Turtleback Mountain Preserve

Orcas Island

1,718-acre Turtleback Mountain Preserve is a beloved island landmark and one of the largest protected natural areas in San Juan County. The mountain is a refuge for plants and wildlife. Habitats include rare Garry oak woodlands, grasslands, quiet forests, and scattered wetlands.

Turtleback Mountain Preserve has been protected through the efforts of the San Juan County Land Bank, the San Juan Preservation Trust, the Trust for Public Land, and more than 2,000 private donors.

Trails at Turtleback

Turtleback Mountain Preserve offers a primitive trail system totaling over 8 miles. Two trailheads each provide parking for 7-8 vehicles. There are no garbage cans or water. To ensure a quality experience for all, groups larger than 15 individuals are asked to contact the Land Bank at 360-378-4402 in advance of their visit.

Trails for pedestrian use only are accessed at the South trailhead. Trails for multiple use—pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain bike—can be found at the North trailhead. Bikes are permitted on even calendar days only; horses on odd calendar days only; and pedestrians are welcome on all days.

When you visit:

- Stay on designated trails.
- Daytime and non-motorized use only.
- Leash your dog and pack out waste.
- No fires or camping.
- No hunting.
- Take nothing and leave nothing.

*See reverse for Directions to Turtleback Mountain Preserve.*
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Directions

North Trailhead from the Orcas ferry landing:
Take Orcas Road 3.4 miles to the intersection with Nordstrom Lane. Turn left and travel west to the intersection with Crow Valley Road at 4.0 miles. Turn right and travel north. At 5.7 miles from start, a sign directs to a gravel drive and parking on the left.

North trailhead from Eastsound Village:
Take Orcas Road 1.1 miles to Fowler's Corner and the intersection with Crow Valley Road. Keep right on Crow Valley Road. At 2.6 miles from start, a sign directs to a gravel drive and parking on the right, immediately past the Crow Valley Schoolhouse.

South Trailhead from the Orcas ferry landing:
Take Orcas Road for 2.4 miles. Turn left on Deer Harbor Road. Pass through West Sound and continue on to Wild Rose Lane at 4.8 miles from start. Turn right and follow Wild Rose Lane to the parking area on the right.

South trailhead from Eastsound Village:
Take Orcas Road 1.1 miles to Fowler's Corner and the intersection with Crow Valley Road. Keep right on Crow Valley Road. At 5.3 miles in West Sound, turn right on Deer Harbor Road. At 6.5 miles from start, turn right onto Wild Rose Lane. Continue on to the parking area on the right.

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560-378-4402
www.sjclandbank.org
sjclandbank@sjclandbank.org