

Walking Ebey's Trail Corridor - 2017 CFF

Connecting Community to the Heart of the Reserve



Photo by Scott Price

Project Overview

REQUEST: As part of its Walking Ebey's Trail Corridor proposal, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust is requesting a \$50,000 grant from the Island County Conservation Future Fund (CFF) to pay for:

- \$40,000 to hire a professional trail consultant who will be responsible for meeting with 16 landowners to finalize the location of the trail on each of their properties and determine construction needs for each trail segment. The consultant will look at surfacing needs, infrastructure needs, safety concerns, and sensitive areas. A final trail construction report will include descriptions of each trail segment, construction needs, and estimated budgets for building the trail.
- \$10,000 to help pay for the construction of the first trail phase, anticipated to be at least a 1.5 mile trail with trailhead and parking area. We will seek additional funds from other sources as well as use volunteers to complete this first phase of the trail corridor.

PROGRESS: Of the 16 landowners, 14 are private landowners who have already conveyed a trail easement to the Land Trust for the purpose of the Land Trust constructing a pedestrian-only trail. The other two landowners are the National Park Service, and State Parks who have stated they are fully supportive of the trail corridor proposal and willing to construct trail connections on their properties.

PURPOSE: The Walking Ebey's Trail Corridor is designed, in a series of phases, to connect existing trails with new trail connections. When completed in the coming years, a contiguous trail corridor will lead visitors from the Town of Coupeville through forests, iconic farmlands, and public beaches onto federal, state, local, and land trust properties.

BACKGROUND: The work to create a trail corridor requires funding, willing landowners, and patience. With regard to the current proposal, the Land Trust, over the last 10 years, has secured most of the critical linkages in our Walking Ebey's trail corridor.

See next page for additional corridors and concept map.

Walking Ebey's Trail Corridor

Concept Map and Future Corridors



Walking Ebey's Trail Corridor Concept Map

The map shown to the right illustrates the planned trail connections (in pink) and existing trails (in blue).

Future Trail Corridors

The next corridor under consideration would connect protected lands in the Oak Harbor/North Whidbey area, linking state and local parks, farm and forest lands, and the City of Oak Harbor.

The first phase, the Fakkema Farm trail and trailhead design and construction, will connect the west boundary of Oak Harbor to the Swantown Lake wetlands and Joseph Whidbey State Park. A 2018 CFF grant request is planned for this project.

Additional trail corridors under consideration include:

- Protected lands in the Maxwellton watershed on South Whidbey.
- Protected forest lands located northwest of Langley.
- Greenbank to South Whidbey State Park to Trillium Community Forest.
- Barnum Point to other protected properties on Camano Island.

