Discover Lopez Island

SAN JUAN COUNTY
CONSERVATION
LAND BANK







This packet belongs to:

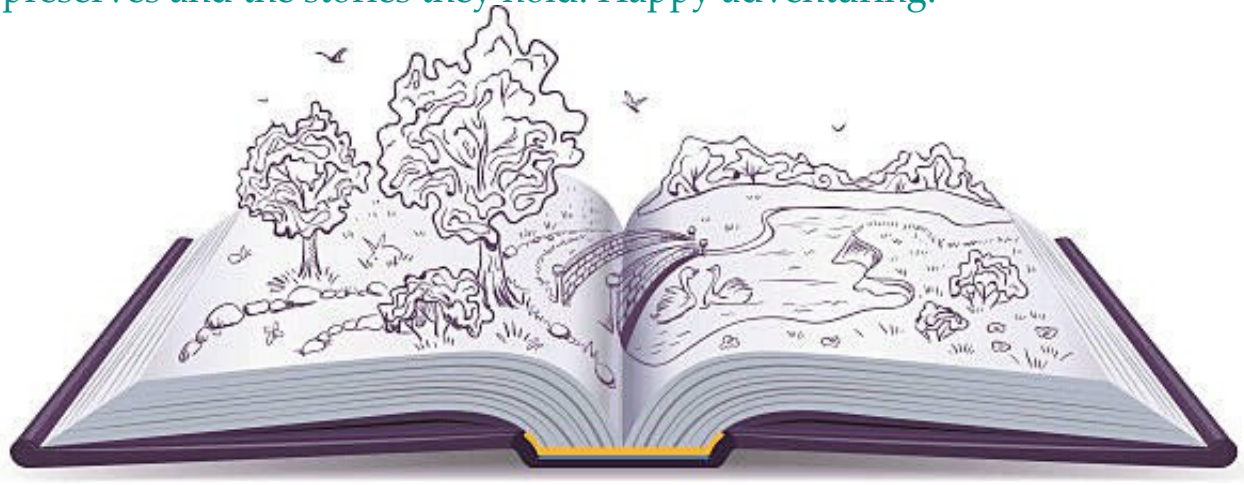
Welcome to Discover Lopez Island

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 the Lopez Island Library, invite you to celebrate and enjoy the places we love and protect with an 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.

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Helpful Resources:

Lopez Island Library:
https://lopezlibrary.org/

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank:
http ://sjclandbank.org/

San Juan County Noxious Weed Program:
https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/1975/Noxious-Weeds

Lopez Hill Preserve

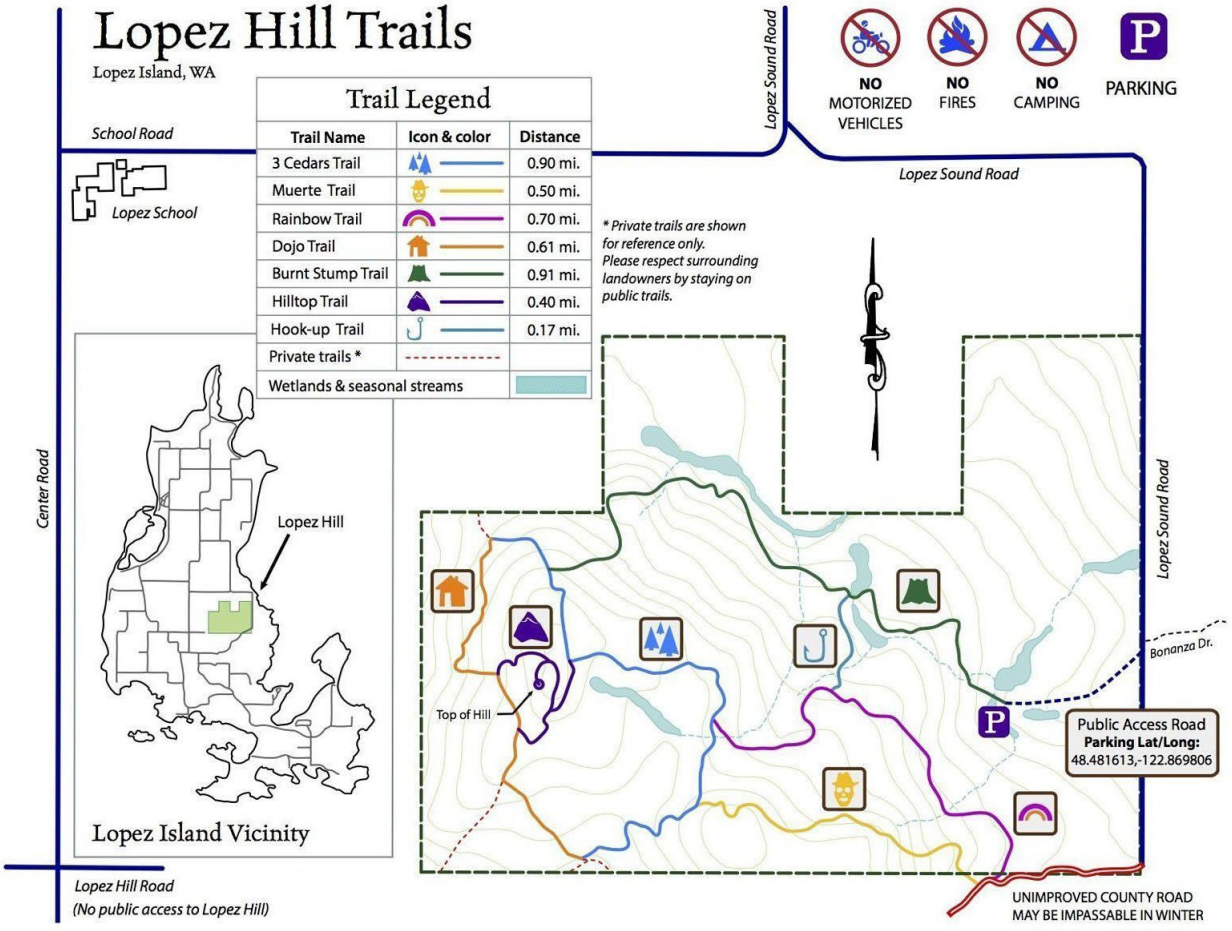
Lopez Hill represents an important value in island life: community activism. The preserve was formerly owned by the Department of Natural Resources, though in 2005 the DNR was considering trading the land to a private developer. A group of passionate island residents formed the Friends of Lopez Hill (FOLH) and lobbied to protect the 400 acres that make up Lopez Hill forever. This group was successful in convincing the DNR to sign a 50-year lease in which the Land Bank would manage the preserve in 2009, and in 2018 the Land Bank purchased the preserve outright. We thank FOLH for their tireless efforts to preserve this area and continued commitment to keeping up the extensive trail system that snakes through it. Today visitors to the preserve can hike, bike and ride horses through the forest that ranges from second growth Douglas fir to rich wetlands, to rocky balds.



Draw something you might find in the trees.

Activity #1:

You'll want your hiking shoes, a mountain bike or horse for this one! Take a look at the trail map sign and find the **"Burnt Stump Trail."** (Copy of map included below) Navigate your way along the trails and find the area that looks like it is the reason for the trail's name (it isn't, but that's another story!). Take a photo among the charred stumps and marvel at how nature comes back after fire. If you could imagine a story here, what would it be? On the next page write, draw, or have a family member help you with your story.

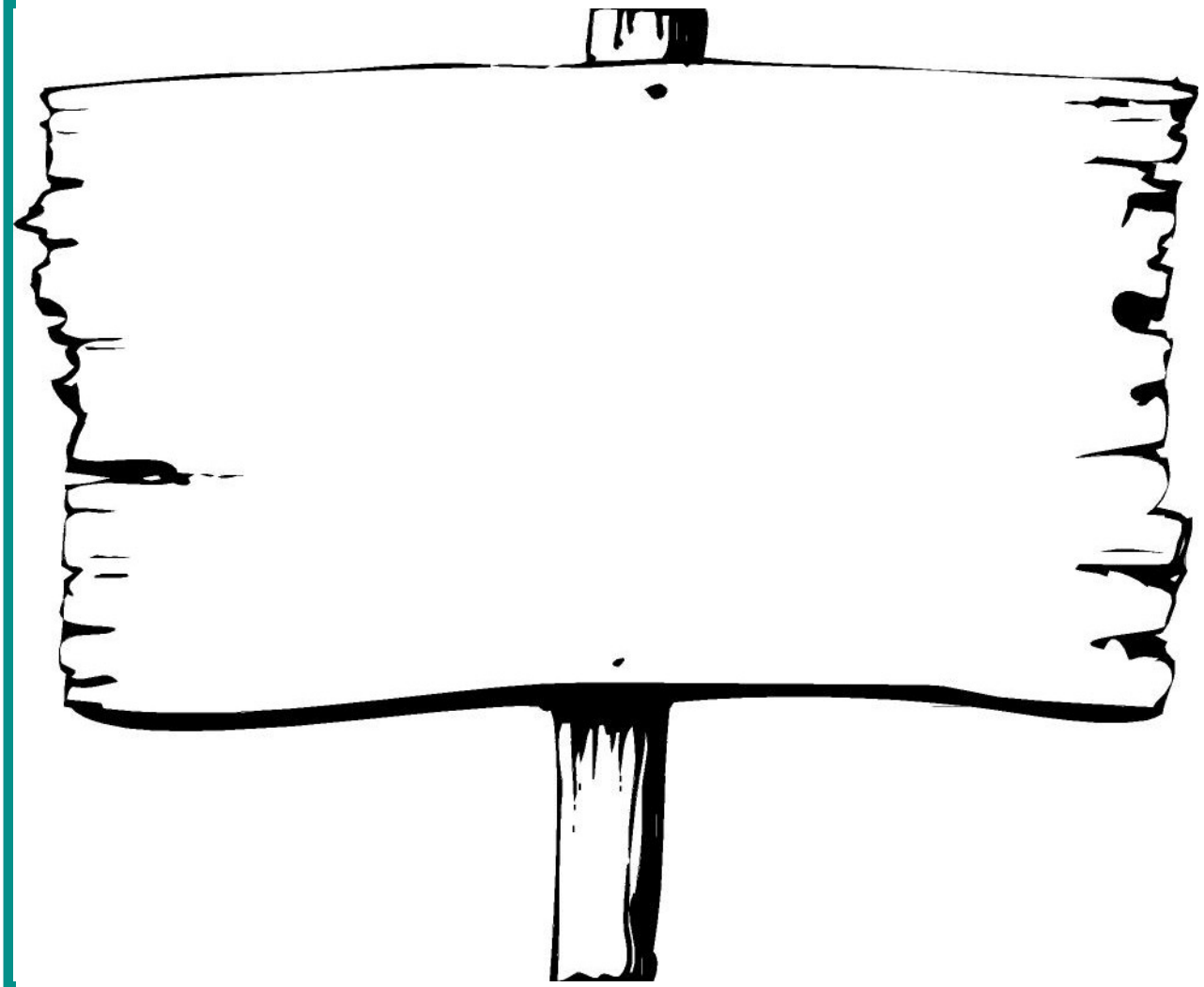


Activity #1:



Activity #1:

All the trail signs at Lopez Hill Preserve were built by former Preserve Steward, Tim Clark. Take a walk through your backyard or neighborhood and imagine you were going to build a trail. Are there any special markers, like a rock or tree, that you could use for your trail name? Draw a picture of what your trail sign would look like below:



Watmough Bay Preserve

Watmough Bay is protected by the Land Bank, Bureau of Land Management and San Juan Preservation Trust. The trails that you traverse, as well as the nearshore eelgrass that forage fish thrive in, are results of the community standing together in the name of habitat protection. This preserve protects a rich matrix of upland forest, shoreline, cliffs, and wetlands, and provides an opportunity for locals and visitors to get up close and personal with the Salish Sea.



Draw something you might find in the eelgrass.

Activity #2

The beach here is striking
But for this task you'll go
To somewhere that you'll take a liking
Take a right, up the hill
Climb a bit, if you will
Twist and turn
Maybe learn
A thing or two
About the trees around you.
Hike a bit
Until you see
A spur, ahoy matey!
It heads off to the left
Among salal and rose
Don't walk too far,
Or off the cliff you goes!
At the place where you can see
Birds nest among the trees,
Boats floating in the sea,
And oh, the tide,
How it does flee!
But from your perch
You may search
For something outside the panorama –
Take a knee
By a tenacious tree
And smile for the camera!



Activity #2



Create a poem or haiku about your visit to Watmough Bay below. No rules here, channel your inner Emily Dickenson, Gwendolyn Brooks, or Dr. Seuss!

Hummel Lake Preserve

At 36 acres, Hummel Lake is the largest lake on Lopez Island. The lake was formed after a period of glaciation, when a large chunk of ice settled into the land and later melted, creating what is known as a kettle lake. Today the 80 acre preserve provides habitat for waterfowl, birds of prey, deer, amphibians and more invertebrates than we can count, as well as opportunities for islanders and visitors to observe wildlife and hike through the forest. The preserve also holds a rare, forested bog that borders the lake's eastern shore.



Draw something you imagine living in the lily pads.

Activity #3

Head out through cedar laden woods, past the open field and out to the dock. Count the number of birds that you see from the dock. What are they doing? Are they diving? Flying low over the water? Do they have a sharp beak? Describe or draw what you see below.



Activity #3

Hike the trail from the parking area off Center Road to Port Stanley Road. Take a photo every time you notice the ecosystem change around you. **(Insider's Tip: it happens three times!)** Can you name any of the types of trees or plants that define each ecosystem? Draw the bark and leaves or needles of some of the different trees you see in the squares below. How does the shift in plant species help us to learn about the story of this place?

Fisherman Bay Preserves - The Spit

The Fisherman Bay Preserves are made up of Weeks Wetland, the Tombolo and the Spit. The sand spit that you see was formed by deposition from the nearshore northeastern current and continues to grow from the same process today. The plant community that inhabits the spit is rare; it is only found on the coasts of Washington and British Columbia, and development, shoreline stabilization projects and colonization by non-native species have significantly limited the abundance of this habitat type in the region. Please stick to the non-vegetated areas of the spit to keep this important community thriving.

Human communities have also inhabited this place for some time. Straights Salish people have occupied the San Juan archipelago since the glaciers of the last ice age retreated nearly 11,000 years ago. These groups conducted reef net fishing operations off the sand spit, and likely used the uplands as a seasonal residential area. Euro-American colonization of Lopez Island began in the mid to late 19th century and the property was homesteaded throughout the last century. A stone fireplace and fruit orchard remain as reminders of the preserve's more recent past.



PROUD PARTNER

leave no trace™
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

Help keep Lopez litter free! Practice Leave no Trace principles (like Sasquatch!) Pick up trash when you see it. Bring a trash bag and gloves with you when you visit.

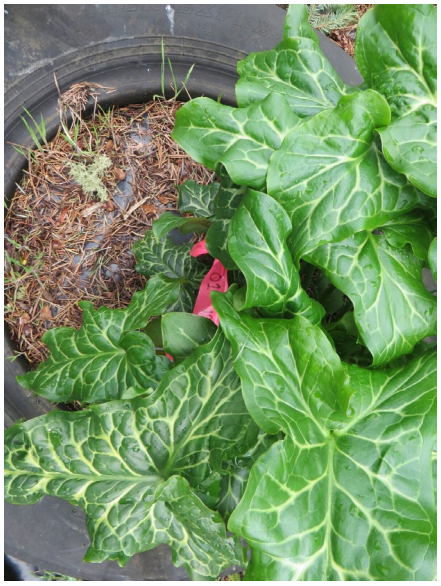
Activity #4

Are you curious about why the boats are set up at the mouth of Fisherman Bay? Hike around the upland area of the preserve and find the sign about reef netting. Take a picture with the sign (or of the sign itself if you're having a bad hair day) and let us know the most interesting thing you learned below! Have a family member help you if needed.



Activity #4

A pesky plant has established itself here; Italian Arum is a hard to remove non-native species with waxy green arrow shaped leaves and upright seed heads that emerge green and turn bright red as the summer turns to fall. Land Bank volunteer, Jim Falconer, has made it his mission to rid the area of this unintentional visitor. He says it's more resilient than the "Terminator," and so Jim playfully refers to himself as the "Aruminator." You can help Jim in his quest by taking photos of any Arum patches you find and sending them to Tanja Williamson at the Land Bank. Call Tanja at 360-370-7655 for more information.





IMPORTANT NOTE:

Arum is a known skin irritant and can be poisonous if ingested.

DO NOT TOUCH THE PLANT.

Activity #4



We think *The Aruminator* sounds like a superhero, ridding the preserve of poisonous weeds! Thor has a cape and mighty hammer, and Hermione has a magical bottomless bag and wand. Imagine what the Aruminator's costume would look like. Draw your idea(s) below: