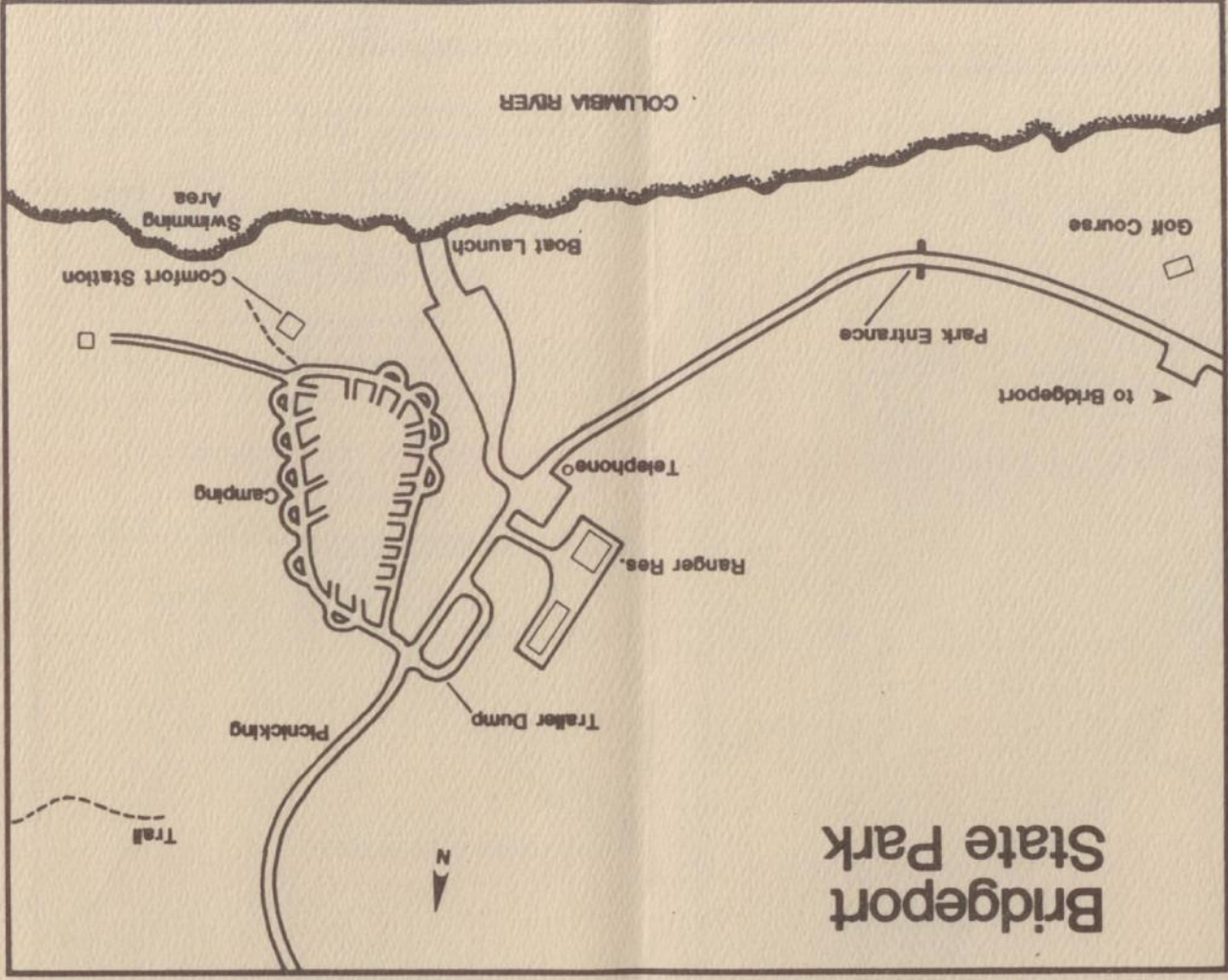


Welcome to Bridgeport State Park

Located three miles northeast of Bridgeport off Highway 17, Bridgeport State Park is nestled on the shore of peaceful Lake Rufus Woods. This beautiful reservoir lies behind Chief Joseph Dam, the third largest power-producing dam on the Columbia River.

Construction of the park actually began in 1960 when Ralph Vanslyke, with hard work and dedication built and maintained Bridgeport. Using his own garden tools, "Van" transformed the desert sagebrush country into a beautiful, green oasis. A plaque honoring Ralph Vanslyke is located in the park.

Bridgeport State Park



Bridgeport State Park was formally developed through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Washington and dedicated as a recreational park in 1968. The 825-acre reserve contains a large lawn with shade trees, natural areas, and Columbia River frontage.

On the park side of the river, "haystack" boulders dot the landscape. They were deposited by one-mile high glaciers 20,000 to 100,000 years ago. On the far side, terraces of basalt columns remain from the huge lava flows which spread over most of southeast Washington 10 to 25 million years ago.

There are several attractions near the park. To the southwest is Chief Joseph Dam, named after the great Nez Perce Indian Chief. The dam stands 230-foot high and 4,300 feet long and has 27 electricity producing generators.

A few miles beyond the dam is Fort Okanogan Interpretive Center. Through audio-visual and pictorial displays, the Center depicts the first American settlement in what is now the State of Washington.

Visitors may also enjoy touring the visitor center at COMSAT, one of three communication satellite stations on the west coast. A large white disc antenna, standing more than 10 stories high, receives satellite transmissions from around the world.

Bridgeport State Park also has contrasting natural habitats which support a variety of wildlife. Some animals you see are marmots (as featured on the brochure cover), rabbits, mule deer, coyotes, quail, chukars, Hungarian partridges, owls, songbirds, ducks, geese, bull snakes and rattlesnakes.

Area Activities