



WCLT Summer Photo Scavenger Hunt

Summer is here! What a perfect time to get outdoors and experience firsthand the natural beauty around Whidbey and Camano islands. So, strap on your walking shoes, put on some sunscreen, grab your camera and join us for our Summer Photo Scavenger Hunt as you explore the amazing places protected by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust.

Guidelines

1. Sleuth out at least 3 different preserves listed below by reading the clues and visiting the interactive map on our website (www.wclt.org).
2. Once you've decided which preserve to visit, head out and take a selfie or picture at one of the designated photo locations found in the "Property Clues" list below.
3. Then, send us your photos, at least one from each preserve, along with your name and contact information. Each submission will win a Land Trust sticker and be entered to win a copy of "Getting to the Water's Edge on Whidbey & Camano Islands," a fabulously expanded field guide to shoreline access, trails, parks, marine life, and other fun topics.

Send entries and questions to jennifer@wclt.org. Use #WCLTscavengerhunt when posting pictures on social media. Deadline to enter is September 30.

Property Clues (remember to pick and explore 3 of these places):

1. With 420 feet of accessible beach, this property provides a rare opportunity for the public to enjoy this section of Possession Sound shoreline. There used to be an old hotel where the parking lot now sits.

Photo locations:

- In front of the fish sign or
- On the boat launch with the beach behind you

2. This Clinton area preserve is 60 acres with 35 acres of tidelands and marine habitat that extends 2,000 feet along Possession Sound. The preserve includes a paved bike and walking path that weaves through a mature coastal forest.

Photo locations:

- Next to the entrance sign or
- With the interpretive panel

3. In densely populated Puget Sound, few stretches of land feel wild and unchanged. But along the edge of a cove tucked into the eastern side of Camano Island, you will find this county park. The original 27-acre sliver of upland forest is now a 167-acre Natural Area Park.

Photo locations:

- Along any trail or at the beach

4. The 721 forested acres can be explored from the seven miles of trails provided for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Protection was a joint effort by the Land Trust, community, and Island County.

Photo locations:

Bench on Patrick's way or

On a trail of your choice (must include trail sign)

5. Below the Pacific Flyway, tucked into the western shore of central Whidbey Island, lies this wetland preserve and lake, one of the most important birding areas in Washington state.

Photo location:

On the state park's birding platform with the lake in the background

6. See a rare native prairie growing Golden Paintbrush plants, an amazing old-growth forest, a mile of high waterfront bluff, three miles of walking trails with interpretive signs, and amazing views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains from this preserve.

Photo locations:

In front of gnarly old-growth trees,

In front of the prairie, or

In front of the viewpoint with one of the interpretive signs

7. Wanting it to remain unspoiled for future generations, an Oak Harbor doctor donated this 50-acre property off Zylstra Road. It is maintained as wildlife habitat with healthy forest, wetland, and farm field. There is a 1.5 mile trail that includes a forest section and a meadow loop.

Photo locations:

On the bench or

In front of the meadow with giant Alder tree in the background

8. Home to a thriving Western Toad population thanks to the freshwater wetland enhancements that have occurred at this North Whidbey preserve is a vital wildlife area. Across the road you will find critical salmon habitat allowing juvenile Chinook salmon to use the area to avoid predators and feed and rest before heading out to the ocean.

Photo locations:

In front of the tidelands,

Among the driftwood, or

With a bird in background

9. Near the mouth of a creek, this is Camano Island's only salmon-bearing stream. The Land Trust has protected 10 acres of wetlands along 800 feet of the creek's lower reach.

Photo location:

At the trailhead kiosk



10. Looking for an incredible view of Cultus Bay with a mountain backdrop? Stop by this preserve and enjoy a short walk through an open field and along the forest edge. A wooden bridge, installed by a local high school student, crosses a small wetland.

Photo locations:

- On the bridge,
- With the fruit trees, or
- In front of the historical buildings

11. This 400-acre preserve was transferred to Island County in 2003, facilitated by the Land Trust. The large, diverse forest is open to hikers, equestrians, and hunters. This is one of the largest contiguous properties on Camano Island and, as such, provides critical wildlife habitat.

Photo location:

- At the trailhead kiosk or
- With the "fairy" sign

12. Encompassing the headwaters of Maxwellton Creek and Quade Creek, this conservation easement protects 100 acres of lush forest and wetlands that are the home and inspiration for many educational programs. More than three miles of publicly accessible trails allow daytime access to this magical forest gem.

Photo location:

- At the labyrinth,
- With the Story House tiny trail markers, or
- In front of one of their gardens



- HAPPY HUNTING -

Whidbey Camano Land Trust Mission:

The mission of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust is to actively involve the community in protecting, restoring, and appreciating the important natural habitats and resource lands that support the diversity of life on our islands and in the waters of Puget Sound.

Become a Member:

If you enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings of Whidbey and Camano islands and want to protect these irreplaceable features for current and future generations, donate now and become a member of the Land Trust.

When you become a member of the Land Trust, you join a powerful, caring community of people who are striving to keep Whidbey and Camano islands distinctive, vibrant places to live and visit.

Visit our website at www.wclt.org to learn more and donate today! Thank you!