

Lassen Volcanic National Park

California

August 2022

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



We'd Like to Hear from You!

The National Park Service is beginning a planning effort for Lassen Volcanic National Park. The result will be a design concept plan for the Manzanita Lake Developed Area that will include concepts for natural and cultural resource protection, facility development, visitor use, and other management needs. The National Park Service will work with its partners, stakeholders, and the public to develop the plan in compliance with legal and policy requirements. When the draft design concept plan is produced, you will be invited to review it and provide comments. Thank you for being involved in this process!

Overview

Lassen Volcanic National Park is known for its vast geologic history and stunning landscape views. With numerous recreation and interpretive opportunities, visitors to the park can experience a variety of unique activities. The facilities within the Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services Historic District (Manzanita Lake) have been a primary visitor use facility in Lassen Volcanic National Park since the late 1920s. The Manzanita Lake Developed Area is the first developed area visitors encounter when entering the park via the northwest entrance. One of the park's most heavily visited areas, Manzanita Lake boasts the largest campground, concessions, and frontcountry visitor facilities in the park. The

area includes a large concessions operation (a store, cafe, and rental cabins), a museum, ranger station, educational center, amphitheater, campground, camping cabins, parking, roadways, and trails.

Manzanita Lake has undergone several major developments since its creation. Today, however, the complex contains only a fraction of the buildings formerly located there. During the Mission 66 planning period, the 1930s-era campground and campfire circle were replaced with a newly configured campground, with six large loops stemming from a single access road and a modern amphitheater. In the 1970s, all elements of the concession-operated lodging facility, including the acclaimed lodge, cabin clusters, camp store, and gas station, were removed in response to the threat of rockslides from nearby Chaos Jumbles.

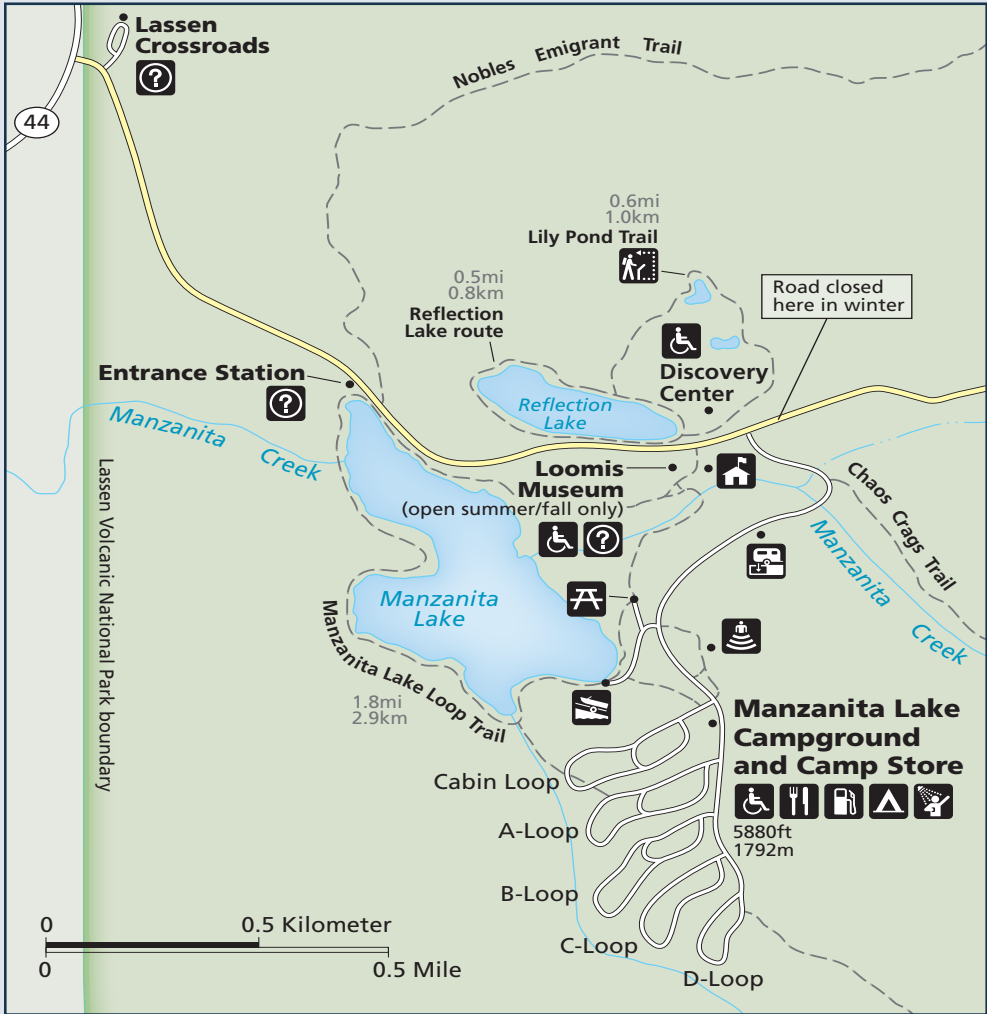
The purpose of the Manzanita Lake Developed Area design plan is to improve the park's Manzanita Lake Developed Area visitor facilities and respectfully rehabilitate historic structures to accommodate growing visitation and enhance visitors' experiences through an adaptive lens that accounts for future needs. The plan would provide direction for restoring and preserving natural and cultural resources, improving opportunities for accessibility, and enhancing existing outstanding visitor opportunities.



Project Goals

The National Park Service is considering ideas and concepts for improvements at the Manzanita Lake Developed Area of Lassen Volcanic National Park and as part of the planning process will gather public input to further shape potential solutions. The plan is needed to achieve the following goals:

- Improve inadequate facilities in the Manzanita Lake Developed Area, including, but not limited to, campground and associated infrastructure, utility systems, and the day use area (i.e., boat launch, picnic area, and primary Manzanita Lake Trailhead).
- Restore and rehabilitate historic structures threatened by overuse and degradation, and consider adaptive reuse, where appropriate.
- Enhance connectivity between features in the Manzanita Lake Developed Area, including adaptive opportunities for modernization (i.e., technological advancements).
- Implement requirements identified in the park’s accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan and explore opportunities to incorporate additional discretionary improvements.
- Ease roadway congestion and safety concerns, and improve visitor circulation and flow.
- Improve recreation and visitor areas while protecting Manzanita Lake’s natural resources and habitats from increased visitor use impacts and a changing climate.



Project Design Concepts

The following design proposals for Manzanita Lake describe possible future strategies and are only a first draft for the site. The park needs to hear from the public to refine, improve, and/or replace the following proposed ideas. Public comments on these proposals will be used to help the park begin planning for the site.



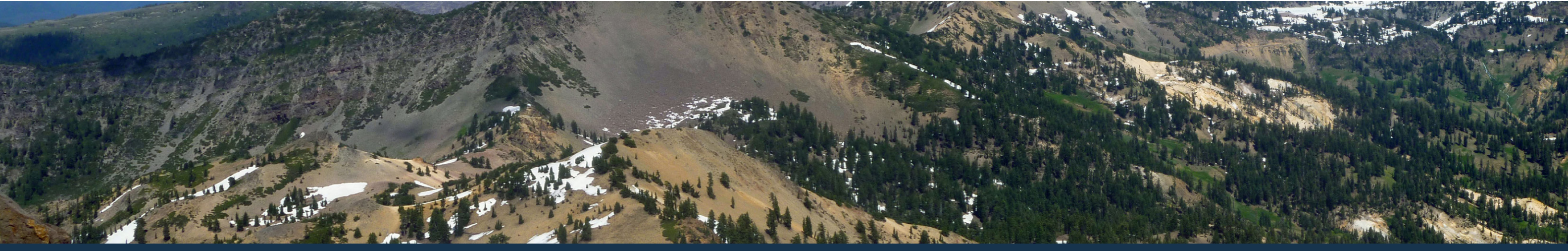
LASSEN CROSSROADS
Lassen Crossroads is a popular stopping point for visitors in any season. The park would improve the facilities at Lassen Crossroads by providing an electric vehicle charging station and a vault toilet with year-round access. The trailhead for the Nobles-Emigrant Trail would be formalized at the Lassen Crossroads parking lot.



ENTRANCE STATION
During peak season, the entrance station experiences a long line of traffic. The proposed concept would reconfigure the entrance station to allow for two inbound lanes, with one being a passholder lane to further alleviate waiting times, and one outbound lane. Just past the entrance station, the pulloff with stunning views of Manzanita Lake would be formalized for visitors to safely stop and enjoy the view.



ADMINISTRATIVE USE
As more researchers and volunteers come to do amazing work at the park, the park needs additional administrative camping opportunities to house them. The proposed concept considers multiple locations for administrative camping, including Reflection Lake Road, the road past the Manzanita Lake Ranger Station, and in the current administrative area off the entrance highway. Additionally, the park envisions using these spaces as areas for tribal use.



PARKING AND CIRCULATION

The parking lot by Loomis Plaza regularly fills to capacity, and more parking is needed to accommodate the growing number of visitors. The proposed concept would provide additional parking to the east of the main parking area, in a previously disturbed location where cabins have been removed. The parking lot would have electric vehicle charging stations, vault toilets, and picnic tables and serve as the trailhead for the Chaos Crags Trail.

To connect visitors from this new parking area to the greater Manzanita Lake Developed Area, an accessible, multiuse paved path would be provided. The path would connect visitors from the parking area to Loomis Plaza, the day use area and boat launch, camper store, amphitheater, campground, and night sky program area. The path would allow varying uses to best serve all visitors. Night sky-friendly lights and interpretive waysides would be added along the path. Additionally, the park would explore techniques to reduce the speed along the entrance highway near the crosswalk to Loomis Plaza, including rumble strips and improved signage to increase pedestrian safety.



LOOMIS PLAZA

Loomis Plaza serves as the main visitor contact area of Manzanita Lake. The historic structures and facilities and proximity to the entrance station make Loomis Plaza a key stop for most Lassen Volcanic National Park visitors. Under the proposed concept, the park would focus on visitor interpretation and services. A temporary contact station would be provided within the center of the plaza for quick orientation and information. Improved kiosks and wayfinding in and around the plaza would allow visitors to understand the area and activities provided by self-orientation when a ranger is not present. A formal interpretation area that could also be used for tribal interpretation would be established in the plaza with a temporary shade structure. Other opportunities would be provided for visitors, including picnic tables, water filling stations, an accessible route to the Loomis residence, a designated trail to Manzanita Creek from behind Loomis residence, and interpretation of the seismograph building.



DAY USE AND MANZANITA LAKE

The multiuse paved path would connect visitors from Loomis Plaza to the day use area. The proposed concept would retain some picnic tables in the day use area; however, the park would encourage visitors to use other picnicking opportunities throughout Manzanita Lake to help reduce trash and resource damage to the lake. The kayak launch would be improved to be accessible and better meet NPS character and aesthetics. Both a concession and public launch would be provided to reduce congestion. Additionally, the concession boat storage would be moved to the southwest of the boat launch, and the Manzanita Lake Trail would be rerouted along the shoreline to help reduce traffic. To help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, a boat-cleaning station would be provided at the existing RV dump station.

The Manzanita Lake Trail is an iconic experience for visitors. The proposed concept improves the visitor experience along the entire trail, while also protecting important resources of the park. The trail surface would remain a natural surface but would be made accessible by removing large barriers and providing a small bridge over the creek crossing. Improved wayfinding and interpretive signage along the trail would help visitor orientation and educate visitors about resource protection. Along the west side of the trail, safety improvements to the dam, dike, and outlet works are proposed to help stabilize the facilities and ensure lake sustainability. An interpretive water trail on the lake would also be established.

AMPHITHEATER AND LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM AREA

The proposed concept would improve connectivity between the amphitheater and campground. Connecting to the area-wide multiuse trail, an accessible route would be provided at the front of the amphitheater, and the special arrival experience of walking through the woods would be maintained. Additional upgrades within the amphitheater would be expected, including night sky-friendly lighting, audiovisual equipment, seating, and accessibility. The amphitheater could also be used as a tribal interpretive area. Beyond the amphitheater is the living history program area. Minimal improvements to the area are being proposed; however, the trail surface would be hardened to make it accessible while using a material that blends into the surroundings to maintain the character of the program.



CAMPGROUND

At the camper store, the campground road runs through the parking lot, creating conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians and interrupting traffic flow. The proposed concept creates a better sequence of facilities at the camper store to minimize conflicts. The road would be on the far east side, followed by parking, an improved picnic plaza, and then the camper store. The area-wide multiuse path would pass the camper store and connect to the day use area to the west and the campground and night sky viewing area to the south. The concept would provide a wide range of camping experiences in the campground. Concessioners would provide glamping sites, which could include opportunities for the park and tribal partners to connect the sites to previous and current tribal uses. Loop A would be retrofitted to lengthen campsite parking spurs and expand turning radii to accommodate larger (60-foot) RVs. Additionally, Loop D would remain a tent-only loop to help disperse and separate camping uses throughout the campground. In the southern section of the campground, the night sky program area would be formalized, made accessible, and improve the visitor experience. A paved trail would connect visitors from accessible parking stalls to interpretive panels, hardened telescope platforms, and a native plant garden which could provide visitors with information about the traditional (or tribal) uses of native plants.

To view site-specific design concept maps in the [StoryMap](https://tinyurl.com/yy6vdj59), <https://tinyurl.com/yy6vdj59> and make comments, go to <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Manzanitalakedcp>.

Questions For Public Input—Tell Us What You Think

- When thinking about the future of this park, the National Park Service would like feedback on the following questions:
- What input do you have to share about these design concepts?
 - How would these design concepts influence your visit to Lassen Volcanic National Park?
 - Are there any other design concepts not already presented that the National Park Service should consider and analyze? What is missing, and why should it be considered?
 - What other comments or suggestions do you have?

How To Comment

ONLINE (preferred method): <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Manzanitalakedcp>

EMAIL: lavo_information@nps.gov

MAIL: Lassen Volcanic National Park
Attn: Jim Richardson, Superintendent
PO Box 100
Mineral, CA 96063

The public comment period starts on August 25, 2022, and ends on September 26, 2022. Please be as specific as possible in your suggestions.

NOTE: Comments will not be accepted by fax or any other method than those specified above. Please also note that your entire comment—including personal identifying information such as your address, phone number, and e-mail address—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments submitted by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.

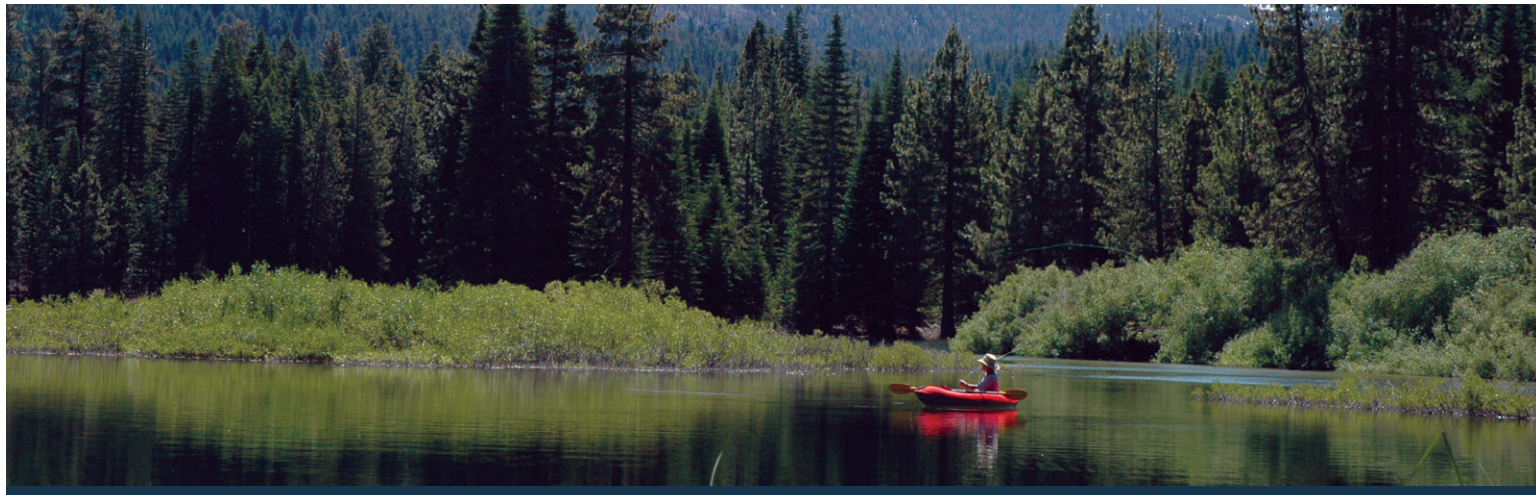
The Path Forward

The public comment period represents an opportunity for the public to be involved in the planning process for the park. Once the National Park Service has gathered input from this initial public comment period, the agency will develop a draft plan and go through the National Environmental Policy Act process. The draft document will then be shared with the public for additional feedback during official public scoping, likely by winter 2023. This period will also include consultation with interested stakeholders and other agencies. Important steps in the planning process are outlined below, along with anticipated timelines for completion.

WE ARE
HERE!



Date	Description or Activity
August–September 2022	Engage in preliminary planning and gather initial public input.
November 2022	Use public feedback to inform strategies and management alternatives.
January–February 2023	Conduct public scoping to inform plan development.
March–April 2023	Incorporate public comments into draft plan.
April 2023	Present final plan and decision to the public.



Distribution of the Manzanita Lake Design Concept Plan Newsletter

If you would like to view this newsletter, please head to the one of the locations listed below.

Name	Address	Phone
Chester Branch Library	210 1st Ave., Chester, CA 96020	(530) 258-2742
Susanville Branch Library	1618 Main St., Susanville, CA 96130	(530) 251-8127
Red Bluff Branch Library	545 Diamond Ave., Red Bluff, CA 96080	(530) 527-0604
Anderson Library	3200 W. Center St., Anderson, CA 96007	(530) 365-7685
Cottonwood Community Library	3427 Main St., Cottonwood, CA 96022	(530) 347-4818
Redding Library	1100 Parkview Ave., Redding, CA 96001	(530) 245-7250
Shingletown Library	7074 Wilson Hill Rd., Shingletown, CA 96088	(530) 474-1555
Chico Branch Library	1108 Sherman Ave., Chico, CA 95926	(530) 552-5652
Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center	21820 Lassen National Park Highway Mineral, CA 96063	(530) 595-4480
Loomis Museum	39477 Lassen National Park Highway Shingletown, CA 96088	(530) 595-4480

Quick Response Codes

This QR code will direct you to the project **NPS Planning, Environment, & Public Comment (PEPC)**, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=110479> website to comment on this plan.



This QR code will direct you to **Lassen Volcanic National Park's web page**, <https://www.nps.gov/lavo/learn/management/mldcp.htm> to learn more about the park and the plan.

