

# 2020 Summer Explorer Guide

*Imagine  
Your  
Story*



collaborative  
summer library program

Image from Everythingbirds.com. Imagine your story logo TM for 2020 Collaborative Library Summer Program

**Orcas  
Island  
Library**  
BOOKS & BEYOND



SAN JUAN COUNTY  
LAND BANK

*the* SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

# My island pledge

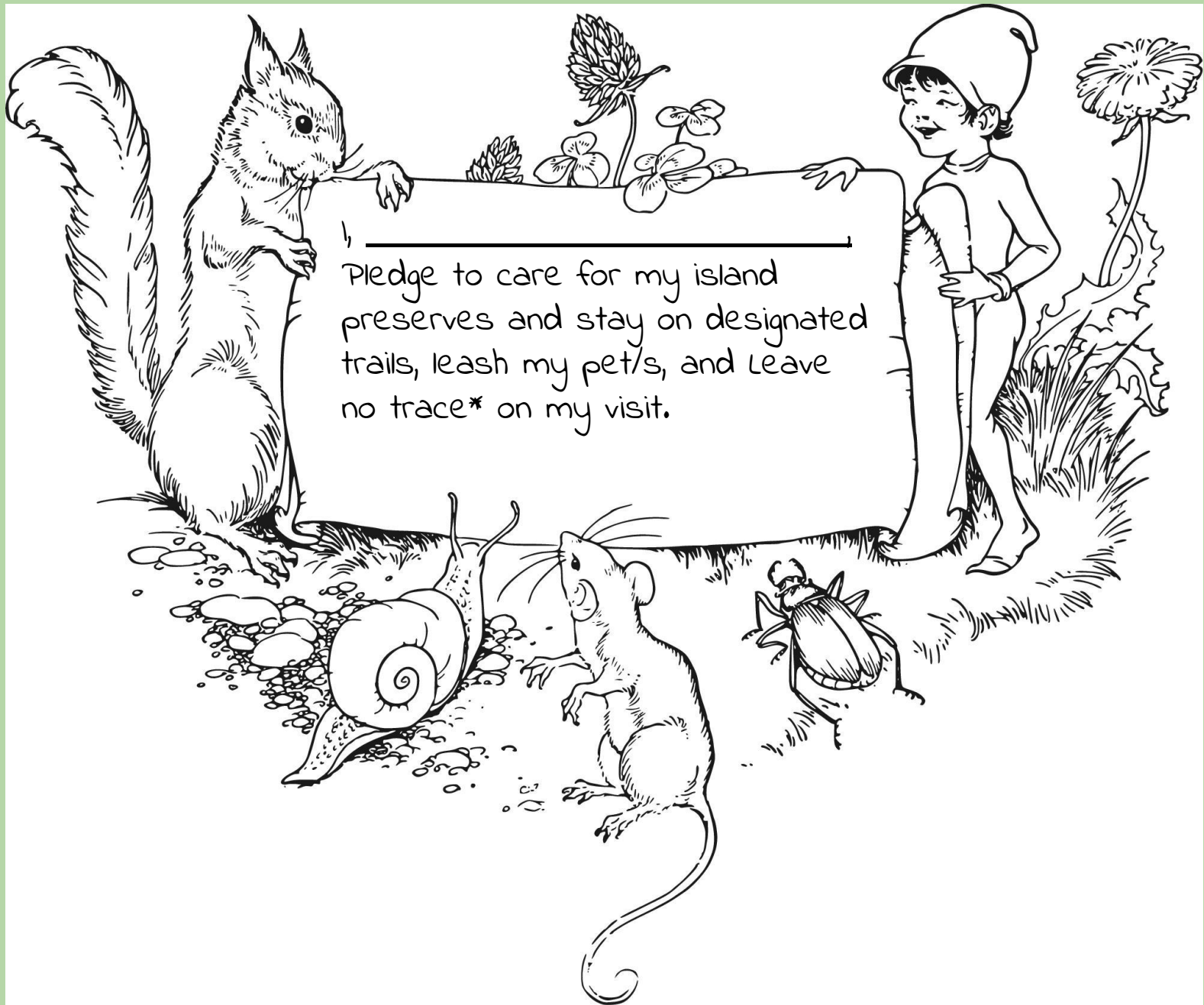


Image and all 'imagine your story' logos copyrighted by CSLP



\*San Juan County was the first  
'leave not trace' county in the nation



# Table of Contents

This guide includes activities to "Imagine Your Story" using our natural world for inspiration.

Activity #1 Coho Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

Activity #2 Judd Cove Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

Activity #3 Crescent Beach Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

Activity #4 Be a Birder! w/ Summer Bird Bingo

Activity #5 Turtleback Preserve (SJC Land Bank) - North Trailhead

Activity #6 Turtlehead Preserve (SJ Preservation Trust)

Activity #7 Frank Richardson Wildfowl Preserve (SJ Preservation Trust)

Visit Orcas Island Preserves (locations and downloadable trail map links at end of guide), complete four of the above activities, and return your packet to Orcas Public Library for free prizes (while supplies last). Photos of completed packets may also be submitted to [jdegroot@orcaslibrary.org](mailto:jdegroot@orcaslibrary.org) or on our Facebook page at Orcas Island Public Library.

Complete all activities and we'll put your name in a drawing for more prizes!

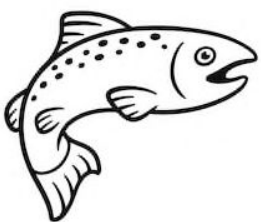


# Activity # 1: Coho Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

Coho preserve is the Land Bank's most recent acquisition on Orcas Island and represents an exciting step in the regional story of salmon recovery. The Preserve protects the lower 1,200 feet of Cascade Creek, which originates in Moran State Park, and terminates in the Buck Bay estuary.

Coho salmon, native sculpins, and sea-run cutthroat trout utilize Cascade Creek as spawning and rearing grounds. In addition to the permanent protection by the Land Bank, many community members and organizations are actively working to ensure that coho salmon have the water levels that they need to survive in Cascade Creek.

This population is small and sensitive to disturbance, so fishing is not allowed the preserve. Also please give the creek a wide berth as they grow big and strong in preparation for their journey out to sea!



(Draw all the places your salmon will go)

# Activity #1:

Imagine  
Your  
Story™

walk down the path and cross the bridge. The trail loops around so take either direction. Can you find the place where the Douglas fir and western red cedar cradle each other?



Douglas Fir tree



Red cedar Tree

Draw a picture of them here.

# Activity #1:

*Imagine  
Your  
Story*

Now 'imagine your story' for why these trees are together! write, draw, or have a family member help you with your story here.

Can you spot this songbird feeding on aquatic invertebrates in Cascade Creek?  
what is it?



(American Dipper, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

## Activity #2: Judd Cove (SJC Land Bank)

Judd Cove Preserve is a living representation of many of the values that the Land Bank holds dear. The beach and nearshore zone are ideal spawning and foraging grounds for several species of forage fish, an important part of the marine ecosystem. The beach also provides access to the shoreline for members of our human community.

The restored lime kiln on site stands as a reminder of the boom and busts of the extraction economies that brought many settlers to the islands at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Today, this land is preserved in perpetuity, and your Land Bank is working to restore a thriving population of native plants that are essential in the transition from land to sea.



Can you find the restored lime kiln? Draw what you see here today.

## Activity #2:

**Imagine  
Your  
Story™**

If you could imagine a story here, what would it be? Write, draw, or have a family member help you with your story here.

Can you see any native plants blooming near the kiln? They are establishing inside a fence so deer don't eat them. Draw what you see.



Salal (*Gaulthoria shallon*)  
Image Tryonfarm.com



## Activity #3: Crescent Beach (SJC Land Bank)

Crescent beach is a stunning preserve where many of the island's most precious values are on display. The shoreline provides foraging grounds for fish, birds and marine invertebrates alike, as well as a rejuvenating walk for humans and their leashed four-legged friends.

The forest in the upland area of the preserve ebbs between a dry Douglas and grand fir mix and a series of wetlands. The trail here cuts a path to Mt. Baker Rd where roadside paths take off in both directions and provides a great non-motorized transportation option for all of us on island time.



Image vadreams.com

### Be a beach crusader:

Pack out a bag of beach trash to keep garbage out of the bellies of sea-dwelling critters.\*  
Take a photo of your collection and share it with us.

\*beach trash can be disposed of for free at SJC transfer station all year long.

# Activity #3:

\*Imagine  
Your  
Story\*

Head out to the beach and search among the rocks. Draw a picture of the rock that you think is the coolest, most beautiful, or weirdest! \*

Imagine a story' about this rock, piece of wood, or beach trash you find on the shoreline. What would it be? Write, draw, or have a family member help with your story here.



Image Tara Reese

\*Remember Leave No Trace principles; don't take your rock home, and don't leave anything behind.

## Activity 4: Be a birder! w/ summer bird bingo (You choose your island preserve)

There are an estimated 10,738 species of birds world-wide. For some people, imagining finding every bird on this earth is a thrilling possibility that can turn into a lifelong adventure.

One example of a birding legend is 'bird girl' Mya-Rose Craig who set the world record for being the youngest person to sight 5,000 birds. Mya-Rose started birding at the age of 4 and by 17 had sighted 5369 birds (2019) . That's half the world's birds species!

A 'life-list' is a record of all the different birds you have seen and have successfully identified. Start identifying birds and win bingo today!

You will need to:

- Pick at least one person in your family to be your birding buddy (two sets of eyes are better than one).
- (optional) Pack a pair of binoculars, a bird guide, or download the Merlin phone app from Cornell Lab to help you identify the birds that you see.
- Cross off the birds you **see or hear** on your **bird bingo card** (remember to travel slowly and quietly so you can hear the bird songs and observe their movements all around you).

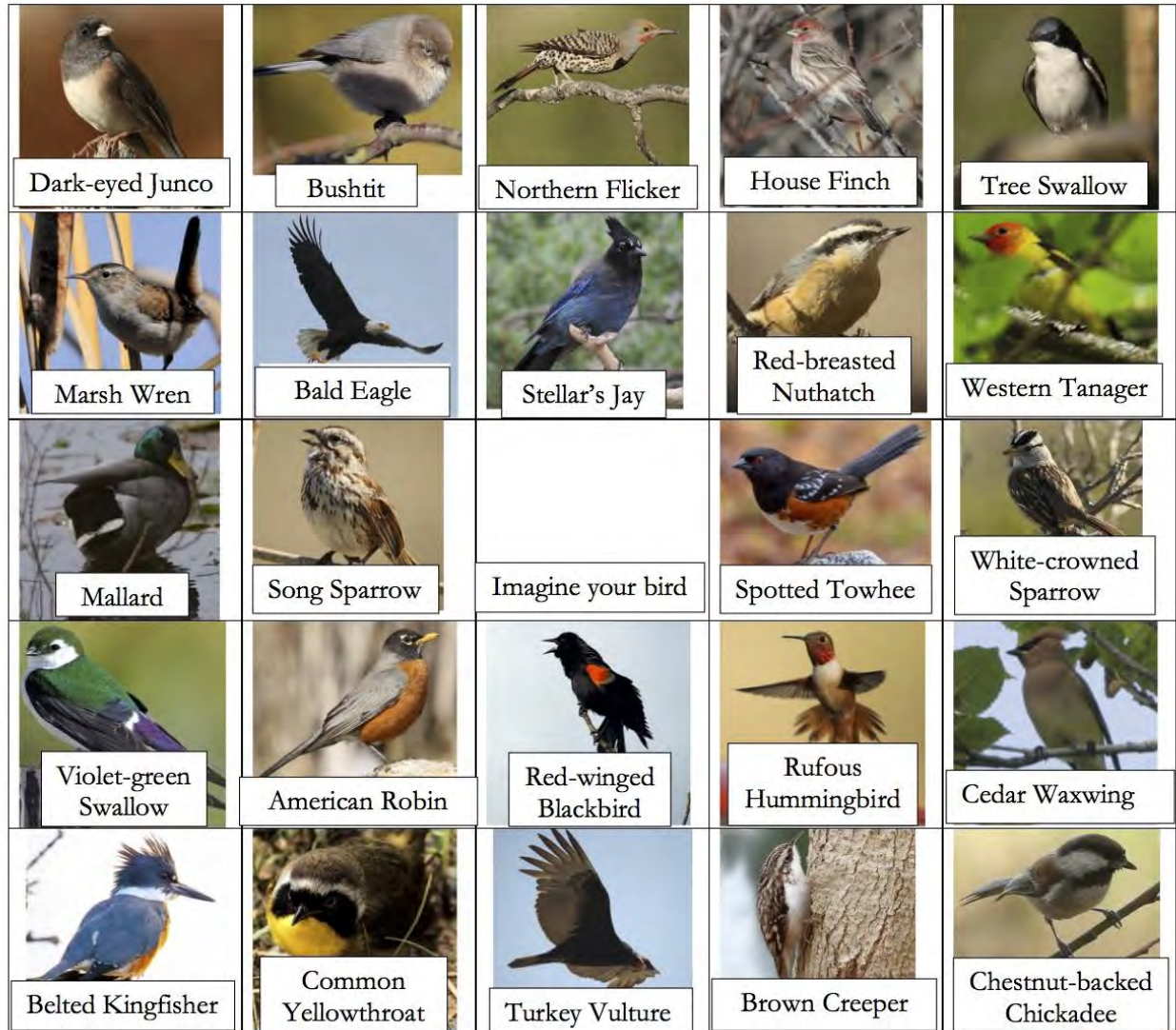


'Bird Girl' Mya-Rose Craig

Photo by Helen Craig & published in the Independent

# Activity #4: Summer Bird Bingo

*the* SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST



Summer bingo card made by Sierra O'Connell (SJ Preservation Trust)

Cross out the birds you see. Did you get a bingo? If so, on which preserve/s?

Take a photo of yourself with your card and share it with us!



# Activity #4:

\*Imagine  
Your  
Story\*

Imagine an imaginary bird living on Orcas Island. what name would you give it?

what does it look like and what **habitat** does it live in?

(A habitat is a home of a bird. Being able to connect specific birds with their habitats will help you become a better birder!)

write, draw, or have a family member help you here.



The Augurey from Fantastic Beasts and where you will find them by JK Rowling. Image from playbuzz.com



## Activity #5: Turtleback Mountain Preserve (SJC Land Bank) - north trailhead

Turtleback Mountain is one of the most recognizable landforms on Orcas Island. Visible from many vantage points, the mountain is a constant reminder of the conservation ethic present in this community.

Purchased in 2006 through a combination of Land Bank funds, grants and the incredible fundraising efforts of the San Juan Preservation Trust, the 1718 acre preserve protects a diverse array of ecosystems, from Garry oak woodlands to mature conifer forest to freshwater wetlands, as well as an extensive trail system for visitors to take it all in.



Find and draw a tree here.

Garry oaks (*Quercus garryana*) are slow-growing long-lived trees that are drought tolerant. Efforts are underway to 'release them' on island preserves.

# Activity #5:

Depart from the North Turtleback trailhead, located off of Crow Valley Rd. Head up, up, up to the **North valley overlook** and draw what you see. (If you departed on the South trailhead, draw the **west overlook** view.)

Is it the view that captures your attention? or maybe a flower in bloom next to the trail tickles your fancy? Is it the friends or family that you are hiking with that make this moment special? Let us know what makes you smile on Turtleback today.



Image by Navesh Chitrakar at

Be a tree hugger  
(& thank it for what it did for you  
today!)

Hug a large tree or a cage that  
surrounds a little one and share a  
photo with us.

# Activity #5:

A white thought bubble with a black outline, containing the text "Imagine Your Story" in a green, stylized font. The word "Imagine" is on the top line, "Your" is in the middle, and "Story" is on the bottom line. There are small star-like symbols on either side of "Imagine" and "Story". The bubble has three smaller circles leading down to it.

\*Imagine  
Your  
Story\*

The San Juan County Land Bank turns 30 this year! Decades ago, community members saw the island's population growing rapidly and wanted to protect the places they loved. People researched ideas for protecting open space. They shared their ideas in community meetings, and in November of 1990, the Land Bank was voted into existence.

If you time travel 100 years into the future or into the past, what would you see here? How might it be similar or different from what you see today? write, draw, or have a family member help with your story here.

## Activity #6: Be a naturalist at Turtlehead Preserve (SJ Preservation Trust)

Turtlehead Preserve encompasses the knobby headland that forms the turtle's "head" at the northwest end of Turtleback Mountain. Standing atop its rocky, windswept half-dome, you'll see raptors gliding on thermals and some of the most glorious views available in the San Juans. Dragonflies soar and rocky outcrops shelter miniature gardens of wildflowers and lichens.

A Naturalist is someone who learns about and observes animals and/or plants.

For fun, join the "Life on Turtleback Mountain and Turtlehead Preserve" Project on the iNaturalist phone app and use it to try to identify the plants or insects that you see. Look through the observations made by other visitors on this preserve. Have you seen any of the same plants or insects? what are they?



If you don't have the app: How many different plants can you count while standing in one place?

# Activity #6:

Naturalists use clues from nature to help them identify what they are observing. Remember that some birds can be identified by their call or behaviors (Brown Creepers "creep" up trees and White-crowned Sparrow songs sound like "oh me, oh pretty, pretty me").

Find a quiet place and sit still for five minutes.

- If you see a bird, what is it doing?
- If you hear a bird, what does it sound like? Use the blank space for your answer.





# Activity #6:

\*Imagine  
Your  
Story\*

Create an imaginary flower growing here in your mind. What does it look like (flower petals, leaves, roots, etc.)?

What about scent?

What type of pollinators would be attracted to this flower? A pollinator is an animal or insect that moves pollen from flower to flower, assisting with the flower's life cycle.

Write, draw, or have a family member help you here.

Name the bird featured on the interpretive sign:

?



# Activity #7: Frank Richardson Wildfowl Preserve (SJC PT)

This 13-acre preserve provides a perfect place from which to observe the amazing variety of wildlife that thrives in the adjacent freshwater marsh near Deer Harbor.

It is named in honor of Dr. Frank Richardson, the curator of birds at the Burke Museum and a professor of zoology at the University of Washington. After his retirement in 1972, Dr. Richardson observed some 80 species of birds in this unusually active marsh.

Find a memorial plaque for Frank Richardson and make a rubbing of it here with a crayon or a pencil.

# Activity #7:

At Frank Richardson wildfowl Preserve, how many of these birds can you add to your "life-list" (identify by sight or sound)? Check off the birds you find here:

Mallard (Females make quacking sounds, males don't quack)

Hooded Merganser (diving duck, specialized in catching fish)

Great Blue Heron (flies with an "S" shaped neck and legs well beyond its tail)

Belted Kingfisher (makes loud rattling sound when it prepares to take off or dive towards the water)

Red-winged Blackbird (listen for conk-la-reeeeder)

Wood Duck (look around edges of marsh, square head shape)

Pied-billed Grebe (a small and chunky swimming bird with virtually no tail)

Violet-green Swallow (swoops over the water catching insects, clean white belly)

Marsh wren (tiny bird, short tail is often held up)

Common Yellowthroat (listen for witchety-witchety-witchety)

Did you find other birds that were not listed here? If so, what were they (write your answer here)?

# Activity #7:



\*Imagine<sup>™</sup>  
Your  
Story\*

A preserve is a place set aside to protect a natural resource (such as a bird or plant). Imagine a preserve named after you. What would you call it?

What would you protect and how? Write, draw, or have a family member help with your answer here.

At home challenge:

Think of one thing you can do at home to protect your environment. What would it be?  
Challenge yourself to do it today!



Extra activity:  
Color this tree

IMAGINE  
YOUR  
STORY



collaborative  
summer library program™



# Map for activities with links to downloadable trail maps



Activity #1 Coho Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

[http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Coho\\_map\\_4.2017.pdf](http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Coho_map_4.2017.pdf)

Activity #2 Judd Cove Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

[http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/JuddCove\\_map\\_REVISED\\_4\\_2016.pdf](http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/JuddCove_map_REVISED_4_2016.pdf)

Activity #3 Crescent Beach Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

[http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CrescentBeach\\_map-REVISED-4.2016.pdf](http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CrescentBeach_map-REVISED-4.2016.pdf)

Activity #4 Be a Birder! w/ Summer Bird Bingo

Activity #5 Turtleback Preserve (SJC Land Bank)

[http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Turtleback\\_map\\_REVISED\\_4\\_2016.pdf](http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Turtleback_map_REVISED_4_2016.pdf)

Activity #6 Turtlehead Preserve (SJ Preservation Trust)

[https://sjpt.org/wp-content/uploads/turtleback\\_mountain\\_map.pdf](https://sjpt.org/wp-content/uploads/turtleback_mountain_map.pdf)

Activity #7 Frank Richardson Wildfowl Preserve (SJ Preservation Trust)

<https://sjpt.org/wp-content/uploads/Richardson-Marsh-access-map.pdf>

# Partnerships and Thank yous

This Summer Explorer Guide was created through the partnership of Orcas Island Public Library, the San Juan County Land Bank, and the San Juan Preservation Trust, and was made possible through the generous support of the Friends of Orcas Island Library. To learn more about the online Summer Explorer Guide, visit [www.orcaslibrary.org](http://www.orcaslibrary.org) or email Jenny DeGroot, directly, at [jdegroot@orcaslibrary.org](mailto:jdegroot@orcaslibrary.org).

Thanks to the Collaborative Summer Library Program for permission to use their artwork and slogans for the 2020 Summer reading program.

Special thanks to Kayla Seaforth (SJC Land Bank) and Sierra O'Connell (SJ Preservation Trust) for writing sections of the explorer's guide, and to Tanja Williamson (SJC Land Bank) for the original concept. Thanks also to all the donors, volunteers, and supporters of our island preserves and library.

May our preserves continue to be natural places of wonder and exploration today and for future generations of islanders, and may our library continue to offer a window into this world!



SAN JUAN COUNTY  
LAND BANK

*the* SAN JUAN  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST