

Projects Protected with Conservation Futures Funds

In the last 22 years, Island County's Conservation Futures Fund (CFF) has assisted in the protection of many important lands and waters valued and used by Island County residents and visitors. Below are the places that wouldn't be here today if not for the financial assistance that the CFF program provides. Lands protected by CFF are listed below by geographical area.

WHIDBEY ISLAND—NORTH

Ala Spit: 1,187 feet of exceptional shoreline along the northeast shore of Whidbey near Deception Pass State Park; popular for walking, picnicking, fishing and clamming.

Dugualla Bay: 84 acres of nearshore habitat, including tidelands connecting to miles of additional public tidelands and wetlands that are being restored to provide critical estuarine habitat for salmon.

Dugualla Flats: 39 acres of freshwater wetlands off Dike Road that is being restored to a healthy condition by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Island County and Ducks Unlimited. Excellent bird-watching area.

Freund Marsh and Oak Harbor Waterfront Trail and Trailhead: 35 acres of open space wetlands in the center of Oak Harbor. The Waterfront Trail travels along Freund Marsh and connects Scenic Heights Road to the Oak Harbor Marina.

Hoypus Hill Addition: 52 acres of forest added to the eastern part of the Hoypus unit of Deception Pass State Park; conservation easement* held by Island County. The addition provides more trail opportunities for equestrians and mountain bikers and provides a buffer between the old-growth forest and developed areas.

Kettles Trails: More than 243 acres of forest with 35 miles of trails that are extremely popular for hiking, mountain-biking and horseback riding; connects to Fort Ebey State Park trails.

North Penn Cove Farmland: Protects working farmland between Highway 20 and Penn Cove. It also protects a treasured scenic vista from the highway, as one enters Ebey's Reserve from the north that includes this farmland, Penn Cove, and the Cascade and Olympic Mountains.

Three Sisters Family Farm: Conservation easement* protects 113 acre working farm owned and farmed by the Muzzall family for over 100 years. Produces locally-raised products, including grass-fed beef, free-range eggs, pork and lamb.

West Beach Lake (aka Swan Lake): Over 90 acres of high quality wetland and lake habitat near Joseph Whidbey State Park. Popular for bird-watching.

WHIDBEY ISLAND—CENTRAL

Crockett Lake Wetlands: Will protect large expanses of wetland habitat in Crockett Lake that provides habitat for an incredible number of bird species; important wildlife viewing areas with scenic vistas. Also protects the bottom of a large watershed and allows an opportunity for removal of invasive plants that are threatening the habitat and drainage benefits of the lake system.

Ebey's Farmland: More than 200 acres of historic, working farmland in Ebey's Prairie permanently protected by conservation easement* held by Whidbey Camano Land Trust and Island County.

Greenbank Farm Fields: Conservation easement* held by Island County on the 141 acres of farm fields and wetland owned by the Port of Coupeville. The property is popular for wildlife viewing, walking and as an off-leash dog area. It connects to the County's Greenbank Farm Forest providing a longer trail system for hikers and equestrians.

Greenbank Farm Forest: 190 acres of mature forest located north and west of Greenbank Farm that offers public hiking, equestrian and biking trails and provides valuable wildlife habitat, aquifer recharge and drainage protection

Ryan Addition (aka Wilbert Trail): 7.3 acre parcel added to South Whidbey State Park with a conservation easement* held by Island County. The forested property includes a critical part of the popular Wilbert Trail that provides easy access to old-growth trees.

Trillium Community Forest: Conservation easement* held by Island County on 654 acres of forest land owned by the Land Trust. There are six miles of trails for horseback riding, hiking, biking and nature observation. Large, intact areas of forest provide habitat and refuge for native wildlife. Protects the upper portion of three watersheds and provides aquifer recharge benefits.

WHIDBEY ISLAND—SOUTH

Double Bluff County Park: Two miles of wonderful public beach, below naturally eroding bluffs, that is especially popular for families and dog-walkers. Scenic vistas of the Cascade and Olympic Mountains and a wildlife haven full of eagles, ospreys and shorebirds.

Indian Point Natural Area: 64 acres that is an ecologically rich natural area with a rare maple forest community above an eroding feeder bluff and a large, sandy beach important for salmon and other marine species.

Maxwelton Classroom Property: Property on Maxwelton Creek that is used by schools to study salmon and environmental science. The property is open to the public and has a trail and boardwalk platform.

Saratoga Woods: 118 acres of forest owned by Island County and protected with a conservation easement* held by the Land Trust. Open for recreational uses like hiking, biking, horseback riding and dog walking.

Useless Bay Farmland: Permanent conservation easement* held by Whidbey Camano Land Trust on 55 acres of prime soil farmland near to Deer Lagoon on South Whidbey. Provides incredible habitat for wildlife needing farm fields and freshwater wetlands for part of their life cycles.

CAMANO ISLAND

Davis Slough – Camano: 31 acres of mixed deciduous and conifer forest protecting valuable wildlife habitat, including heronry habitat. Located between the rich wildlife feeding grounds of Skagit Bay and Livingston Bay.

Dry Lake Trailhead and Phase 2 – Camano: Forested trailhead area near Cama Beach State Park that serves as a trailhead location for a longer public trail network.

English Boom – Camano: 7.5 acres of lovely waterfront property with a half-mile trail, interpretive area and boat launch. Popular for beach walking and wildlife viewing.

Four Springs Preserve – Camano: 50 acre forest preserve with a lake and wetlands. Includes public trails, visitor building and event/retreat center.

Iverson Spit – Camano: 120 acre waterfront property on the east side of Camano with long expanse of beach and an upland loop trail; beautiful views of both Mount Baker and Mount Rainier. Popular for beach walking, picnicking, and bird-watching.

Kristoferson Creek – Camano: Contains a 255 foot stretch along the lower reach of Kristoferson Creek—the only salmon spawning creek on Camano Island. The property provides an easily accessible location where school children and the general public can view the creek and extensive wetland area for educational purposes, especially salmon viewing.

Utsalady Beach – Camano: Westside public beach access with a boat ramp, parking area, picnic tables, and two kayak camping sites.

* Conservation Easements are voluntary, legal agreements that removes development rights and place permanent restrictions on the land, regardless of who owns the land. The land remains privately-owned and managed, while an entity like the Land Trust or Island County, holds the easement. Agricultural conservation easements specifically remove development rights so that productive farmland soils and land will be available for farming forever. You can read more about conservation easements [here](#).