screened from view by either natural vegetation or fencing material that is aesthetically pleasing.
<u>Lighting.</u> Outdoor Lighting Improvements.	Improve lighting around the building and parking lot.	Enhance building access and security during darker parts of the year.
<u>Headquarter Facility.</u> Improve headquarters facility.	Construct addition or new facility. Structure should provide additional office space for staff, dual entrances for public and staff, heated storage, utility room, staff/volunteer showers, meeting area, visitor information, and interpretive displays. Structure could be built with and space provided for other compatible organizations.	Existing building is too small to adequately serve all the purposes for which it is used and has dangerous access issues. Provide a more efficient office facility that would provide expanded visitor services to the public and generate revenue to offset expenses.
<u>War Reserve Magazine.</u> Improve War Reserve Magazine use.	Continue using as maintenance shop and storage until better facility is provided. Should better storage be provided, then this facility could be available for interpretative tours.	Use of the War Reserve Magazine for storage could be improved. Currently, the area is overflowing with storage items and there is little room to use it as a maintenance shop.

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Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Maintenance Shop.</u> Construct new maintenance shop and garage.	Construct new facility that will house work shop, dry and heated storage, garage space, and heated paint storage.	Replace existing maintenance shop in bunker that is damp, small, and difficult to heat.

Parking Areas

Ft. Abercrombie's size offers little space to accommodate adequate parking lots for facility use. The existing parking areas have evolved from previously disturbed areas but were never properly designed for maximum use and efficiency. Ideally, the park entrance intersection will be redesigned to more clearly identify directions to the park's features and facilities, provide better vehicular circulation, and increase parking capacity.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Park Entrance.</u> Redesign park entrance at the junction of Abercrombie Drive and Miller Point Road.	Provide an entrance station, orientation facility, kiosks, bicycle parking area, fee station, vehicle turnaround and trailhead.	Design primary entrance near a park information facility with traffic flow control to all points of the park that could be used as a focus for park information or collection point for any fee programs.
<u>Ram Site.</u> Redesign and/or improve Ram Site parking lot.	Provide landscaped plantings, increased parking capacity with clearly defined spaces including ADA accessible spaces with appropriate signage. If used for overnight camping for RVs or pickup trucks with campers, construct vaulted toilets and water source.	Ownership is split between city and state. If Ram Site is acquired, this parking lot could be used in the redesign of the park entrance or as overflow RV parking/camping. See the camping section alternatives and Ram Site proposals for more information.
<u>Group Recreation Area.</u> Expand group recreation area parking lot.	Provide parking for up to 50 vehicles and 4 additional ADA accessible spaces with appropriate signage close to the facility; redesign steep hill down to the facility, provide better water drainage.	Site parking cannot accommodate the number of vehicles using the area causing frequent parking problems, including blocked access. Need to comply with ADA regulations.
<u>Parkside Drive Trailhead.</u> Expand Parkside Drive Trailhead parking lot.	Provide parking for up to 10 vehicles including an ADA accessible space with appropriate signage.	Trailhead has seen steady use increases in the last 5 years. Parking congestion is causing constricting traffic lanes and blockage of resident driveways.
<u>Museum.</u> Expand Miller Point parking lot by the Museum.	Provide up to 10 vehicles spaces including ADA accessible parking with appropriate signage and a bus turn around.	Ease traffic congestion, promote large vehicle turnaround and help resolve safety issues with large vehicles in small places.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Miller Point.</u> Redesign Miller Point parking lot (if campground is moved).	Provide a space for up to 10 vehicles including ADA parking and appropriate signage.	When/if campground is moved from Miller Point, the existing area would help alleviate traffic flow and parking issues.
<u>Miller Point-Restrooms.</u> Expand and improve Miller Point restroom parking.	Provide for 4 vehicles including ADA accessible parking with appropriate signage.	Existing restroom has very little parking space for vehicles, problem is exasperated when Miller Point Gate is closed, forcing parked cars to crowd in this steep narrow road area.
<u>Lake Gertrude Beach.</u> Expand and improve Lake Gertrude Beach parking lot (formerly RV overflow, below the Spotting and Plotting Room).	Define area to accommodate 15 vehicles including ADA parking and appropriate signage. Install gate to restrict vehicle access to the Spotting and Plotting Bunker.	Current parking lot design promotes haphazard parking, is often full, and inefficient.
<u>War Reserve Bunker.</u> War Reserve Bunker parking lot.	Define area to accommodate 8 vehicles including an ADA accessible parking with appropriate signage.	Improved parking access.

Roads

Concerns over road maintenance have long been an issue with both the recreating public and park staff. The soft nature of the country rock used for road surfacing causes rapid “flouring” or a very fine silt breakdown of the gravels, causing frequent “potholing” of the road surface. This also creates a large amount of silt in rain runoff causing siltation of the lake. A third factor is the ability of the rock flour to quickly dry and become airborne with vehicle traffic, creating very dusty conditions on high traffic days. Frequent road grading is cost-prohibitive, and therefore park roads are often rough, especially during wet periods. Many complaints have been received concerning poor road conditions in the park.

A remedy to this is paving but there are concerns that with smoother roads there will be increased traffic speeds. Traffic calming measures such as speed bumps will be required since park rangers will not be able to otherwise keep vehicle speeds down. There is also public concern over the aesthetic change to the park if the road is paved. Many feel that a gravel road keeps the park more “natural” and less developed. Local school cross-country running teams have long used the park’s roads and trails for races expressly because they only run on unpaved surfaces and the roads offer better viewing opportunities for spectators. Advocates for paving contend that paving will give the park a more polished look, and be more inviting to both the public and commercial operators. Commercial bus tour operators prefer smoother roads for passenger comfort and to reduce vehicle wear. From a park maintenance perspective, paving is cheaper in the long run due to less road grading maintenance and cleaner facilities (dust control).

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In 2004, the possibility arose that the roads could be paved as part of the current paving program of gravel roads in Kodiak. In response, the Kodiak State Parks Advisory Board considered the merits of both sides and voted in favor of paving. Due to unrelated reasons however, this paving has not yet been completed.

Road paving will not be a high priority project for the park and will be accomplished when specific transportation funding becomes available only after additional public input is gathered. The road would be repaired with improved drainage, siltation fences, and paved when the opportunity was available. Paving would include Abercrombie Drive, Miller Point Road, and associated parking areas. Consideration will be given to “chip-sealing” in lieu of asphalt paving. Traffic calming devices such as speed bumps, roundabouts, or similar passive means will be employed where feasible. A parallel multi-purpose (partial or non-paved bike path) trail would be also constructed to provide pedestrians and bicyclists an alternative to pavement.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
Repair steep, badly eroded roadway hill and provide suitable drainage for road that accesses the Group Recreation Area.	Construct new roadway to the site with reduce grades.	Reduce road grades to appropriate slopes to improve safety and decrease erosion.
Upgrade Miller Point Road.	Repair road with improved drainage, siltation fences, and pave or consider chip-sealing in lieu of asphalt paving.	Frequent road grading is cost-prohibitive, and therefore park roads are often rough, especially during wet periods. Many complaints have been received concerning poor road conditions.

Picnic Areas

Picnic Areas in the park are very popular but can be challenging to maintain in the area’s maritime climate. Instead of wooden tables, consideration should be given to alternative materials that are more durable but aesthetically pleasing. All tables should be anchored to prevent theft or vandalism. Metal fireplaces are needed to contain small fires to designated locations.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
Maintain Lake Gertrude Beach Picnic Area and check into feasibility of adding more sites.	Area currently has 3 sites and can accommodate up to 2 additional sites.	Area is heavily used and additional picnic sites may be warranted in the future.
Maintain and repair Lake Gertrude Knoll Picnic Area.	Area currently has 2 sites.	Area suffers from soil compaction and erosion along the lake edge.
Maintain Lake Gertrude South Picnic Area.	Area currently has 1 site.	This area is often used in the winter by ice skaters.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
Improve view of lake and replace restrooms at the Lake Gertrude View Picnic Area.	Area currently has 2 sites, restroom needs to be replaced.	Restroom structure is worn out and needs replacement. Consideration should be given to move this structure to also service the new proposed campground in the vicinity.
Miller Point Picnic Area (if campground is moved).	Retain six tables in the greater campground area to be used for picnicking.	Picnicking in the Miller Point area is a popular day-use activity, and is an appropriate use for the area.

Caretaker Quarters/Volunteer Housing

Volunteers are a very important component of Ft. Abercrombie’s operations. They maintain and build trails, look after facilities such as the campground and the Kodiak Military History Museum, and provide visitor services such as naturalist programs. The campground host at Miller Point has been instrumental over the years to help provide security for the area that previously received vandalism damage. As a result more permanent or established quarters for Miller Point are recommended to attract a wider cadre of volunteers to stay in the park. Any permanent structure within the cultural resource zone must be historically appropriate. Since a majority of structures in this area were Quonset huts, it seems appropriate that a quonset hut be considered for this purpose.

To support the Kodiak District’s volunteer labor force, existing volunteer housing must be expanded and enhanced. The current small housing compound adjacent to the Group Recreation Area will be expanded to address these housing needs. For privacy and aesthetics purposes, the compound should be screened from view. Amenities such as electricity, water, phone, and a latrine need to be provided (occupants currently must use the Group Recreation Area latrines).

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
Construction of a full time caretaker facility at Miller Point.	Construct either a temporary host parking pad for an RV or a preferably a permanent structure with water, septic, electricity and phone service. If a permanent structure is built, it should be historically appropriate to the area and the cultural zone such as a Quonset hut.	For security reasons, the location should be central with a commanding view of the area. A primary concern for security is the Ready Ammunitions Bunker/Kodiak Military History Museum, since it houses many valuable artifacts. Ideally, the caretaker could also maintain open hours at the museum.
Upgrade volunteer housing compound for short-term use.	Small bunk facility, screened from view, electricity, water, phone and latrine need to be provided.	Many traveling service organizations are willing to come to Kodiak and work in the parks in exchange for some type of housing. Construction of a small bunkhouse has started, but additional funding is needed for completion.

Chapter 6: Facility Recommendations

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
Continue to maintain and upgrade summer naturalist housing.	Small cabin was constructed in the early 1990's. Requires regular maintenance.	Volunteer housing is critical for a quality volunteer program in the park. Without housing, the program would not function.

Trails and Trailheads

Perhaps the most heavily used resource within Ft. Abercrombie is the almost 5 miles of hiking trails. They offer a variety of walking opportunities for a large group of local park users, many of whom visit the park daily for exercise. The park's management intent is to continue an aggressive trail enhancement program through grants and fundraising efforts in order to maintain park trails at a high level. Priority will be given to trails that:

- 1) Have public safety issues (such as tripping hazards, undercut trails, etc); and
- 2) Are adversely affecting the park's resources through erosion, degraded vegetation, waterlogged tread material, etc.

For more detailed trail design standards and recommendations and a trail map, see the Ft. Abercrombie State Historic Park Trails Plan, Appendix A-1, developed in conjunction with this management plan.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Group Recreation Area trail.</u> Build beach access trail from Group Recreation Area to old quarry site at tidewater.	100 feet of new trail is needed.	Would allow access from group area to the beach which is an underutilized area of the park.
<u>Bike path-Monashka Bay Rd.</u> Continuation of the Community Bike Path Network.	Construct bike path from terminus of the planned Abercrombie Drive extension to continue southwest toward the Monashka Bay Road, Lakeview and Bayview Drive areas. Also to include connections with existing Lake Gertrude Trail and Parkside Trail.	Extension of the current trails system would provide an overall community trail network.
<u>Lake Gertrude boardwalk.</u> Replace boardwalk at proposed Lake Gertrude fishing and small boat platform. (See other improvements section for more information).	Boardwalk would need replacement and the trail may need work for portion to be ADA compliant and provide access to proposed platform.	Lake Gertrude Trail boardwalk area is the easiest location along the lake for ADA access. The existing boardwalk would need to be replaced to accommodate the more gradual grades and width requirements.

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Mark & sign trails.</u> Properly mark and sign trails.	Develop a sign plan for the park; Install signs at most major trail junctions, assure that trails are clearly marked, add “you are here” maps at strategic locations and trailheads.	Assist park visitors that are unfamiliar with the park, and try to prevent lost hikers.
<u>Trail information.</u> Provide clear trail information.	Locate prominent bulletin boards at major trailheads depicting trail length, difficulty and special concerns or points of interest.	Facilitate visitor enjoyment of the park with clear information.
<u>Trail maintenance standards.</u> Identify maintenance standards for all trails and implement.	Develop and implement a park trail plan. See Appendix A-1.	Manage and maintain trails in an organized, consistent manner.
<u>Self-guided trail.</u> Develop a new self-guided interpretive trail through the core historic zone of the park.	Construct a 1 mile loop trail system clearly marked with interpretive panels, will follow existing trails where available.	Promote historic education and interpretation.
<u>Community trail network.</u> Work closely with the community for a well-integrated community trail network.	Design and plan trails in accordance to Borough, City and other organizational plans.	Promote ready access to the park and foster community health and fitness.
<u>Trail monitoring.</u> Monitor use with accurate trail counts, trail impacts, and resource degradation.	Install trail counters on trails.	Manage trail use and development according to use patterns, types of users, and environmental factors.
<u>Bike path- Miller Point.</u> Construct a new bike path to Miller Point.parallel to the Miller Point Road.	Extend from the proposed terminus of the Abercrombie Drive Bike Path to Miller Point. Route to be determined during site planning phase with further review and in a manner that minimizes tree removal.	Provide an alternative to walking on the park road, especially if the road is paved.
<u>Secondary loop trails.</u> Consider secondary hiking trails in the Leash-Free Zone to promote several loop trail routes.	Upgrade trails parallel to Lake Gertrude (South) Trail.	Dog walkers currently are required to walk along the Lake Gertrude Trail (Leash-Required Zone) if they wish to walk a trail loop circuit.
<u>Pet waste stations.</u> Install pet waste stations at primary trailheads and other locations as necessary.	Small station that provides a method, such as sanitary bags, for pet owners to clean up after their pets.	Stations would provide a means for pet owners to clean up after their pets and would help maintain sanitary park trails and facilities.
<u>Cultural resource survey.</u> Conduct a cultural resource survey in the Piedmont Point & Miller Point areas prior to major trail enhancements.	Will be conducted according to DPOR standards.	The survey will help managers determine the location of cultural resources and the level of protection needed.

Chapter 6: Facility Recommendations

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Piedmont Point trail.</u> Improve and manage the portions of the Piedmont Point trail that have historic significance as a cultural resource.	Develop and sign trail portions acknowledging its historical significance.	Portions of the Piedmont Point Trail are sited on a historic road bed and should be managed and maintained as a cultural resource.
<u>Trail signs-leash/no leash zones.</u> Install signs indicating leash zones along trails.	Small signs that designate leash-free/leash-required boundary where appropriate.	Signs will help inform users and promote compliance.
<u>Increase Accessibility of Trails.</u> Make more trails accessible to those with mobility challenges.	Identify and upgrade specific trails or segments of trails suitable for accessibility enhancements.	Make the park more user-friendly to all abilities.

Other Facilities

Proposal	Facilities	Management Objective/Justification
<u>Group Recreation Area improvements.</u>	Provide 8 tables, horseshoe court, volleyball net, and group fireplace. Replace BBQ grill. Repair restroom foundations. Replace roof on pavilion.	The group area improvements would create a better experience for users. Restroom repairs would lower maintenance and management costs.
<u>Fishing platform.</u> Construct a fishing platform and small boat launch at Lake Gertrude.	Construct a small ADA compliant platform designed to promote fishing and ADA compliant boat access to lake.	Platform would provide opportunity for fishing for those with mobility challenges or small children, and a staging point for small paddle boats (kayaks, canoes, etc). Recommended location is across from the War Reserve Bunker along the Lake Gertrude Trail boardwalk since this is the easiest location along the lake for ADA access.
<u>Food lockers.</u> Continue to provide food lockers in campground areas.	Two lockers have been installed in the campground and have worked well to discourage wildlife conflicts.	Another source of potential problem is unattended food left in campgrounds or picnic areas. In 2001, metal food lockers were provided for campers who did not have a place to safely keep their food.
<u>Dumpsters.</u> Continue to insure park dumpsters are maintained are wildlife resistant.	All park dumpsters will be of the wildlife resistant kind, and are usually only leased during the main visitor season – May through September.	Bears are not the only animals tempted by garbage, ravens, magpies, squirrels and loose dogs also can be problematic.