Discover San Juan Island

SAN JUAN COUNTY
CONSERVATION
LAND BANK



san juan island
LIBRARY



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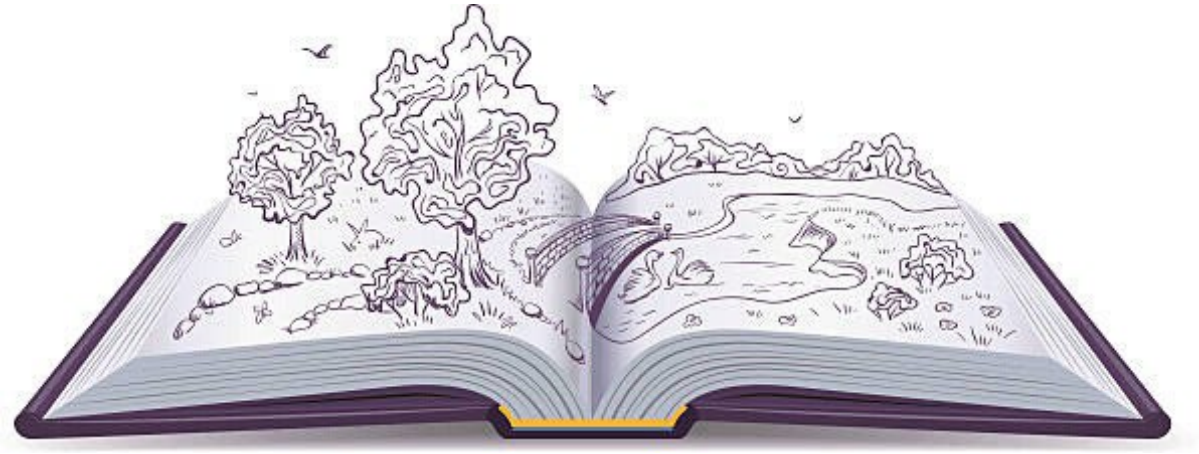
Welcome to Discover San Juan Island

What is the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank?

Decades ago, members of the island community saw the area's population rapidly growing and it made them want to protect special places in the archipelago. What would life be like if some of their favorite places disappeared? If their children and grandchildren didn't have shorelines with sea stars and salmon and forests full of birdsong and prairies with wildflowers to walk? People researched ideas for protecting open space and wildlife. They shared their ideas in community meetings, and in November of 1990, your Conservation Land Bank was voted into existence.

This summer the Land Bank and San Juan Island Library invite you to celebrate and enjoy the places we love and protect with the Outdoor Adventure Challenge.

Get outdoors this summer and enjoy some family fun discovering your preserves and the stories they hold. Happy adventuring!



Be Prepared!



- Remember to wear sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, hiking boots, and bring plenty of water and snacks. You may want to bring bug repellent, too.

- Keep your adventure packet in your car or your bag all the time, so you're always ready for whatever adventure might come your way.

- Be good stewards! Make sure you're being kind to the land, animals, plants, and fellow humans you encounter on your adventures. Leave the preserve as you found it - unless you're picking up trash.

- Bring a camera! Share your adventures with us on Facebook or Instagram. #sjclandbank #sjilibrary#outdooradventure

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Helpful Resources:

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank:

http ://sjclandbank.org/

San Juan Island Library:

https://www.sjlib.org/

San Juan Preservation Trust - Island Marble Butterfly:

https://sjpt.org/what-we-do/care-for-land/stewardship/stewardship-projects/island-marble-butterfly-project/

San Juan Island National Historical Park - Pig War:

https://www.nps.gov/sajh/learn/historyculture/the-pig-war.htm

Westside Preserve

The Westside Preserve represents permanent protection for one of San Juan Island's most treasured areas. This, along with the Deadman Bay and Limekiln Preserves, and Lime Kiln Point State Park and San Juan County Park, protect habitat and create opportunities for recreation along the western shoreline of the island. This is a place where dramatic cliffs bridge the gap between land and sea, and give way to a once expansive coastal prairie. While there are fewer native wildflowers here today than may have once bloomed on this bluff, you may see camas, satin flower, harvest brodiaea, shooting-star, field chickweed bicolor lupine, and more!



Draw the wildflowers you see on the trail.

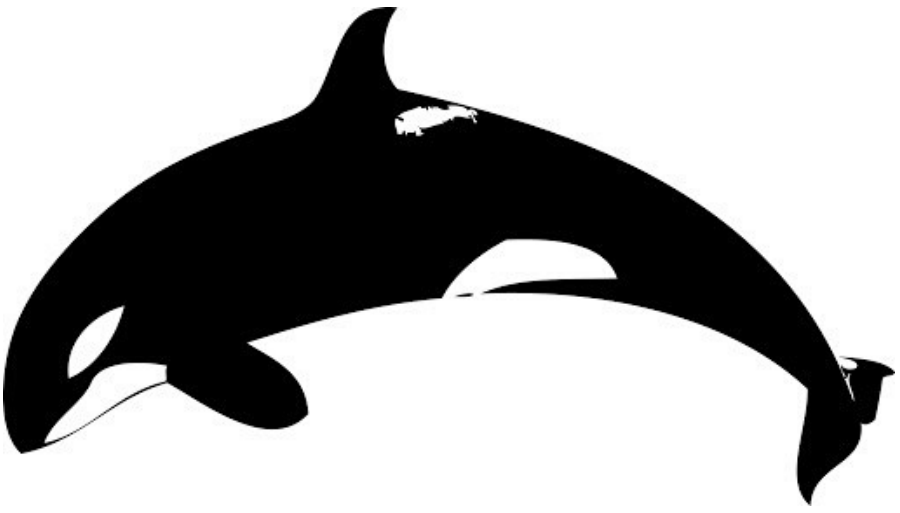
Activity #1:



Take a walk on the fern lined trail that goes to the place where you can look over Haro Strait from high above. Keep your eyes peeled along the way – the goldenback ferns that the trail derives its name from are what you seek. Take a selfie with one, or let the fern be the star, whichever you prefer. What other plants did you see along the trail? Draw them below.

Activity #1:

Continue all the way up to the end of the trail. Get very quiet, maybe even close your eyes. Can you hear it? "Pffhhh… pffhhh" Now open your eyes. Can you see the black dorsal fin of an Orca surfacing off shore? If you are lucky enough to see an Orca, the experience should be treasured. The Southern Resident Killer Whales that forage, play and raise their young in the Salish Sea are critically endangered due to threats to their food source, Chinook Salmon, as well as environmental pressures posed by vessel traffic and climate change. Imagine what the Orca would say to us if we spoke the same language? On the next page, write or draw a short story about an Orca adventure in the Salish Sea. Make it as long or as short as you'd like, have fun with it!



Activity #1:

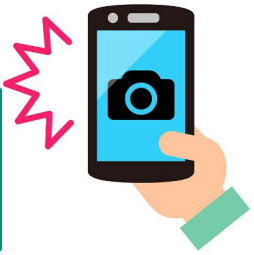


Frazer Homestead Preserve

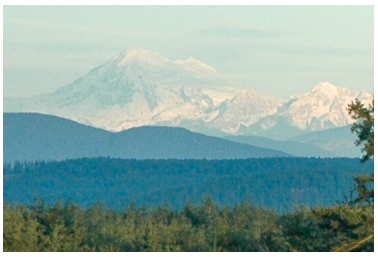
The Frazer Homestead offers a peek into the diverse values that the Land Bank has committed to protect. The agricultural fields are farmed by a local family and the trail that runs between the fields and Cattle Point Road offers an opportunity for low intensity recreation and helps connect Friday Harbor and American Camp. The Frazer Homestead was also the site of the start of the infamous Pig War; it was on this ground that Lyman Cutlar shot the Hudson's Bay Company pig, an event that ended in the inclusion of San Juan Island in United States territory. In addition to food production for humans and livestock, the Preserve is also the site of a restoration plot for the endangered Island Marble Butterfly. Our friends at the San Juan Preservation trust sow the butterfly's host plant, a weed called field mustard, in hopes that a butterfly will find the plant and lay its eggs there. In 2019 this dream became reality - the first recorded island marble butterfly to lay eggs somewhere other than American Camp!

To hold all of these diverse values in one Preserve is a feat, and it reflects the diversity at play within the community of the island. As individuals, we often focus on one or two of these elements to champion, but it is important to remember that the places that they intersect are some of the most special and that all perspectives have something to offer.

Take your time walking this path and marvel at what community members have built to keep your feet dry. Strike a pose on the boardwalk!



Activity #2



Mount Baker

As you walk the one mile trail alongside the road, be sure to stop and take in the view across the agriculture fields. There is a big mountain in the distance. Can you name it? Use the boxes below to draw what else you see along the trail.

Activity #2

Imagine you are an island marble butterfly. What would it be like to be one of the butterflies searching for mustard plants to lay eggs on? What kind of challenges might they come across? What does it feel like to fly? Write, draw, or have a family member help you with your story.



Image courtesy of San Juan Island National Historical Park and Karen Reagan/USFWS.

Mount Grant Preserve

Mount Grant Preserve has a lot to offer to many members of our community, both human and non-human. The forests here are a fascinating mosaic of old growth Douglas fir, riparian areas and areas that were once much more open – more closely resembling a woodland. The forests here tell a story of the way that humans have interacted with the landscape over the past 11,000 years, since the glaciers retreated. First Nations people often kept areas like the rocky slopes of Mount Grant free of thick stands of trees through intentional burning. This practice kept habitat open for the cultivation of prairie loving food plants like camas and yampah. The burning may also have been used as tool to make deer hunting easier. Much more recently, settlers that came to the island in the late 19th century grazed their sheep and goats on the mountain. Until the shift from a homesteading culture to a more modern lifestyle, these hills were frequently exposed to disturbance that allowed for the open grown Douglas firs that still stand today to thrive.



Newt

Find the trail named after this critter.
Draw a picture of what you find at the end of the trail.

Activity #3

Head up the Greywacke trail (recently built by volunteers!) and look for the "triplets," the group of three towering Douglas fir trees that have held each other up through fire, snow and rain. See the evidence of their tenacity in the fire scars that mark their trunks. Take a photo of (or with!) the three giants. What do you think the triplets have seen in their time here? Dive deep into your imagination and write or draw a story on the next page about what these trees may have experienced in the past, or will see in the future. (Hint: this is what the bark of a Douglas fir looks like)



Activity #3



Limekiln Preserve

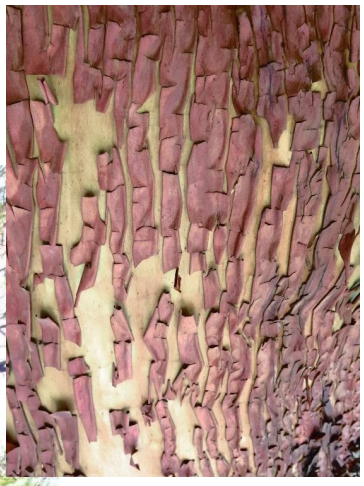
Limekiln Preserve was home to a limestone processing operation from 1860 to 1935. The limestone mined here was processed in the kiln that resides in the State Park. It was then barged off island to facilitate the development of industry and cities along the west coast. Now, the land is protected forever, and the ducks are happy about that! Home to freshwater wetlands, dry forest, herbaceous balds and a network of hiking trails, this preserve provides respite for humans and critters alike.



Walk the loop at Westside Lake to find this family of ducks. Draw a picture of what other birds you saw.

Activity #4

Access the preserve from one of the points along Westside Road. Go on a nature quest and find your way to the Deadman Bay Trail. Pay special attention to the many red-barked Pacific madrone trees that grow here. Take a picture of (or with!) the one that you think is the coolest or most interesting. Imagine you are an animal living in that tree. What type of animal are you? Do you have feathers or paws? On the next page, write or draw what you look like. (Hint: this is what a madrone tree looks like, with a close up of its bark.)





Activity #4

