

AGENDA
San Juan County Conservation Land Bank Commission

**Members of the public may participate in person at
SJI Grange, 152 1st St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
join virtually by [CLICKING HERE](#)
or by phone @ (253)205-0468 Meeting ID: 864 2185 5108**

July 19, 2024

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8:30am | Convene |
| 8:30 | General Public Comment Period |
| 8:40 | Approve June 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes |
| 8:45 | Partner Update – San Juan Preservation Trust |
| 8:50 | Council Update – Christine Minney <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Resolution to put Land Bank Conservation Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) renewal on the November ballot |
| 8:55 | Chair and Commissioners Reports |
| 9:05 | 2 nd Quater 2024 Financial Report – Aaron Rock |
| 9:20 | Directors Report – Lincoln Bormann <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentation: Zylstra Lake Preserve acquisition history○ Discussion: Stewardship funding trajectory |
| 9:50 | Break |
| 10:00 | Outreach/Communications Report – Tanja Williamson |
| 10:20 | Stewardship Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ag leasing update○ Linde Park trailhead |
| 10:50 | 2 nd Public Comment Period |
| 11:05 | Future Agenda Items |
| 11:10am | Adjourn |

The Land Bank Commission May Add or Delete Agenda Items and Projects for Discussion. The Agenda Order is Subject to Change. You are invited to call the Land Bank office at 360-378-4402 for more details prior to the meeting. SJC Code 2.116.070 “All meetings and actions of advisory bodies and their subcommittees shall be open to the public, even where such meetings are not within the purview of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, except where the meeting is properly closed for executive session, as provided in RCW 42.30.110”

Summary of Values of Land Bank Purchases

Number of Purchases / Donations	Appraised Value of Purchases 1990-2022	Land Bank Expenditures	Partner Expenditures	Non-acquisition partner contributions	Donations of Property	Land Bank Assists on Other Projects
68 / 7	\$87.6M	\$49M	\$33.5M	\$1.9M	\$7.5M	\$12.4M
Total Purchase Price	\$82.9M		Total Partner Contributions: \$53M			
Number of CE Purchases / Donations	Appraised Value of Purchases 1990-2022	Land Bank Expenditures	Partner Expenditures		Donations of CEs	
33 / 15	\$10.7M	\$7M	\$1.8M	n/a	> \$5M est.	
Total Appraised Value LB Projects: \$98.3M*			Total Appraised Value All Projects \$109.4M*			
Total LB Expenditures: \$56M			Total Partner Contributions All Projects \$62.1M			

*Does Not Include CE Donation Value

7-15-24



Land Bank 2024 Communication Plan

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Annual workplan for Land Bank Outreach and Communications

The San Juan County Conservation Land Bank's 2024-2030 Strategic Plan outlined a series of priority actions to help achieve long-term goals. Several of the identified strategies and actions involve communications.

Goal 1: Build/enhance the community's understanding of and support for the Land Bank.

Goal 2: Increase community ownership of and participation in the Land Bank.

This communication plan is a direct result of the department's strategic planning and serves as a framework for annual engagement and promotion of Land Bank activities to San Juan County communities. This plan outlines our objectives, audiences, and strategies for how we plan to approach engaging SJC community members.

Engagement Objectives

- *Increase public awareness of Land Bank mandate*
- *Creatively engage a diverse range of SJC communities*
- *Keep SJC communities informed and aware of Land Bank activities/events/mission and when/where they may participate*
- *Provide varying types of activities so that SJC community members may participate at the level they are able to*

Metrics for success

- *Total number of responses by activity*
 - *Stewardship & Management Plans*
 - *Public Scoping meetings*
 - *Public comments submitted*
- *Total number of in-person engagement opportunities as well as participation stats*
 - *Events with Land Bank representation (Fair, Farmers Markets, etc.)*
 - *Drop-in session/open house attendees*
 - *Guided tours*
 - *Partnership events*
- *Total number of Land Bank website/social media visits*
 - *Downloads/click to one-pagers*
 - *Visits to the FAQ page*
 - *Target Audiences*

Levels of Engagement



Defined below are the levels of engagement that we will use to meet different audience participation needs and overall engagement goals.

Inform	Provide the community with relevant information
Consult	Gather input from the community
Involve	Community needs and priorities are heard and actively integrated into the planning process and inform decisions
Collaborate	Community plays a critical role in planning process and decision-making

Target Audiences

Audience	Groups	Engagement Goal
County Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Stewardship ▪ WSU Extension (Agriculture partner) ▪ Public Works ▪ Parks, Recreation, & Fair ▪ Health Department 	Collaborate on potential strategies, cross-promotion, and garner support.
Recreation Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ San Juan Island Rec ▪ Orcas Island Park and Recreation ▪ Stewardship Network ▪ Islands-wide Trails Committees 	Involve with spreading the word; Involve in strategy development.
Community Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family Resource Centers ▪ Community/Senior Centers Housing ▪ OPAL ▪ Lopez Community Land Trust ▪ SJI Community Home Trust Other ▪ Community Groups – Kiwanis, Rotary, etc. ▪ Transition Groups ▪ Ag Guild ▪ Makers Guild ▪ Schools ▪ Historic Societies ▪ Alchemy Art Center ▪ Island Verse Literary Collective 	Involve through tailored outreach to create accessible opportunities for participation and build/strengthen relationships with community groups or individuals for long-term engagement.
Conservation	Environmental Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friends of the San Juans ▪ SJI Conservation District ▪ Madrona Institute ▪ FOLKS ▪ Friends of Lopez Hill ▪ Kwiaht ▪ Wolf Hollow ▪ SJI Preservation Trust ▪ Whale Museum ▪ IOSA 	Involve with spreading the word; Involve in strategy development.



	Land Management Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM – SJI National Monument ▪ Parks (County, National, State) ▪ DNR 	
General Public	Full time residents New Residents Realtors	Involve Inform by providing the community with relevant information

Engagement Strategies

The team plans to use the following strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan to reach SJC communities and stakeholders.

1. Share Land Bank news on actions and events through regular publication and emails, and the Annual Report
2. Proactively address misinformation regarding the Land Bank.
3. Ensure adequate resources to support effective communications.
4. Expand efforts to reach people via social media, presentations, open houses, and signage on the Preserves.
5. Improve the overall effectiveness of the Land Bank’s current outreach and engagement activities.

These strategies have been divided into digital and in-person communication efforts outlined below.

Website, email updates, and other digital communications

The Land Bank website provides a central location to direct all interested individuals to more information. The website provides program history and mandate, relevant updates, upcoming engagement opportunities, and contact information.

Strategic Plan Strategy: Share Land Bank news on actions and events through regular publication and emails, and the Annual Report

Strategic Plan Strategy: Expand efforts to reach people via social media, presentations, open houses, and signage on the Preserves.

WEBSITE, EMAIL, & OTHER DIGITAL COMMS ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Post general information, FAQs, news releases, alerts, and other external communication to Land Bank webpages. This should include graphics, photos, and videos that help enhance and support key messages.	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator County’s Comms. Coordinator



Develop and maintain a regular editorial column in the papers and online with seasonal topics to keep the public aware of Land Bank management.	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator
Continue to build the listserv and establish a “blast” list of partners to provide regular updates.	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator
Continue producing and distributing seasonal newsletter quarterly	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator
Share information via the Land Bank’s and County’s social media sites including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn, and tailor the message to targeted audiences. This includes sharing content from other local, regional, state, and federal partners that is relevant to the Land Bank.	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator County’s Comms. Coordinator
Review the San Juan County Social Media Policy periodically to stay aligned with policy and best practices	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator County’s Comms. Coordinator
Utilize coordinated graphics, photos, and videos (including interviews) to enhance and support brand recognition	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator County’s Comms. Coordinator

In-Person Events and Engagement Opportunities

In-person engagement strategies include opportunities to meet residents where they are - at service organization meetings, on hikes, at popular community events, and more.

Strategic Plan Strategy: *Expand efforts to reach people via social media, presentations, open houses, and signage on the Preserves.*

IN-PERSON EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Create a communication cohort (see collaborator toolkit below) of citizens who are well-informed about Land Bank activities and initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team: resident ‘friends of’ group and supported by Land Bank staff • Resources: Informational brochures, Annual Reports, event flyers 	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator
Give regular presentations to service and professional organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target frequency: minimum one a quarter • Team: staffed by Land Bank staff 	Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources: Informational brochures, Annual Reports, event flyers 	<p>Land Bank Director & Commissioners</p> <p>Assigned Land Bank Staff</p>
<p>Hold open houses on Land Bank Preserves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target frequency: a minimum of one open house on Lopez, Orcas and San Juan Islands annually • Team: staffed by Land Bank staff • Resources: Informational brochures, Annual Reports, event flyers 	<p>Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator</p> <p>Land Bank Director & Commissioners</p> <p>Assigned Land Bank Staff</p>
<p>Host tabling & cross-promoting events at where SJC communities are already gathering. Community events that should be considered for tabling include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Islands Clean Up • San Juan County Fair • Farmers Markets • San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit • Rec Events (eg. Children’s Festival, SJI) <p>Tabling and cross-promoting guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team: staffed by Land Bank staff • Resources: Informational brochures, Annual Reports, event flyers 	<p>Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator</p> <p>Assigned Land Bank Staff</p>
<p>Host ‘Pocket Sessions’ / Commissioner Office Hours / fireside chat - drop-in/open house informal gatherings to promote conversation and engage public input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target frequency: twice yearly? • Team: led by.... • Resources: Informational brochures, Annual Reports, event flyers 	<p>Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator</p> <p>Land Bank Commissioners</p>
<p>Continue hosting educational events such as interpretive walks, art events, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target frequency: one a month • Team: Land Bank staff or guest speaker/lead • Resources: Informational brochures, Annual Reports, event flyers 	<p>Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator</p>



Collaborators / Advocates / Communications Cohort

Strategic Plan Strategy: Proactively address misinformation regarding the Land Bank

The Land Bank utilizes support of Commissioners and partner agencies to promote Land Bank stewardship activities and outreach events by:

- Promotion of engagement opportunities within their own circles
- Tabling and representation at community events
- Support material distribution throughout the islands
- Provide brief updates at other community meetings and/or groups

Engagement Essentials

Collateral

We will create the following materials for supporting engagement activities.

Material	Purpose	Activities	Lead	Support
Style guide and templates	Uniform and recognizable look and feel for creating any materials based on SJC Style Guide and Land Bank Style Guide	All (primarily social media,	Tanja	Erin Andrews
Email updates	Provide regular updates to partners and interested community members about upcoming engagement opportunities	All	Tanja	Lincoln Stewardship Staff
Factsheets	Factsheets will be created to provide an overview of key topics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on Taxes - Affordable Housing - CE Purchases - Agriculture - Restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabling • Commission • Pocket sessions 	Lincoln	Tanja Erin Aaron



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When is Enough, Enough? - Climate - How to Leverage Funding with Partner Agencies 			
Promotional posters/flyers and social graphics	Announce and share upcoming events on social media and share with partners to share out on other platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and Volunteer Events • Meetings 	Tanja	Erin
Mailer	Annual update to SJC residents Reauthorization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report • FAQ postcard 	Tanja	Lincoln Erin
Webpage	Program website (sjclandbank.org) that provides project updates, resources, materials, events calendar	All	Tanja	All staff
YouTube page	Host informational videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly commission meeting recording • Edu/Outreach Videos 	Tanja	Erin Margo Lincoln
Collaborator Toolkit	<p>A Collaborators / Team Toolkit provides staff and community members with tools to answer questions and speak confidently about Land Bank conservation goals, programs, and services. Toolkit includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational talking points • Factsheets • Posters 	All	Lincoln	Tanja Erin Aaron



DRAFT

STEWARDSHIP & OUTREACH REPORT

JULY 2024

OVERVIEW

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) joined staff on across the islands to support in a fundamental task for natural lands stewardship: the removal of noxious weeds. They pulled a bit of tansy on Cady Mountain, dug up some blackberry crowns on Turtleback Mountain and collected arum seedheads at Fisherman Bay Spit. The Lopez youth also scoured the Tombolo to remove debris from the firework show and picked up *over 50 pounds* of trash.

OUTREACH

Staff: Tanja Williamson

Tanja has been supporting stewardship staff with outreach while continuing to fill the events calendar. In June, the inaugural Camp Eagle Rock “Walking Wednesday” Series was held in Driggs Park, on San Juan Island. Margo is leading the first three sessions and focusing on native wildflowers activities (Photos 1-2). Three other inaugural series kicked off in July as well: [Free Guided Painting Sessions with Alchemy Art Center](#), [Free Poetry Workshops with Island Verse Literary Collective](#), and the [Nature Rx Health and Wellness Walking Series](#). Lastly, Tanja produced the Q2 newsletter and continues to plan for the County Fair.

SALISH SEEDS NURSERY

Staff: Eliza Habegger, Margo Thorp

The weather has kept staff very busy with watering plants and installing shade cloth. The shade cloth protects vulnerable plants in pots and plugs from overheating in summer, and it greatly reduces watering needs (Photo 3). Plug sowing is complete for the season and seed harvest is in full swing. We’ve been troubleshooting irrigation and the “hozon” fertilizing device. We’re starting to pot up plants for the annual Fall Native Wildflower Sale. Eliza conveyed camas, wild onion, and other dormant bulb and root plants to the Cedar Rock Preserve on Shaw on July 12, where they were planted by participants in the Challenge Paddle Canoe Journey.

DISTRICT 1

Staff: Doug McCutchen, Charlie Behnke, Jacob Wagner, Shauna Barrows

Beaverton Marsh: Charlie, with help Washington Conservation Corps and members of the Grange have replaced approximately 10 acres of perimeter fencing, and more is underway. The Grange continues to tend to their potato cages that are weighting down the black tarps for the future quarter-acre garden area. They have also been working on weed control in the pastures. The trail connection between Linde Community Park and Beaverton Preserve is going full throttle: Tom Lawson Construction has initiated work on the paved trail in the park, Eco-Earthworks is helping spread gravel in the Preserve, and a half dozen volunteers are helping with the construction of a 72-foot crossing in a seasonally wet area. The new trail may be ready as early as July 19, and an official opening ceremony is scheduled for August 3rd (Photos 4-5).

Cady Mountain: The new trail continues to receive praise. The SJI YCC spent two days with Shauna working on trail refinements, noxious weeds, and other maintenance tasks.

Deadman Bay: Following the Fourth of July weekend, staff found evidence of multiple small beach fires, unusual amounts of trash, and a messy bathroom. However, camping along the Westside Corridor, which includes Limekiln, Deadman, and Westside preserves, has decreased this year, possibly because of improved signage that was installed last year.

False Bay Creek: Tansy control is underway among the fallow pastures. The pastures are benefiting from a rest and are lush with tall grass, clover, and birdsfoot trefoil.

Frazer Homestead: Tansy control is underway here too, as well as improvements to the fencing and the water system to help facilitate grazing.

King Sisters: Roadside mowing performed by Public Works has caused frustration for volunteers and neighbors, and Lincoln and Doug intend to schedule a meeting to discuss mowing options adjacent to preserves and roadside trails.

Limekiln: Lincoln and Doug will also meet with WDFW administrators to discuss the Northern pike. The previous reports about issues with the dam mechanism were recently compounded by other mechanical issues, which has led to significant declines in the reservoir.

Mount Ben: The ICC helped to maintain the access route used by staff as well as control of noxious weeds. The removal of shrubs on a neighboring property has resulted in a heavy recruitment of weeds along the shared boundary, including euphorbia which has been an ongoing

problem on the site. SJC Noxious Weed Board has reached out to the neighbors to offer volunteer technical assistance.

Mount Grant: The ICC wrapped up their season by helping to control weeds in and around the LSR restoration site (Photo 6).

Westside: Shauna led a “Know Your Island Walk” that focused on fire ecology.

Zylstra Lake: Hay has been harvested for the season, and approximately 20 parties obtained bales. Many also assisted with the harvest and the transport. Water conveyance for downstream agricultural use by Greg Black began the first week of July.

DISTRICT 2

Staff: Peter Guillozet, Tyler Goodman, Mary Gropp

Coffelt Farm: The spring well pump required replacement, and staff added a pump saver device to prevent such damage in the future. Farm operations are in full swing with abundant hay, meats, goat dairy products, and produce.

Coho: Tyler offered up his naturalist skills for the second time at the Whale Museum’s naturalist training on July 11th.

Crescent Beach: Erin and Peter hosted public meetings to present preliminary plans for a project to enhance forest health and wildfire resiliency. The overarching goal was to identify community concerns and to incorporate them into project planning. Highlights included an overview of the SMP and the recent award of \$240,000 by Washington DNR. Grant money will be used to remove small-diameter trees in areas where forest conditions are poor due to excessive tree density and establishing shaded fuel breaks along the trail and the western boundary of the Preserve. Staff also described plans to minimize the short-term ecological impacts of forest thinning and discussed ways to limit necessary trail closures. Comments expressed by those in attendance at both meetings were generally positive, with most questions and comments related to the desire to protect the ecology of the Preserve, the aesthetic of the rustic trail, and to limit the timing and duration of potential closures. Staff will hold another meeting this fall (Photo 8).

Diamond Hill: Peter met with the land donor, John Lane, during his annual visit to the property, and at his request, identified opportunities to pull weeds.

Eastsound: A recent high school senior project at Crescent Beach Preserve and cleanup events hosted by the Orcas Exchange have led to interest among some community members in creating trash bag stations for voluntary collection of beach trash. In response to the request, Peter and Tanja are in communication with potential partners to explore the possibility of developing a small pilot project. The main concern is the need for participants to haul away trash they collect. The Exchange accepts such trash at no cost.

Judd Cove: A recent spate of overnight parking has occurred on several Orcas preserves, and neighbors to Judd Cove reported campers on July 3rd. Land Bank staff called the non-emergency line and went to the Preserve in the morning. The site was posted, and the campers knew they didn't belong there. But work to improve signage at Judd Cove and other preserves, in an effort to prevent this activity, is underway.

North Shore: Seven contractors attended the recent pre-bid meeting, and two bids were received. The lowest responsive bidder is the same contractor that removed the shoreline buildings last year. Two permits were received from the Department of Ecology, and we are now waiting on permits from San Juan County. Pending successful permitting and contracting, work should begin in early August and finish in early to mid-September. We've finalized a large preserve signage order and, in anticipation of wetland restoration grading, placed an order for around 10,000 herbaceous wetland plants on top of wetland seed that has already been collected by Mary. Tyler and Christian Oldham from Kwiaht installed a large maternity box for bats on the side of the garage (Photos 9-11).

Turtleback Mountain: Tyler wrapped up trail work on the Morning Ridge Trail with ICC as well as improvements on the Lost Oak Trail with a volunteer group of 10 from Portland. The YCC season began with an effort to remove small blackberry crowns on the slopes along the Morning Ridge Trail. Mary has been out collecting native grass and wildflower seeds for future planting (Photo 12-13).

DISTRICT 3

Staff: Amanda Wedow, Cedar Charnley

Amanda and Cedar attended a talk at the library “Lichens of South Lopez” by Fred Rhoades. He surveyed the area in 2000s for the BLM. Amanda attended a field trip to Point Colville for Lichen identification, and one of the many fun facts learned is that there is a lichen (*Collembosidium*) that grows on barnacles!

Channel: Signage was updated to highlight seasonal needs such as “No Beach Fires” and Fire Risk High. Amanda heard many positive and appreciative comments about the Preserve while at the Farmer’s Market booth, and arrangements have been made to grade and gravel the entrance to Meadow Lane.

FB Spit: Field mowing was completed in late June, and to reduce mowing demands, staff is devising a plan to only mow the lower field every three years. The Lopez YCC helped locate and remove Italian arum seedheads, and their effort yielded three bags of arum.

Hummel Lake: The Sheriff’s Department issued a trespass notice to an individual that has been staying in the parking lot, and his broken-down vehicle was towed. The field was mowed, weeds were removed, and the trail was brushed of overhanging vegetation. Kwiaht has been hosting a handful of events on the adjacent WDFW property including a twice monthly bird walk and a bass derby.

Tombolo: The annual fireworks show was setup on Bayshore Road along the Preserve. The YCC did a beach cleanup at the Tombolo following the event, and while this was expected to be a sweep to remove any lingering fireworks debris, the crew hauled away over 50 pounds of trash. Staff posted a message on Lopez Rocks to encourage more volunteer help to complete the fireworks cleanup. Staff removed meadow knapweed (Photo 14-15).

Upright Head: Tansy and thistle were removed. A design concept by Natural Systems Design and Coastal Geologic Services was shared with staff by Friends of the San Juans as a part of a potential beach restoration project.

Watmough: Staff led three tours and two volunteer groups this past month. Thistles were removed during the work parties. Amanda and Erin continued are finishing up the draft SMP

which will soon be out for review. Amanda is preparing plans for decommissioning the dug well, removing the asphalt sport court, and repairing the steps to the beach (Photo 16).

Weeks Wetland: The upper field was hayed, and the entrance sign was refreshed with new trim and reinstalled.

Photos



Photo 1. Campers from Island Rec's Camp Eagle Rock play plant detective and use visual cues to match seeds to their mature flowering plant on SJI.



Photo 2. Asters in bloom at the “Lawn Be Gone” demo area at Driggs.



Photo 3. Putting up the summer shade cloth at the Salish Seed Nursery Project



Photo 4. Trail construction at the connection between Linde Park and Beaverton Marsh Preserve



Photo 5. Shauna working on the trail at Beaverton Marsh Preserve.



Photo 6. *Brodiaea coronaria* in bloom at Mount Grant Preserve



Photo 7. Great Blue Herons at Third Lagoon Preserve



Photo 8. Community members join a field outing to discuss upcoming forest work at Crescent Beach Preserve.



Photos 9-10. A Brown Creeper nest wedged between cedar bark (left) revealed a newly hatched baby (right)!



Photo 11. A maternity box for bats is installed, with thanks to Kwiaht for the donation, at North Shore Preserve.



Photo 12. Orcas Commissioners Anne Marie Shanks and Brian Wiese join Representative Rick Larsen for a tour of North Shore Preserve.



Photo 13. A garter snake is observed wandering while tansy was being tackled at Turtleback Mountain Preserve.



Photo 14. Tyler discovered two different ground “nests” of the Common Nighthawk far off-trail, while hunting weeds, at Turtleback Mountain Preserve.



Photos 14 and 15. The Youth Conservation Corps collected over 50 pounds of trash following the fireworks display, Tombolo Preserve.



Photo 16. Amanda overlooks volunteers helping to remove thistle at Watmough Preserve.

THE ISLANDS' SOUNDER



NEWS

Land Bank looks at forest management of Crescent Beach Preserve

July 7, 2024 1:30 am



Participants in the public event at Crescent Beach Preserve.

by Declan O'Malley

Sounder contributor

The San Juan County Conservation Land Bank held two events on Orcas Island the last weekend of June, focused on forest management at Crescent Beach Preserve near Eastsound.

On June 28, Orcas Island Preserve Steward Peter Guillozet, along with other staff, including Orcas Land Bank Commissioner Anne Marie Shanks, presented to a group of seven attendees gathered in person and via Zoom about proposed forestry work at Crescent Beach Preserve.

They outlined a forestry plan from the recent [Stewardship and Management Plan](#), which proposes creating shaded fuel breaks to reduce wildfire risk and severity, thinning to enhance forest resilience to climate change, promoting standing and downed dead wood for habitat, managing priority weeds and planting understory species in thinned areas.

“Our goal [with the presentation and weekend event] was to address and integrate community concerns into project planning. A highlight of Friday’s meeting was the announcement of a \$240,000 grant from the Washington Department of Natural Resources to remove small-diameter trees in areas with poor forest conditions due to excessive tree density,” Guillozet said.

On June 29, a site visit was organized, offering participants a firsthand look at the forest conditions discussed on Friday and illustrating the proposed action plan for the preserve. Eight participants attended the outing.

“Feedback from attendees at both events was largely positive. Most questions and comments focused on preserving the ecology of the area, potential trail adjustments resulting from the project and the timing and duration of any closures. The Land Bank invites continued input from the community regarding the future of the preserve,” Guillozet added.

The Land Bank will consider feedback as it collaborates with DNR on project planning and prepares a Request for Bids to be released in the fall or winter. Staff will host additional public meetings to present refined plans and gather further input.

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Crescent Beach Preserve protects shorelines, intertidal zones, freshwater wetlands and a Douglas-fir forest. The beach is open to the public, with some shoreline leased to a small oyster farm. The area is known for wildlife sightings, including osprey, river otters, and various shorebirds and waterfowl. A short hiking trail leads from the beach. Stewardship of the area began in the mid-1980s and early 1990s, ensuring continued enjoyment for visitors.

In addition to Crescent Beach Preserve, Orcas Island hosts seven public preserves, including Turtle Back Preserve, Judd Cove Preserve, Coffelt Farm Preserve, Eastsound Waterfront Park, and others. A detailed map is available at <https://sjclandbank.org/orcas-island-map/>.

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[Meeting the council candidates running in the Aug. 6 primary](#)

The Journal

of the San Juan Islands




LIFE

Library summer reading programs are hear

June 27, 2024 1:30 am



Submitted by the San Juan Island Library

The San Juan Island Library is thrilled to announce the kickoff of its annual Summer Reading Program, Adventure Begins at Your Library, aimed at inspiring a love for reading and learning in children and adults alike.

The program, which is now underway and runs through August, offers a range of enjoyable and engaging activities for individuals of all ages. Participants can log their reading time, complete activity challenges, attend hands-on workshops, and watch professional entertainers as part of the Library's popular Wednesday Afternoon Performance series.

"We are so excited to offer our Summer Reading Program again and provide our community with more avenues to stay connected and involved with the library and lifelong learning," said Melina Lagios, Youth Services Manager at the San Juan Island Library. "Reading is such an important skill for children to develop, and our program provides a fun and accessible way for them to continue reading throughout the summer months while school is not in session."

Also happening this summer is the Outdoor Adventure Challenge to Discover San Juan Island, co-sponsored by the San Juan Island Library and the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank. A packet is available at the library for people to get started learning about the island's natural preserves and the stories they hold.

In addition to the activities and events, participants enrolled in the 2024 Summer Reading Program who reach certain reading milestones will have the chance to win prizes and incentives, including entries into grand prize raffle drawings for gift certificates to local stores and businesses.

"Our Teen Library Council worked closely with me this year to offer a fun program and great prizes," said Elizabeth Griffin, Youth Services Librarian at the San Juan Island Library. "Back by popular demand are the three grand prize drawings for prizes which include gift cards, Squishmallows, and our new addition of a reading-themed gift basket in the genre of the winner's choice!"

To sign up for the Summer Reading Program or to learn more about the events and activities being offered, stop by the San Juan Island Library today or visit www.sjlib.org.

The San Juan Island Library is a vital resource for the San Juan Island community, offering a wealth of free educational and recreational materials, programs, and services to support literacy and promote lifelong learning and engagement for all ages. Contact the Library at 360-378-2798 or at sjlib@sjlib.org for more information.

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[Diesel spill from sunken Aleutian Isle leads to penalty.](#)

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