



24
TRAILS
OFF THE BEATEN
PATH

FIELD

GUIDE

Whidbey Camano
ISLANDS
WASHINGTON STATE, USA

THE SHORTEST DISTANCE TO FAR AWAY™

WHIDBEYCAMANOISLANDS.COM

Enjoy Responsibly

The trails and locations highlighted in this guide are meant to give visitors and locals nature experiences they may not have otherwise crossed paths with.

Trail Etiquette

- Stick to the trail
- Read trailhead information
- Follow leash guidelines for pets
- Take only pictures
- Pack it in, pack it out, including your pet's waste
- Respect private property
- Share the trail and be kind to other hikers
- Park courteously
- Use trail during daylight hours
- Tell someone where you're going
- Bring water & sunblock

Warning & Disclaimer

Trails and beaches can be, by nature, dangerous places. Users of this book assume full responsibility and all risks for any loss, injury, or death from activities described, or from using the maps and information, presented in this book. This book's information and maps are general. We do not guarantee conditions on the trails, exact routes shown, or that the private property boundaries depicted are accurate. Readers must accept sole responsibility for their own safety. Conditions in Puget Sound can change rapidly and without warning. Check local weather and be prepared. Enjoy your time in the outdoors.

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Table of Contents

Camano Island

Barnum Point	6
English Boom	8
Camano Ridge Forest Preserve	10
Cranberry Lake	12
Elger Bay Preserve	14
Four Springs Lake Preserve	16
Iverson Spit Preserve	18

Getting to the Water's Edge .. 20

Sound Water Stewards 21

North Whidbey

Ala Spit	22
Beach View Farm	24
Del Fairfax Preserve	26
Dugualla State Park Property	28
Strawberry Point Preserve	30
Garry Oak Tree Tour	32
Oak Harbor Heritage and Waterfront Trails	34

Hiking Close to Home 36

Recreate Responsibly 37

Central Whidbey

Greenbank Farm	38
Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens	40
Price Sculpture Forest	42

Whidbey Camano Land Trust..... 44

South Whidbey

Dorothy Cleveland Trail	46
Earth Sanctuary	48
Hammons Family Farm Preserve	50
South Whidbey Community Park	52
Trillium Community Forest	54
Wilbert Trail at South Whidbey State Park	56
Waterman Shoreline Preserve	58

Island County Parks And Trails..... 60

Friends of Camano Island Parks..... 60

Whidbey & Camano Islands Tourism..... 61

Trail Index..... 62

All photos by Jack Penland or Laura Hilton unless otherwise credited.

Cover photo: Four Springs Lake Preserve, by Jack Penland

Design: Rosenkranz Productions, Inc.

Partners



TREAD Map is a one-stop, comprehensive, recreation mapping app for all trail users. Download the free app for up-to-date trail conditions, current safety information, community events, custom search, local recreation maps and volunteer opportunities. TREAD Map is made possible through a partnership between Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism and the State of Washington Tourism.



Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve encompasses 17,572 acres of land and water in Central Whidbey (including Penn Cove). Federally recognized for its cultural and historical significance, Ebey's Reserve is a partnership between the Town of Coupeville, Island County, WA State Parks and Recreation, and the National Park Service. Visitors are enticed with scenic views of mountains, waters, historic buildings, and agricultural vistas from working farms. For more information on the Reserve, please go to www.ebeysreserve.com or www.nps.gov/ebla.



Take Transit to the trailhead.

Many trails are accessible via Island Transit. All routes are fare free, ADA accessible and carry 2-3 bikes on a first come, first served basis. And you can flag down a bus at any safe place on its route. Just make sure you give yourself time to catch the return trip!



Scan this QR code for current route & schedule information. Or visit www.islandtransit.org 360-678-7771.

Symbols:

- Island Transit accessible
- Wheelchair accessible
- Picnic table
- Non-flush toilet
- Restrooms with flush toilets
- Interpretive signage
- Dogs allowed, on leash
- Birding
- Bicycle trails
- Horseback riding
- Protected by Whidbey Camano Land Trust

Restroom availability varies by site and may be unavailable seasonally or at night.

Map Legend:

- Trail
- Approximate boundaries
- Private land
- Beach
- Roads
- Parking

Barnum Point County Park Trails

Location: 278 South Sunrise Boulevard

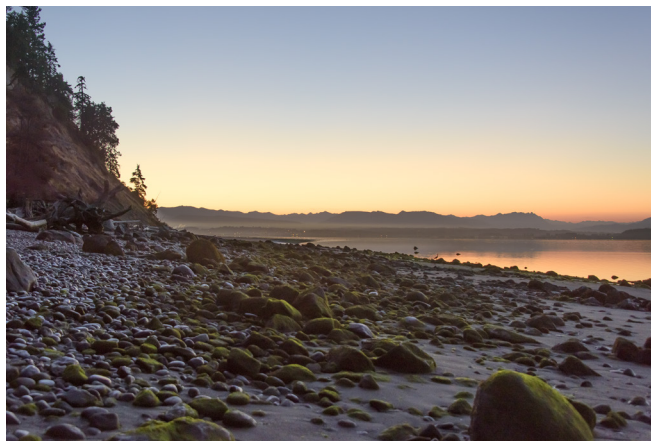
Parking: 14 spots, gravel

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 2.75 miles of trails

Amenities: 

This is a choose-your-own-adventure jaunt, with 10 different interconnecting trails. The low intensity trail system is accessible to a range of abilities and lengths, depending on the chosen route. Gentle slopes lead to breathtaking bluffs with a variety of beach access points. Make sure to check out the viewing platform on the Eagle Crest Trail for stunning views of the Cascade Mountains, especially at sunrise. Enjoy the long stretch of beach, but pay attention to incoming tides to avoid getting unexpectedly caught in the water. The parking lot can fill up quickly, so plan to visit either early or late in the day in order to encounter less trail traffic.



CAMANO ISLAND



English Boom Trail



Location: From 532 turn right on Good Road. From Good Road, turn left on Utsalady Road. Follow Utsalady Road for 1 mile then turn right on Moore Road. Follow Moore Road to the end of the road.

Parking: 5 spots, one is ADA, with overflow parking on Moore Road, leading into the entrance

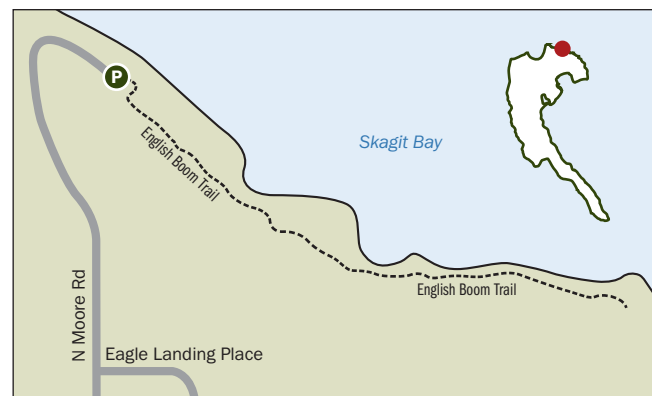
Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 0.9 miles round trip

Amenities: ♿ 🌿 🏠 🚰 🐕 🐾

CAMANO ISLAND

Take a short and scenic walk with views of the water and Mt. Baker. On the north end of the island, English Boom Historical County Park is located on what once was the English Lumber Company in the 1920s and 1930s. Back then, trees were hauled to the water, tied together, and pulled by tugboat to sawmills. A few pilings from the operation can still be seen. Enjoy a covered picnic table shelter, a small boardwalk, beach, and driftwood galore. The trail wanders through freshwater marshlands where salmon spawn and birds nest.



Camano Ridge Forest Preserve Trail

Location: North Camano Ridge Road trailhead is just north of Carp Lake Road, smaller access off Can Ku Road

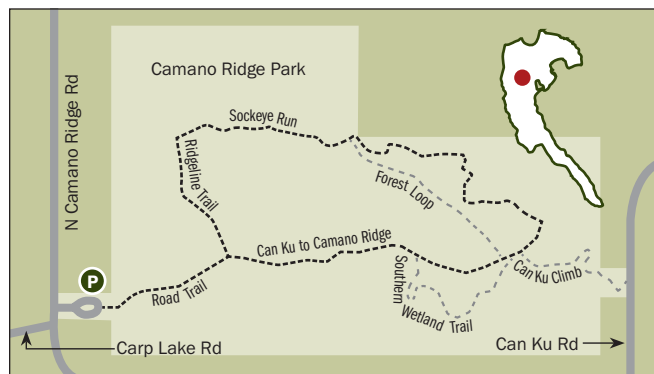
Parking: Large gravel lot at Camano Ridge Road trailhead

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail length: 1.4 miles round trip

Amenities:  Island Transit stop is 0.5 miles from trailhead

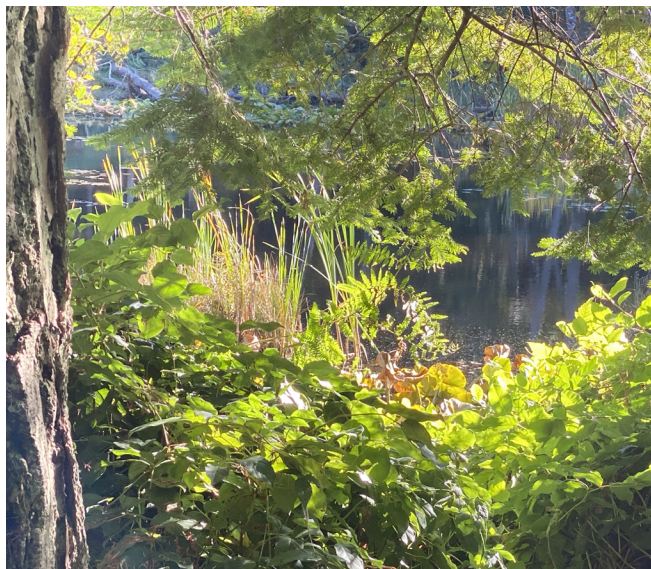
This 400+ acre forested upland trail system has a decent climb to and from the ridge. It's a good idea to take a photo of the map at the trailhead and watch the signs along the loop trail—it can be easy to get turned around in these dense woods. It's a great place to spot wildlife and woodland birds such as woodpeckers and thrushes. In addition to hiking, the loop trail is popular with cyclists, horseback riders and hunters (for safety, all trail users should wear fluorescent orange garments during hunting season and check Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations).



CAMANO ISLAND



Cranberry Lake Trail



Location: Cama Beach State Park,
1880 West Camano Drive

Parking: Within the state park, Alder Lot is closest to the trailhead, but most lots are 0.25 - 0.5 miles from the trailhead

Fees: Discovery Pass required

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 1.4 miles round trip

Amenities: 🚌 🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠

Enjoy this trail within a well-loved state park. This is an easy out and back trail with plenty of wildlife and a

CAMANO ISLAND

small lake at the turn around point. With just a slight elevation gain, this well maintained trail includes a small lake, full of lily pads and greenery, ideal for bird watching. Look out for kingfishers, hawks, herons and more.



This trail is a year round option, short wooden bridges provide access during wetter seasons. Interpretive installations encourage ecological education.



Elger Bay Preserve Trail

Location: Elger Bay Road. Take NE Camano Drive about 7 miles south from Terry's Corner. Turn right onto Dry Lake Road for parking on the side of the road and the trailhead. Entrance is also available at Elger Bay Elementary school, which is further down on the left.

Parking: Limited space on shoulder of Dry Lake Road. Additional parking including ADA spots at the Elger Bay Elementary School.

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 1.4 miles round trip

Amenities: 🚌 🛺 🧭 🍷 🍷

An easy day hike that's great with or without the kids. Interpretive signs depict plants used by Native Americans, food sources for birds, and non-native invasive plants. At the top of the South Hill trail is a fun amphitheater used by the local elementary school, which makes a great picnic spot. A little farther around on the nature trail, find a viewing

platform overlooking a thriving beaver marsh.

The trails meander through the woods with the occasional muddy area or downed tree, but it's well-maintained.

There are nature identification signs and posts with directions marking every junction.



Four Springs Lake Preserve Trail

Location: 585 Lewis Lane. From Highway 532 turn on North Camano Road and head two miles uphill and turn right onto Lewis Road


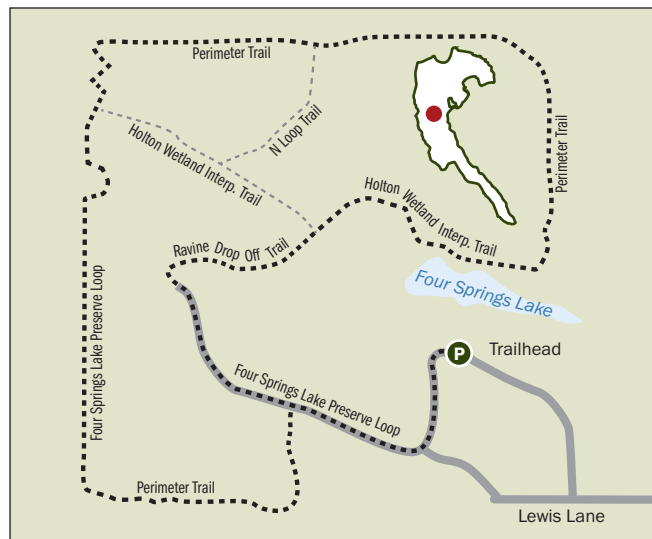
Parking: One way loop gravel parking lot with 28 spots, one ADA

Difficulty: Intermediate, some hills

Trail length: A short series of trails can be combined for up to one mile total, ranging from woodland to waterfront

Amenities:     Portable toilet seasonally

An audible feast, you'll be serenaded by gurgling streams and bird calls in these quiet trails along older growth forest.



Upon arrival, follow the gravel trail along a grassy meadow to the perimeter trailhead that leads to a network of wooded trails. Explore old growth forest and wetlands with slight roller coaster elevation. Find peekaboo views of the lake from the perimeter North Loop Trail or the Holton Wetland Trail. Be aware of signs for land that are private property and stay on the trail. Be sure to check out the old barns as you return to the parking lot. Once a working farm, some old equipment remains, including an old crank phone, milk cans and former farm equipment.

Iverson Spit Preserve Hobbit Trail

Location: 3 Iverson Road

Parking: 15 spots at gravel parking lot adjacent to trailhead with additional overflow parking for summer season

Difficulty: Easy, flat

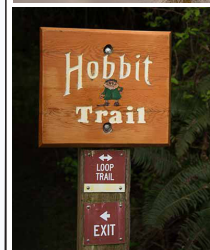
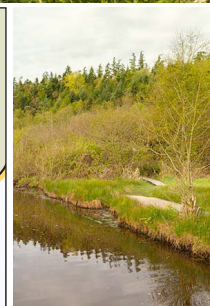
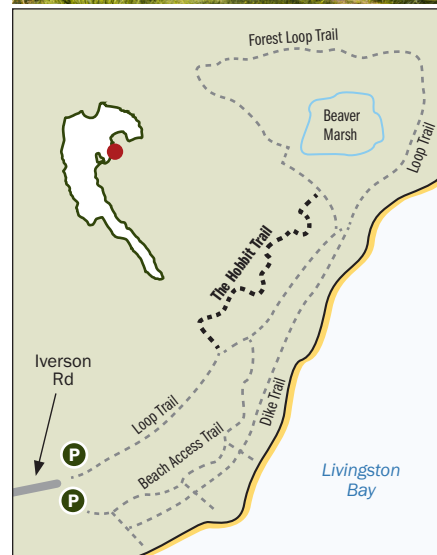
Trail length: A short series of trails can be combined for up to 1 mile total, ranging from woodland to waterfront

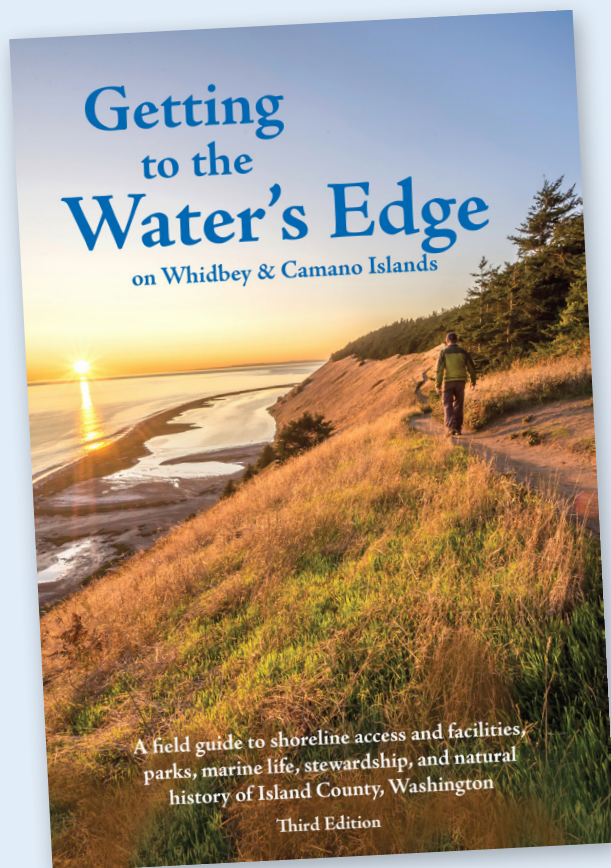
Amenities: ♿ ⚙️ 🏠 🚰 🚮 🦋

Hidden away off the island's main roads, the Hobbit Trail is one of several trails at Iverson Spit. There's great bird watching and views of Livingston Bay. From the Loop Trail follow signs to the Hobbit Trail where woodland creatures and whimsical installations will keep little ones enthralled. Return via the Dike Trail and check out the beach along the way. Combined, these three trails make for a short and sweet yet varied adventure offering both beach and forest. This 6.87 acre waterfront park features an ADA friendly viewpoint and short waterfront trail.



CAMANO ISLAND





69 Beaches & 2 Islands in One Book

A field guide to the shoreline access, facilities, marine life, trails, stewardship, and natural history of Island County, Washington.



Sound Water Stewards are trained volunteers working in and around Island County for a healthy, sustainable marine environment through education, science, and stewardship.

We are a community of like-minded people who care deeply for our natural environment, and enjoy learning together and socially with one another to celebrate what we have accomplished while continuing to learn how to be better stewards.



Photo: ©Jeanje McElwain



Get your copy at visitor's centers, local book stores or scan the QR code to visit www.soundwaterstewards.org for more information.

Ala Spit County Park Trail

Location: 5050 Geck Road, Oak Harbor

Parking: 20+ spots, paved lot

Difficulty: Easy, but watch the tides

Trail length: 1 mile

Amenities:  Portable toilets seasonally



This driftwood-strewn spit of beach gravel juts out into the waters between Whidbey and Hope Islands. The short out-and-back hike offers dramatic views of the small islands dotting the northern reaches of Skagit Bay, including Little Deadman, Dot and Goat Islands. Low tide exposes an extensive gravel bar waiting to be explored. But beware. At high tide strong currents can flow across the thin neck of the spit and have been known to strand unsuspecting visitors. Check the tides and take the signs seriously. This is a great spot for watching birds and sea life, and can provide good clamming during the season (check Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations).



Photo: Krista Loercher

NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

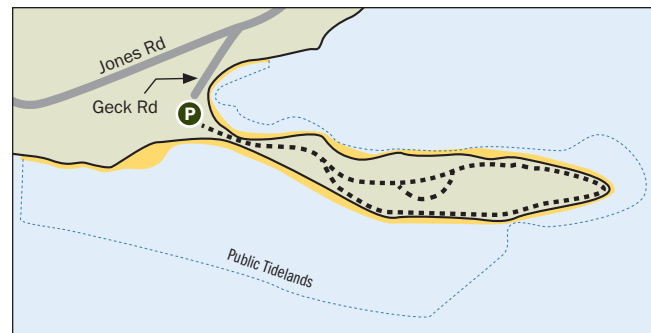


Photo: Scott Rosenkranz

Beach View Farm Trail



Location: East end: 1411 N 1570 W, Oak Harbor
West end: 2407 West Beach Road, Oak Harbor

Parking: East end: 6 designated spots at northwest corner of the parking lot. West end: 11 spots

Difficulty: Easy

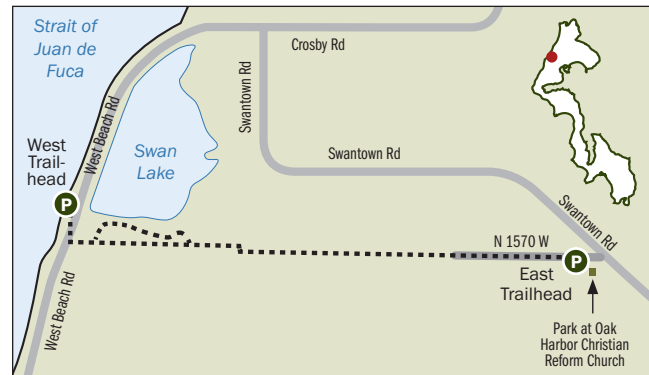
Trail length: 1.5 miles

Amenities: 🐕 🏠 No dogs, horses or bikes allowed in order to keep farm animals safe and serene.

An easy farm, wetland and beach walk, with views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Ideal for bird watching. Almost perfectly straight, the trail slopes gently from farmland to a county park at West Beach. Most of the trail is a

NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

well-groomed gravel path. Near the west end of the trail, enjoy views of Swan Lake. Don't try to get too close; the edge of the lake is very swampy. Depending on the tides and weather, sit on driftwood at West Beach to enjoy ocean views.





Location: 1817 Zylstra Road, Oak Harbor

Parking: 6 spots

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 1.2 miles round trip

Amenities: 🦋 🌿 🌲

This preserve is a bit of a hidden gem. Enjoy a beautiful rolling meadow tucked away in the middle of a forest. After a peaceful walk through the woods, find yourself walking the perimeter of a rolling 18 acres of meadows and fields. Rest at the bench and watch the light play across the open space. It's a great place for bird watching, including hawks and eagles hunting in the fields.



Photo: Peter Freund



Dugalla State Park Property Trails

Location: 799 East Sleeper Road, Oak Harbor

Parking: 10 spots, Discovery Pass required

Difficulty: Moderate, includes up and down hill climbs

Trail length: 3 miles round trip

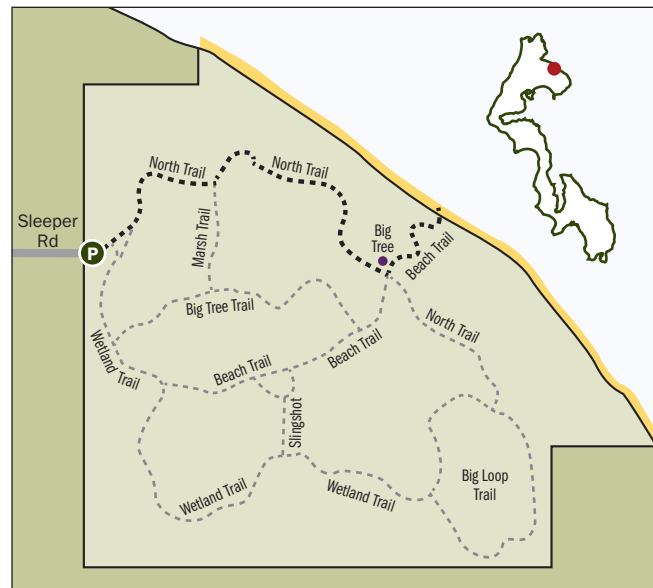
Amenities: None



NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Take a hike on the wild side at this out of the way park. From the lot, walk up the hill to where the trail splits. Go left to follow the North Trail as it winds through the deep forest offering occasional peeks at the water. When you reach the Big Tree, it's time to take a left and make the descent to the beach. Scattered with driftwood and facing east to the town of La Conner, this is a great spot to take in the view and rest up before making the climb back out.

There aren't any facilities at this park, but the paths are well maintained. It can be pretty muddy in places, and after a storm you might find a downed tree or two along the way.



Strawberry Point Preserve Trail

Location: 2459 Strawberry Point Road, Oak Harbor

Parking: 10 car parking lot off of Strawberry Point Road

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail length: 1.6 miles round trip

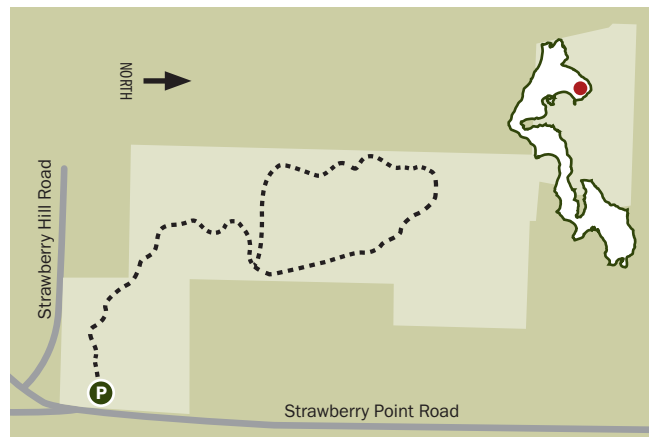
Amenities: 🦋 🌲

This 208-acre nature preserve was donated to the Land Trust in phases between 2018-2021. Strawberry Point Preserve has a splendid mix of forest, wetlands and meadow. This large area of unfragmented forest habitat is vital to protect native wildlife and retain a climate-resilient landscape.



Photo: Leigh Smith

NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



Garry Oak Tree Tour

Location: Begin at Oak Bowl (531 SE Midway Boulevard), end at Windjammer Park, Oak Harbor

Parking: Plenty of parking, including ADA at Windjammer Park and street parking along the route

Fees: Free, donations to the Garry Oak Society accepted online

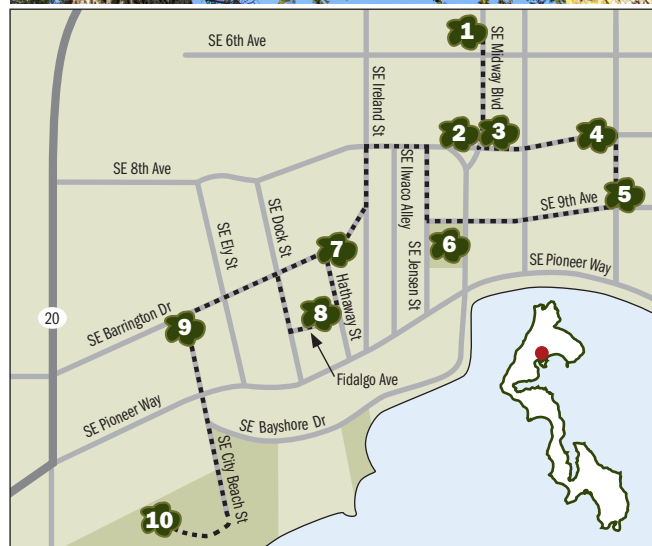
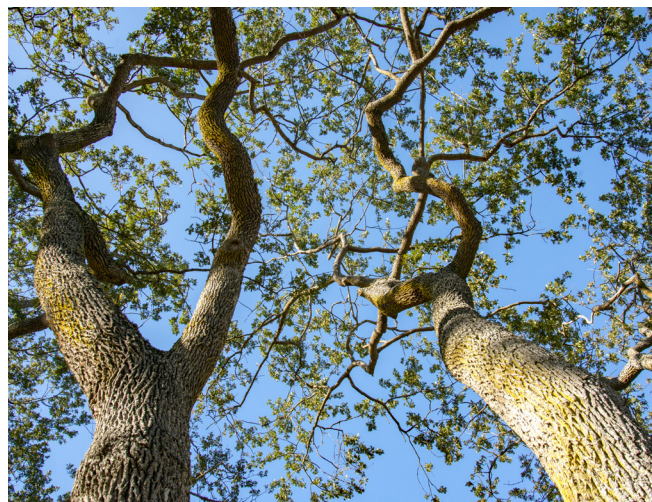
Difficulty: Easy

Trail Length: 2 miles one way

Amenities: 🚗 🚻 🦿 🏠 🏰 🦫 🚲

The Garry Oak Society created a self-guided walking tour which may go in any order. Please respect private property noted with *. (1) The “Oak Bowl Tree” is estimated to be 226 years old. (2) A large collection at the Presbyterian Church*. (3) At Whidbey Playhouse* this tree is 231 years old. (4) Called the “Avenue of the Oaks” and known as “the oak in the middle of the street” it was saved by Dorothy Neil. (5) “Impressive Diameter Oak” across from Calvary Chapel at a private residence*. (6) Smith Park boasts the largest public Garry oak grove with over 150 mature trees and interpretive signs. The only park in the state composed entirely of Garry oaks. Also, note the mural on Jensen Street. (7) Next to city hall sit a trio of young trees planted in 1998. (8) Two oaks each with three trunks; also former site of Jerome Ely’s house, Oak Harbor’s first mayor in 1915*. (9) Near the Post Office, the stump of the “Grand Old Oak” which grew from 1684-2014 (330 years old). (10) Estimated 45 year-old tree in Windjammer Park near the flagpole. Enjoy the many newly-planted Garry oaks in the park. The tour brochure is also available for free download on the society’s website: ohgarryoaksociety.org

NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



Oak Harbor Heritage & Waterfront Trails

Location: Scenic Heights Trailhead: 1900-1998 SW Scenic Heights Street, Oak Harbor; Windjammer Park: 1600 SW Beeksma Drive, Oak Harbor

Parking: 5 spots in a paved lot, one ADA, and abundant parking at Windjammer Park

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: Trailhead to Flintstone Park is 1.1 miles one way, or keep going another 1.1 miles to the Oak Harbor Marina

Amenities: 



Explore great trails just steps away from Oak Harbor's historic district. Beginning at the Scenic Heights Trailhead, embark on a gravel path that leads through the natural scenery of Freund Marsh. Wear your waterproof boots in the winter, as the wetlands can try to reclaim parts of the path. The trail connects to Windjammer Park with paved, easy sidewalks along the waterfront. Continue to Flintstone Park and the Oak Harbor Marina at the far end of the harbor.



NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



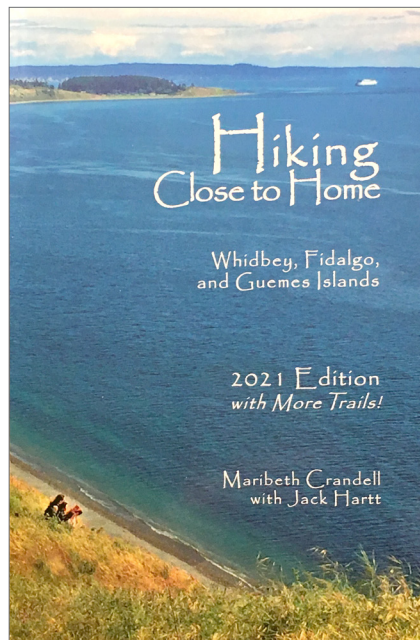
Photo: Sherrye Wyatt



Photo: Earl Harper

Hungry for More?

Pick up a copy of “Hiking Close to Home,” a handy guide to 70 trails in and around Island County.



Forest, fields, beaches and bluffs—our islands provide plenty of options for just about any hiking ability. You don’t have to go very far. Explore Whidbey and Camano Islands with this handy guide to 70 trails. Color photos, short description, a map and directions for each trail.

Visit: HikingCloseToHome.Weebly.com
to order a book, learn about trail events,
or read about the Hike of the Week.

Also available in local bookstores and State Parks.



Ways to #RecreateResponsibly outside:

1 KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Check the status of the place you want to visit for closures, fire restrictions, and weather.

2 PLAN AND PREPARE

Reservations and permits may be required. Make sure you have the gear you need, and a back-up plan.

3 BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS

Be an active part of making the outdoors safe and welcoming for all identities and abilities.

4 RESPECT OTHERS

There is space for everyone and countless outdoor activities. Be kind to all who use the outdoors and nature differently.

5 LEAVE NO TRACE

Respect the land, water, wildlife and Native communities. Follow the seven Leave No Trace principles.

6 MAKE IT BETTER

We all have a responsibility to sustain the places we love. Volunteer, donate & advocate for the outdoors.

Join the movement

RecreateResponsibly.org

Greenbank Farm Trails

Location: Enter from the farm at 765 Wonn Road, Greenbank, or there is an access point about half a mile north off Highway 525, on the east side of the road

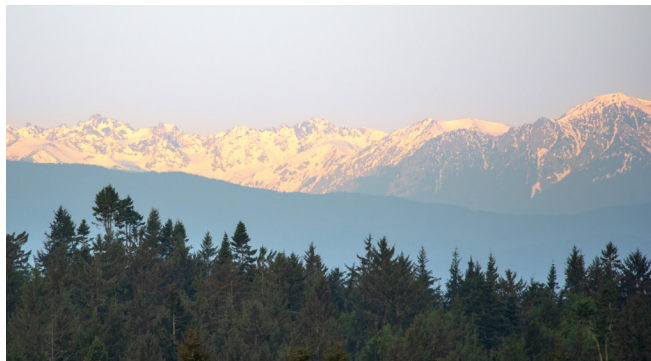
Parking: Large, paved parking lot with several ADA and two electric car charging stations. The pullout off Highway 525 also holds plenty of cars along its shoulder.

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 7 miles of trails

Amenities: 

Greenbank Farm is located at one of the narrowest points of Whidbey Island, just climb the gentle hill to find stunning water views with the Cascade mountains to the east and the Olympic mountains to the west. This is also a great place for dog-walking or dog-watching. The wide open grassy meadow near the farm is an expansive off-leash area and popular with canines of all shapes and sizes. Dogs must be on a leash to venture into the woods on the Forest Trail. Take time to explore the shops and eateries in the historic buildings.



CENTRAL WHIDBEY ISLAND



Meerkerk Rhododendron Garden Trails

Location: 3531 Meerkerk Lane, Greenbank

Parking: 18 spots, gravel

Fees: \$5 per person. Cash, checks, and credit cards by use of a QR code are accepted at the garden entry, or pay in advance online, open daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. except during significant wind or snow events.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Trail length: 4 miles round trip

Amenities: 

Island Transit stop is
0.5 miles from trailhead

Meerkerk Gardens is a nonprofit garden with 10 acres of inspirational display gardens and an additional 43 acres of woodlands featuring miles of nature trails. The entrance to Meerkerk Gardens lets you know right away that you're entering a special world; transporting guests through the stone gatehouse into lovingly tended gardens. Follow the gravel path veering left toward the King George Rhododendron, and head up the Ridge trail as it winds around the outer garden and overlooks the ponds. Outer paths are packed dirt and well maintained, but can be muddy in the winter. Stroll through the Secret Garden to the plant nursery and event space, featuring stunning water and mountain views from the gazebo.



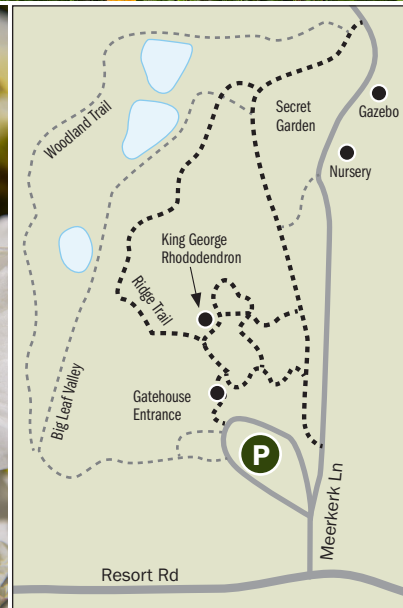
Photo: Cynthia Woerner



CENTRAL WHIDBEY ISLAND



Photo: Cynthia Woerner



Price Sculpture Forest Trails

Location: 678 Parker Road, Coupeville

Parking: 8 spots, paved one ADA

Fees: Free, but donations gratefully accepted, open daily 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. (or sunset, whichever is earlier)

Difficulty: Easy. Trails are wide and well maintained. Nature Nurtured loop is suitable for wheeled access. Whimsy Way is not suitable for wheels.

Trail length: Total trail length of 0.6 miles, divided into two loops

Amenities:     No pets, bikes, or motorized vehicles (except mobility vehicles).

Discover sculptures from established artists along two trails. Each piece is beautifully placed to complement its natural surroundings. Be greeted one moment by a graceful eagle, or entertained by a kinetic sculpture dancing in the wind. The next moment stumble upon a driftwood T-Rex or a very real and curious deer. The easy, beautiful paths wind through native forest with peek-a-boo views of the entrance to Penn Cove. The trails are populated by rhododendrons, century-old trees, and an inner sense of wonder.

Self-guided audio tours available, and the town of Coupeville's 1.5 mile walking trail leads right to Price Sculpture Forest.



CENTRAL WHIDBEY ISLAND



Photo: Brandon Closson



Photo: Bonnie Rae Nygren



We're Passionate About Protecting this Paradise

It's easy to fall in love with Whidbey and Camano Islands. These islands are truly magical with spectacular vistas and landscapes, including forests, wetlands, marine shorelines, prairies and family farms, all providing refuges for wildlife and places for people to enjoy the outdoors.

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust has been protecting the best of the islands since 1984. The Land Trust is a donor-supported, nationally accredited, 501c3 nonprofit organization that uses a strategic, science-based, disciplined approach to protect the lands and waters most critical to preserve the Islands' incredible quality of life.

The Land Trust preserves, protects and expands healthy, diverse and connected natural areas, public parks and family farms. This benefits climate resiliency, clean air and water, safe local food, and places for fish and wildlife and people to connect with nature. Smart conservation helps our local economy by attracting new people and businesses to these cherished islands.



Love it or Lose it

The Land Trust protected many of the properties in this trail guide. It is actively working to conserve many more island places, including many with trail opportunities.

Scan this QR code for more information about the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and how you can get involved in its conservation efforts. www.wclt.org



Dorothy Cleveland Trail

Location: 8212 Possession Road, Clinton
Trail located within Possession Beach Waterfront Park

Parking: 11 spots

Difficulty: Challenging

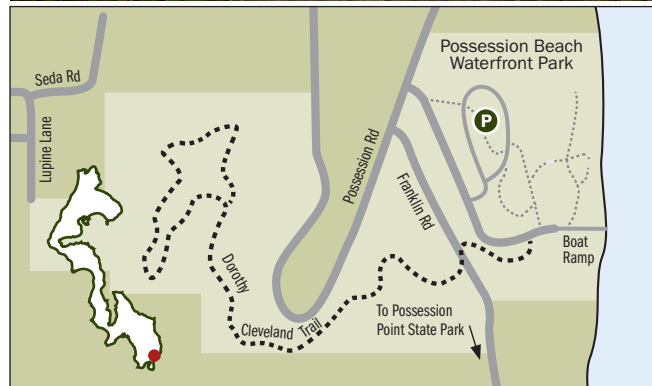
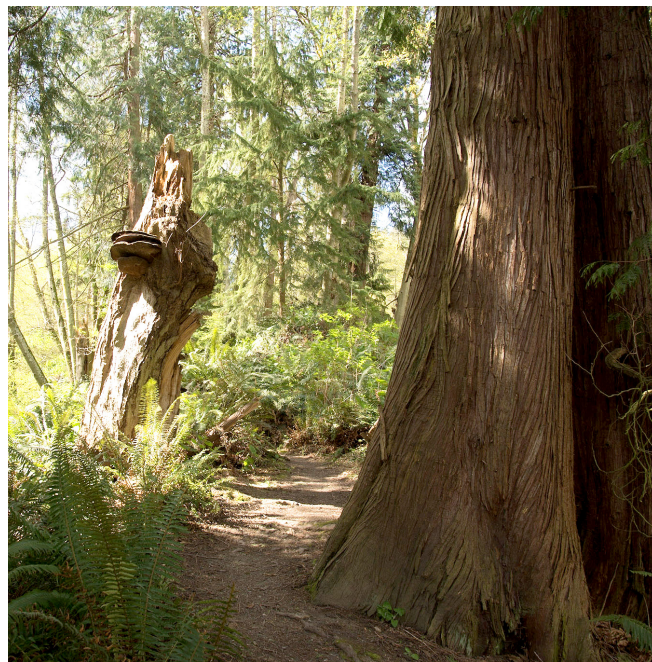
Trail length: 3 miles round trip

Amenities: ♿ 🏠 🚰 🗑️

This trail is a serious hike, rising 392 feet in less than three-quarters of a mile. But in the fall, it offers a glorious kaleidoscope of colorful leaves both on the trail and in the trees. The well-maintained trail has numerous switchbacks making sure the trip up the side of this heavily-wooded ravine requires no climbing, though there is one wooden stairway to ascend. Expect to climb over a fallen tree or two. There is a lookout at the top, but if the trees have leaves, the view is blocked. Enjoy the best views at the beginning and end of the hike at Possession Beach Waterfront Park. This park also has a boat launch.



SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



Earth Sanctuary Trails

Location: Enter from 2059 Newman Road, or 5536 Emil Road, Langley

Parking: If one parking area is filled, please go to the other entrance. Note: The Emil Road entrance has an ADA parking space with sidewalk to the Stupa.

Fees: Open daily during daylight hours. No dogs, please. Fee is \$7 per person and may be paid with cash, check, PayPal, Venmo (cpettis@earthsanctuary.org) or online.

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail length: 2 miles round trip

Amenities: 🏠 🚻 🌿

Earth Sanctuary is a peaceful and magical Sculpture Garden, Nature Reserve, and Retreat Center with two miles of nature trails, three bird-filled ponds, and a variety of powerful sacred spaces. We invite you to visit the labyrinth, two stone circles, two Medicine Wheels, Buddhist Stupa, artworks, and a habitat ideal for observing birds and wildlife. Bring your binoculars! Maps and tour guides are available at each parking area.



Photos: Michael Stadler

SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



Hammons Family Farm Preserve Trail

Location: 7712 Possession Road, Clinton, parking area and trailhead are located on north side of the street, just after Cultus Bay Road connects with Possession Road

Parking: Ample parking, unpaved lot, can be muddy in winter

Difficulty: Easy, ground is uneven at times but only gently sloping

Trail length: 0.25 miles round trip

Amenities: 🐾 🦴 🌲

This 9.5 acre nature preserve offers gorgeous views of Cultus Bay. The property is a gift to the community, donated by former landowner Al Hammons as a place for people to “rest their souls awhile.” This gentle trail ascends through a field to a viewing bench before

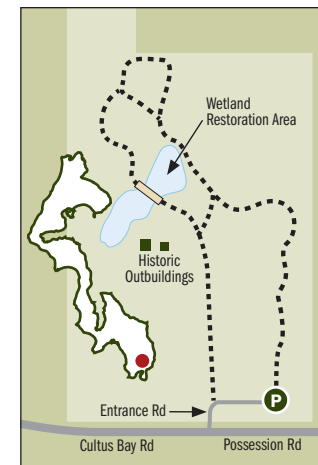


Photo: Tom Trimboth

SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

continuing through the heritage orchard, a bit of forest, and then a peaceful wetland. A bridge takes visitors over the stream, past some small historic farm buildings and back to the parking area.

There are also plans to open the adjacent 40 acres of forest and wildlife habitat to the public in the future.



South Whidbey Community Park Trails

Location: 5495 Maxwellton Road, next door to the high school. Second entrance at South Whidbey Sports Complex at 5598 Langley Road.

Parking: Ample parking in paved lots

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 1-3 miles round trip

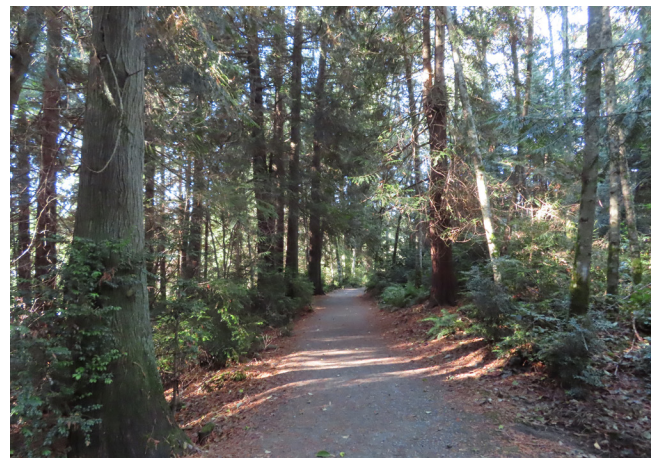
Amenities: 

Westling Loop was created in 1983 by South Whidbey High School cross country coach Carl Westling, becoming the first of so many loop trails through these woods. This is still a popular place for high school track students to run and is enjoyed by the wider community.

This easy-going .6 mile jaunt through the woods connects with many other well-signed trails. The trail is unpaved, but hard packed and well maintained, making it a great walk for small kids or parents with strollers. There are two brief inclines at either end of the loop, but not steep. Sure to be a hit with the kids, visit the expansive Castle Park playground. It's also a great place to kick around a soccer ball.



SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



Trillium Community Forest Trails

Location: The forest has three entrances, but the easiest to find is 3.5 miles from the traffic light in Freeland on the west side of State Route 525 (look for the solar panels). Make an immediate right, and follow the road 360 feet to a developed parking lot.

Parking: 12 spots at main entrance

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 1.9 mile loop

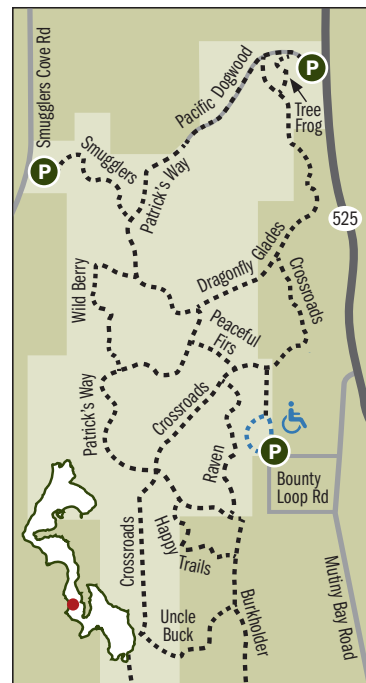
Amenities: 



SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

The Trillium Community Forest has a complex of trails ranging over several miles. Trails vary from narrow footpaths to paved roads. The forest is more than 700 acres and represents the largest contiguous undeveloped forest on Whidbey Island. Just steps from parking the car, the Tree Frog Trailhead descends into the forest. This climb down is probably the steepest part of the hike. Walk parallel to the paved highway until reaching the Dragonfly Glades trail. Follow this trail along

a mix of alders and conifers through a wetland. Note how many trees have fallen. There's one root ball that's at least 10 feet high. This is the wildest part of the hike, running nearly flat 1.2 miles to Patrick's Way which is an old forest road running nearly the length of the park. Walk the last portion until reaching the paved road. It's a slight uphill incline nearly the whole way. The paved portion runs 0.7 miles and is a nice way to loop back to the parking area. There are optional trails to add some distance to the hike.



Wilbert Trail

Location: 4128 South Smugglers Cove Road, Freeland. Trail is located within South Whidbey State Park.

Parking: Ample parking is available including a pull-out at the trail's northern entrance with room for about 4 cars

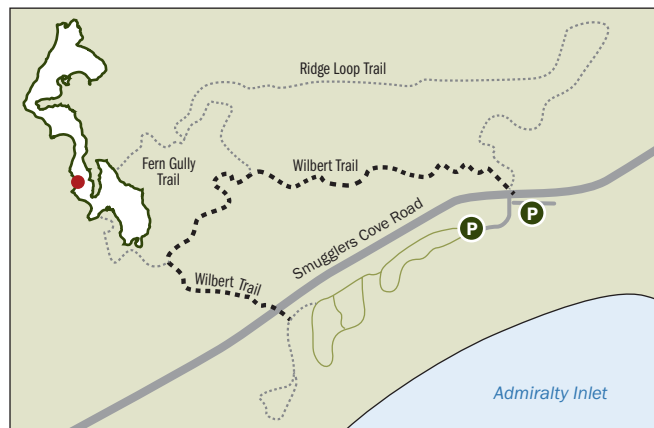
Fees: Discovery Pass required

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail length: 0.8 miles one way

Amenities: 

Walk among the giants in the old-growth forest at South Whidbey State Park. This area is the last remnant of old-growth forest at the south end of Whidbey Island and features numerous massive trees that are hundreds of years old. About 250 feet from the second trailhead is a short trail leading to a 500-year-old Cedar Tree. Several small



SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



streams cut across the trail creating gullies which can make the trail more difficult. Numerous interpretive signs offer good information. To add some variety, return through what once was the park's campgrounds. Trails in the former campground are paved and flat.

Waterman Shoreline Preserve Trail

Location: Intersection of Bob Galbreath Road and Wilkinson Road

Parking: 4-6 spots

Difficulty: Easy

Trail length: 0.3 miles one way

Amenities: 

Centrally located between Langley and Clinton, this 0.3-mile-long trail is a paved former local street, making it an ideal “breath of fresh air” walk – even in the rain. Mature trees loom over the trail and there is a peek-a-boo



SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND



view of Saratoga Passage. Its bluff location makes it an ideal place for bird-watching. Detailed interpretive signs offer a great education about the wildlife and vegetation in the preserve. The trail runs along a steep bluff, so everyone should stay on the trail and not go beyond protective fences.

The trail runs through a preserve where nature is reclaiming a part of Whidbey Island’s logging history. The former Waterman Mill had a chute that funneled wood and chips down the bluff to waiting ships. That has been removed, but a paved road remains and is now the preserve trail.

The road is in good shape for wheelchairs, but may be too steep in places. Walking here during severe weather is not recommended. Those looming trees sometimes fall during wet or windy weather.



Island County Parks And Trails

The Island County Parks and Recreation Department supports a vibrant and healthy community by providing quality recreational opportunities for all. We manage 54 parks facilities, including parks that provide opportunities for athletic teams, hikers, equestrians, mountain biking, boating, fishing, and rental facilities for weddings, meetings and conferences.

Island County Parks is successful in part because of dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and effort providing stewardship to lands on Whidbey and Camano Islands.

While at the link below, be sure to check out the Park Finder Web Map for more comprehensive and interactive information.



Friends of Camano Island Parks

Better Parks - A Better Place to Live

Friends of Camano Islands Parks is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that builds and maintains trails, kiosks, board walks, conducts educational programs, promotes the acquisition of parks, and are stewards of all state and county parks on Camano Island.

Discover ways to become involved, including joining a guided walk, a structured work party, or the Adopt-A-Park program. Find your copy of Walking the Camano Island Trails at island locations for \$1 suggested donation.

Learn more at:
FriendsofCamanoIslandParks.org

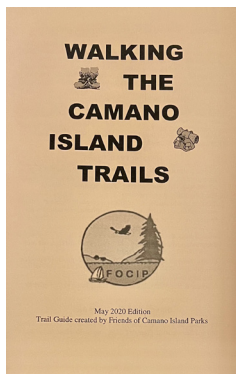


Photo: Sherrye Wyatt

Discover More

Explore Whidbey & Camano Islands

The trails represented in this guide were selected because they are lesser known. Download and use the free TREAD Map App for up-to-the-minute information. Visit our website to find more trails and a digital companion to this guide, including "Two Minute Trailers."



WhidbeyCamanoIslands.com



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Leave No Trace Seven Principles

1. Plan Ahead
& Prepare
2. Travel & Camp on
Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of
Waste Properly
4. Leave What
You Find
5. Minimize
Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate
of Other Visitors

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Trail Index:

Camano Island

- 1 Barnum Point, p. 6
- 2 English Boom, p. 8
- 3 Camano Ridge Forest Preserve, p. 10
- 4 Cranberry Lake, p. 12
- 5 Elger Bay Preserve, p. 14
- 6 Four Springs Lake Preserve, p. 16
- 7 Iverson Spit Preserve, p. 18

North Whidbey

- 8 Ala Spit, p. 22
- 9 Beach View Farm, p. 24
- 10 Del Fairfax Preserve, p. 26
- 11 Dugalla State Park Property, p. 28
- 12 Strawberry Point Preserve, p. 30
- 13 Garry Oak Tree Tour, p. 32
- 14 Oak Harbor Heritage and Waterfront Trails, p. 34

Central Whidbey

- 15 Greenbank Farm, p. 38
- 16 Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens, p. 40
- 17 Price Sculpture Forest, p. 42

South Whidbey

- 18 Dorothy Cleveland Trail, p. 46
- 19 Earth Sanctuary, p. 48
- 20 Hammons Family Farm Preserve, p. 50
- 21 South Whidbey Community Park, p. 52
- 22 Trillium Community Forest, p. 54
- 23 Wilbert Trail, p. 56
- 24 Waterman Shoreline Preserve, p. 58



Everett - 10 miles
HWY 526 to I-5
Less than an hour
from Seattle 30
miles via HWY
525 to I-5

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Clinton Chamber of Commerce

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DiscoverClintonWA.com
(360) 341-3929

Langley Chamber of Commerce

208 Anthes Avenue
Langley, WA 98260
VisitLangley.com
(360) 221-6765

Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce

5575 Harbor Avenue Suite 101
Freeland, WA 98249
freelandchamber.org
(360) 331-1980

Coupeville Chamber of Commerce

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CoupevilleChamber.com
(360) 678-5434

Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce

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OakHarborChamber.com
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