

Crissey Field State Park and Welcome Center



A model for sustainability

Crissey Field is the fifth state park to open since Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski launched his “park a year” initiative in 2004. Located five miles south of Brookings, along Highway 101 and the Winchuck River, it is the first Southern Oregon park to be included in the program and is significant since it serves as a gateway, welcoming travelers to the state.

Though rich in natural beauty, the site presented multiple development constraints. What would be the best way to leverage these constraints into opportunities and take advantage of the site’s stunning views and natural habitat? How do you integrate a sustainable design solution while dealing with challenging issues including existing wetlands; a Tsunami inundation zone, a flood plain, an archaeological zone; endangered plant species and a surf-run-up zone; and the fact that priorities such as safety, costs, ADA access, and balancing the needs of various stakeholders had to be factored in?

The David Evans and Associates, Inc. team incorporated an elegant series of terraced plazas with accessible ramps into the site design to accommodate ADA requirements. Visitors to the Welcome Center ascend a series of wide, terraced steps and ramps as they approach the building, allowing them to stop and experience dramatic views and appreciate the stunning natural beauty of the site before reaching the Welcome Center and its dramatic backdrop – the Pacific Ocean.

Beautifully and contextually designed with a multitude of sustainable features, the Governor declared the constructed facility “Oregon’s model for sustainability.”

Project Partners: PAE Consulting Engineers, Inc., Cascade Earth Sciences, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Shannon & Wilson Inc., and Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.

Location: Curry County, Oregon



The site plan illustrates the integration of the design with the natural characteristics of the site.



The Welcome Center lobby highlights the use of local wood products and an abundance of natural light.



The west face of the Welcome Center is dominated by windows and a roof form defining an outdoor space with views to the site and Pacific Ocean.