

## Parking Expansion Planned for Miller Point

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Diana Gish/KMXT

Fort Abercombie State Park is due to undergo some significant changes. The Miller Point campground may become a thing of the past as the state works to improve access to the Kodiak Military History museum located there. Kevin Murphy is the district ranger for Alaska State Parks.

-- (Miller Point 1 "We have received ... vehicles up there.")

The changes would end camping at Miller Point but Murphy says that eventually the campground may be moved to another location in the park.

-- (Miller Point 2 "Now that campground ... from the city.")

The impending changes are not without controversy. Along with closing the campground and building new roads, the plan includes building a parking lot large enough for two full-size buses to turn around in.

-- (Miller Point 3 "It's  
big its ... sometime this spring.")

Murphy acknowledges that the changes aren't all popular but, he says, the park's primary mandate is to "preserve, protect and interpret" the military history of the area. His hope is that even with the changes, the beauty of the park will be maintained.

-- (Miller Point 4 "and that's what ...balance for both.")

Museum president Joe Stevens estimates that the museum had around 20,000 visitors this summer.

He said that the museum operates independently of the state park system and had no comment about the proposed changes to the roads and parking.

Murphy said the changes will be the first major ones for the park in around 15 years. Funding for the project comes from the state's cruise ship head tax.