

SAN JUAN ISLAND TRAILS PLAN



**Creating a network
of non-motorized
trails connecting
resources and
destinations on
San Juan Island**



San Juan County Land Bank's Deadman Bay Preserve



**A project of the
San Juan Island
Trails Committee
September 2006**

San Juan Island Trails Committee
c/o San Juan County Park Board
350 Court St., No. 8
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
www.sanjuanislandtrails.org

A Project of the San Juan Island Trails Committee

September 2006

The San Juan Island Trails Committee is a volunteer citizen group with a mailing list of over 200 persons. From 12 to 20 people attend meetings and participate in the work of the Committee, and an equal number of members help with trail maintenance and work parties. Many people just keep informed on what the Committee is doing and offer support as needed. All are appreciated. For a listing of these people see Appendix A. This Plan was drafted primarily by Susan Dehlendorf, Louise Dustrude, Dave Zeretzke, and Alice Hurd.

San Juan Island Trails Partners:

B&B Association of San Juan Island
Boy Scout Troop #90
Friday Harbor Athletic Association
Friday Walkers
Lime Kiln Point State Park
Orcas Power and Light Cooperative
(OPALCO)
Port of Friday Harbor
Roche Harbor Resort
Saltchuk Resources
San Juan County Land Bank

San Juan County Park Board
San Juan County Pony Club
San Juan County Public Works
San Juan Island Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Island National Historical Park
San Juan Island Park & Recreation
District (Island Rec)
San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau
San Juan Preservation Trust
Town of Friday Harbor
Washington State Department of Natural
Resources

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www.sanjuanislandtrails.org

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The **People of San Juan Island**, who have supported the work of the Trails Committee in so many ways and who vote with their feet for more trails

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Introduction

With the rapid growth and rapid change of recent decades, the people who call San Juan Island home have banded together in a great many civic endeavors to maintain and enhance the feeling of community and livability of our island. One such endeavor has been spearheaded by the San Juan Island Trails Committee, a group of dedicated citizen volunteers who care deeply about providing pathways on the island for people to enjoy for recreation and for just getting around.

While San Juan Island is rich in recreational trails on public lands, it is sadly lacking in walking routes for people to use in traveling from their homes to the places they want to go—into town for business or work, to school, stores, community parks, or even a neighbor's home. Additionally, the island lacks safe, convenient, and pleasant bicycle paths, and trails for horse riders.

This Plan is the result of work accomplished over a number of years by the San Juan Island Trails Committee. Two years ago the group was awarded a grant of technical assistance by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, which has provided help with public outreach and development of the Trails Plan.

The Plan has been created for the purpose of fostering coordination between public and private groups and individuals involved in the creation and maintenance of a network of non-motorized trails that connect key resources and destinations on the island. It reflects input from island residents and partnering agencies. Trails within this network will be designated as suitable for walkers, bicyclists, or equestrians, or a combination of these users.

It is hoped that this document will aid the Trails Committee in seeking funding for trails projects on the island.

Implementation of the Plan will require cooperation from citizens, government, and both for-profit and non-profit organizations. The San Juan Island Trails Committee expects to continue its work in trail advocacy, construction, and maintenance as it works with the island community to make this plan a reality.

San Juan Island Landscape and Character

In the Northwest corner of the U.S. is a small county composed entirely of islands. One of them, San Juan Island, formerly a small fishing and farming community, is now booming with new residents and its economy is increasingly reliant on tourism, real estate sales, and construction. Population living on its 55 square miles is now over 7,000 year-round residents,

Conservation for Future Generations: San Juan County Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust

Residents and visitors to the San Juan Islands have long appreciated the exceptional quality and combination of wide open spaces, natural beauty, and abundant wildlife. The very existence of these gifts also creates some of the greatest challenges. As more visitors and residents come to the islands to enjoy these qualities, the qualities themselves may diminish. To help address these challenges, two important land conservation groups are actively at work here: the San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust.

As its name indicates, the County Land Bank is a public agency, created in 1990 by the voters of San Juan County. It is funded by a 1% real estate transfer tax on all real property sales in the county. With that money, the Land Bank purchases properties to be held in public trust and also purchases conservation easements from landowners, limiting future development in various ways. The San Juan Preservation Trust is a private organization that accepts donations of private property and conservation easements and also purchases some properties for conservation purposes.

These two agencies cooperate with each other and residents of San Juan County to help preserve these beautiful islands so they may be enjoyed by many future generations.

The missions of the two organizations and that of the San Juan Island Trails Committee overlap in some areas, and the Committee is grateful and confident that the Land Bank and the Preservation Trust will remain strong and significant partners as together we continue to create a trails network on San Juan Island.

almost a third of them living in the Town of Friday Harbor. In contrast, there were only 2,872 living in the entire county in 1960.

The population is older than the state average and incomes are high, reflecting the large retired population. Actual wages, however, are lower than average for Washington. It's a diverse population; most residents are not here because of jobs, but have chosen to live here. Most residents say they stay both for the natural beauty and for the sense of small-town community they find here.

There are stunning rural vistas and equally stunning views of the saltwater. Wildlife abounds, including Orca whales, river otters, seals, and sea lions in the water, and deer, fox, rabbits, and raccoons on land. Sea ducks, loons, cormorants, ravens, crows, bald eagles, golden eagles, hawks, Canada geese, ospreys, hummingbirds, trumpeter swans, and a great variety of songbirds either live on the island or visit seasonally.

The island has been blessed with several world-class parks, run by the National Park Service, Washington State Parks, San Juan County Parks, the San Juan County Land Bank, and others. All are worthy destinations for residents and visitors alike.

The National Park, in two segments, American and English Camps, commemorates the so-called Pig War of 1859-1872 when both Britain and the United States claimed these islands and sent troops to uphold those claims, by force if

necessary. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed, and both sides settled into a peaceful joint occupation of the island, culminating in the 1872 decision by the German Kaiser to award the islands to the U.S. It was a triumph for sanity in settling disputes between nations.

The National Park provides a glimpse of life on the island in the mid-1800s, stunning vistas and a variety of plant communities, including the open prairie at American Camp and the Garry oak woods at English Camp.

Lime Kiln Point State Park sheds light on the mining, processing, and export of lime that operated here on the island beginning in 1860 and spanning a period of almost 90 years. It also provides a rare opportunity to see Orca whales close to shore throughout most of the summer months, along with interpretive displays on marine life and ecology.

These parks and others on the island are major drawing cards for residents and visitors. And visitors do come! The population nearly doubles in the summer with part-time residents and visitors from around the world. There are more than 20 bed-and-breakfast inns on the island and several major motels in Friday Harbor. The Port of Friday Harbor marina fills its 500 boat slips in the summer months. Roche Harbor Resort on the north end of the island, with its 119-year-old hotel, draws large numbers of visitors by ferry, plane, or private boat; and that area has over a thousand residents.

Some tourists choose to come here without their cars, relying on the local taxis and buses, rental cars, or mopeds. The Trails Committee suggests that more tourists would make that choice if more destinations were available by bicycle or on foot. And every visitor who makes that choice frees up a space on the ferry for others.

The San Juan Island Trails Committee

Since the 1990s, there has been a growing awareness of the need for more island trails. During the Growth Management Act (GMA) planning work in that decade, both San Juan County and the Town of Friday Harbor added wording to their planning documents in support of walking trails for island residents.

Members of the board of San Juan Island Park & Recreation District (known locally as Island Rec) recognized the need for trails, and in 1999 an Island Rec board member and half a dozen interested citizens formed the San Juan Island Trails Committee.

Organization

This small group of volunteers has grown to an active force in support of trails on the island, meeting twice a month at the San Juan Island Library. The Trails Committee, an all-volunteer group, has gratefully received financial support from Island Rec every year since 2000. In 2005, the Trails Committee became a subcommittee of the San Juan County Park Board, from which it receives administrative assistance as well as state Labor & Industries coverage for volunteers working on trails. With the exception of a few small private donations, Island Rec has been the only source of funding for the Trails Committee.

Twelve to twenty people attend regular Trails Committee meetings and an equal number help with trail maintenance work parties. A Steering Committee made up of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and an At-Large Member, also meets regularly to set the agenda for the all-member meetings. More than 200 residents have asked to be on the San Juan Island Trails electronic mailing list to receive meeting notices and minutes, event news, and trail information. Anyone who asks to be on the list and attends meetings is deemed to be a member of the Trails Committee and is welcome to participate in all discussions and decisions.

The Trails Committee has members interested in biking, either on or off the roads, and others interested in horse riding. The major interest of most of the active membership, however, has been in walking opportunities. It's important to note that the Trails Committee owns no land and does not foresee owning land. As a public advocacy group, the Committee's role is to encourage public agencies and private landowners to make their land available for trails, and to assist in the planning, creation and maintenance of such trails.

Vision

A network of trails for non-motorized use on San Juan Island

Mission

To facilitate and participate actively in the creation, use, and maintenance of a network of non-motorized trails on San Juan Island

Goals

- To develop a long-range plan, with broad community support, for a system of trails that connects key natural, cultural, recreational, residential, and commercial areas on the island
- To support and assist public agencies in developing trails, and to encourage private property owners to support trails
- To provide maps and information to the public about San Juan Island trails and their community benefits
- To identify and implement a partnership strategy for maintaining the trails

Early Work

One of the first tasks of the Trails Committee was to inventory and map existing public trails on San Juan Island. This was done by committee members and volunteers, with the help of San Juan County Public Works, with funding provided by Island Rec.

In 2003, again with funding provided by Island Rec, this information was made available to the public on the Committee's website: www.sanjuanislandtrails.org. Committee members hear frequent comments about the value of this website and its maps from both residents and island visitors. Today one can download detailed printable trails maps from the site and obtain other information about the trails and facilities.

A Trails Workshop sponsored by the Committee in October 2002 attracted over 100 participants. The keynote speaker was Professor John Marsh of Trent University in Ontario, Canada, who spoke on "Trails: Benefits, Issues and Solutions From Around the World." Workshops followed on Historic Trails on the Island, the Town's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, and Multiple Use of Trails and Roads.

Accomplishments with Trail Partners

Trails Committee members have long realized the importance of finding partners who might share the goal of more trails and connections between trails on San Juan Island. Willing partners have been found among public agencies and private entities on the island, several of which have done much to create and maintain trail systems on their own land. Noteworthy among these are the San Juan Island National Historical Park, Lime Kiln Point State Park, San Juan County Parks, San Juan County Land Bank, the Port of Friday Harbor (airport property), and two private entities in the Roche Harbor area, Roche Harbor Resort and Saltchuk Resources.

The Trails Committee has actively participated in trail planning efforts, trail building, and trail maintenance in cooperation with its partners and other groups and agencies. Below is a list of some of the Committee's partnership efforts. See the "Existing San Juan Island Trails" section of this plan for more about how Committee members have partnered to make trails a reality on San Juan Island.

- In partnership with Boy Scout Troop #90, the Committee built two trails in 2001 and 2002 on Roche Harbor (now Saltchuk) property and on land near the airport.
- Construction was completed in 2005 on a loop trail on Port of Friday Harbor land south of Shelter Road, connecting to the older Boy Scout trail, with major help by Port staff.
- Volunteer work crews from the Committee continue to help maintain the airport trails and trails on the Roche Harbor properties. Regular clean-up events are scheduled along Roche Harbor Road and other island roads.
- The Committee actively supports the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, drafted by Public Works and adopted in 2005 as a part of the County Comprehensive Plan.
- A member of the Committee drafted a grant application for San Juan County Public

Works for a trail along Cattle Point Road, part of a long-range goal to connect Friday Harbor and American Camp.

- Two Committee members were appointed to the Friday Harbor Transportation Advisory Committee, which made recommendations to the Town on pedestrian safety.
- Committee members have lobbied actively for a bill in Congress that would add the Mitchell Hill property now owned by the State Department of Natural Resources to the adjoining National Historical Park.
- Two Committee members participated in creating a walking trail in Friday Harbor that highlights historic buildings and historic trees. (See “Historic Friday Harbor on Foot,” available at Town Hall and the Library.)
- Upon numerous occasions, Trails Committee members have appeared before governing and advisory groups to provide input on behalf of the Committee.

Island-Wide Trails Planning

The San Juan Island Trails Committee began discussing a network of trails almost from its earliest meetings in 1999. In spite of the presence of some wonderful trails on the island, it is difficult to reach many of them on foot, and routes and support facilities for non-motorized travel to various island destinations are either absent or haphazard. At the 2002 Trails Conference, Professor John Marsh challenged the 103 attendees to “create a plan.” By 2003, the need for a comprehensive, long-term vision for trails on the island was apparent as multiple trail opportunities began to conflict and compete for the available resources of the Trails Committee’s energy, time and funds.

National Park Service Assistance

In August 2004, the Trails Committee applied for and won a grant of technical assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS Rivers & Trails). Rivers & Trails is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service, established to assist community-led conservation and recreation projects in communities throughout the country. Sue Abbott, a Community Planner in the Program’s Seattle office, has been assisting the Trails Committee in 2005 and 2006 with organizational development, public outreach strategies, and development of this Trails Plan.

With guidance from Ms. Abbott, the Committee re-committed to its long-standing vision, mission, and goals (see page 9) and further refined its role in relationship to partners such as Island Rec, San Juan County Parks, and San Juan County Public Works. Next, the Committee set out to develop a long-range plan for building a network of non-motorized trails on San Juan Island to connect key cultural, recreational, and commercial resources and destinations. The Committee was interested in integrating existing trails and quiet roadways, along with proposed new routes on the island, to provide trail users with multiple access points and opportunities for recreation and non-motorized travel on the island. Public outreach and feedback from island residents was considered to be an important, integral part of the Plan. It’s no secret that

Trails are a Top Priority with Islanders

Over the last 30 or more years, numerous surveys have been conducted in San Juan County and on San Juan Island, gauging, among other things, the attitudes and priorities of residents. These surveys provide documented evidence that trails and facilities for outdoor recreation are both important and desirable to the community. Here are some of the findings:

- In 1973, the San Juan Community Development Survey polled 78% of San Juan Island households. The Survey asked questions about many things, from employment to water supply to schools. Even then, the community's interest in trails and pathways was apparent in their response to a question about improving recreational facilities. The 452 respondents (58%) who felt recreational facilities on the Island should be improved, ranked "cross-country trails" (bicycle, hiking, etc.) first among a list of 11 recreational facilities.

- In 1990, residents of San Juan County distinguished themselves in Washington State by voting to create the San Juan County Land Bank (see page 6).

- The executive summary for a survey designed by San Juan County Parks in 1998 identifies the first two of ten major recommendations to be (1) develop bike paths, and (2) develop unpaved nature and walking trails and beach/tideland trails.

- In 1999, by a 73% majority, residents of San Juan County showed a huge vote of confidence for the San Juan County Land Bank, renewing the organization for another 12 years. This is still the only county in the state to have voted for a Land Bank.

- In 2004 San Juan County Parks conducted the "San Juan County Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Planning Survey 2005-2010" to help guide future park and recreation planning on the island. The executive summary for "Trails and Bikeway Needs" states:

Trails and bikeways have emerged as a critical issue over the past six years. 82% of county residents "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that "trails and bikeways should be an integral part of transportation planning for the county" while 71% agreed that "trails and bikeways should be a critical consideration in public land acquisition projects." Views did not differ significantly from island to island.

For specific trail types, "bike paths along roads" scored highest, followed by "unpaved walking and hiking trails" and "clearly delineated bike paths between major destinations" which tied. Orcas and San Juan expressed a high need for bike paths along roads at a level that exceeded the expressed need for water access on Orcas, a recognized "hot button."

Island residents were more likely to assign funds to trails development than any other item. Write-in comments expressed safety concerns about bikes and traffic, as well as support for walking trails.

islanders value trails and consider them an important part of what makes San Juan an ideal place to live (see previous page 12, “Trails are a Top Priority with Islanders”).

Planning Process

The Committee reviewed steps for the creation of a successful community Trails Plan and adopted the following process to help guide them in development of the plan:

1. Complete an inventory of existing trails resources on the island, producing maps to show them, with the aid of San Juan County Public Works. **Fall 2000 and continuing**
2. Create a web site to make the maps available to the public. **July 2003**
3. Develop and publicize vision, mission and goals statements for the Trails Committee (see page 9). **Spring 2005**
4. Develop a public outreach strategy that includes education about the trail planning process to residents and community leaders (presentations by Committee members, letters to editor, community events). **Fall 2005**
5. Design multiple methods of assessing citizen viewpoints through public meetings, a survey, agency data and plans, business and public agency workshops and open houses, and regular Trails Committee meetings. **Fall 2005–Summer 2006**
6. Develop a Draft Trails Plan with input from San Juan Island residents and trail partners. **Summer 2006**
7. Collect and analyze public review comments, incorporate partner comments, and establish project priorities in revision of Draft Plan. **Summer–Fall 2006**
8. Collect endorsement letters for the Trails Plan from public agencies and trail partners. **Summer–Fall 2006**
9. Publish and distribute Final Plan. **Fall 2006**
10. Implement Trails Plan projects and priorities **Fall 2006 into the future**
11. Review and revise Trails Plan projects, goals, and priorities annually, and schedule a major Plan update in six years. **Spring 2012**

Benefits of Trails on San Juan Island

Communities and park systems around the country are planning, building and showcasing trail systems—and for good reasons. Below are some of the major benefits of trails reported by other communities that relate directly to an island-wide network of trails on San Juan Island.

Safety

The total number of miles of roads on San Juan Island has not changed substantially over the last 20 years, but the number of cars on those roads has. In 2004, the San Juan Island National Historical Park received 270,969 visitors.

Very few roadways have been widened or changed to accommodate the growing number of cars and bicycles that want to use island roads. Winding, two-lane roads with little or no shoulder can challenge visibility for all modes of transportation. Of the 93 miles of county roads on San Juan Island, only 16 miles have a shoulder of three feet or more. Yet the natural beauty of the countryside (and destination travel markets) continues to draw more and more visitors—in cars, on bikes, and on mopeds.

The number of San Juan Island youth who walk or ride bikes to school is a small fraction of the number of students living within walking or riding distance of their schools. Sadly, parents often do not feel their children are safe walking or riding to school. The creation of safe routes to schools might result in a significant increase in students who bike or walk to school. And safer facilities for non-motorized transportation often create safer conditions for all travelers—walkers, bikers, and drivers. The San Juan Island Trails Committee is working with the San Juan Island School Wellness Committee to improve these conditions.

Health

The U.S. population is in the middle of an obesity crisis. Studies show that regular exercise can play a major role in reducing rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease in this country—and walking is increasingly cited as one of the best activities in which to participate. A network of trails on San Juan Island that connects community resources and destinations would be a boost to residents in providing opportunities to walk and bike more—between home and town, to work and school, and to favorite play and leisure areas.

The median age on San Juan Island is 46.5 (2000 U.S. Census) which is more than 10 years above the national average. Walking, as a low-impact and heart-healthy activity, is especially significant to an older, and aging, population.

Education

Trails can take trail travelers to outdoor classrooms, and they can BE outdoor classrooms. Trails can provide access for school groups, seniors, and nature lovers to explore our island habitats, geological features, historical sites and more. Whether a classroom of fifth graders wants to see wetlands flora, or an Elderhostel group is studying the history of the Hudson Bay Company at the National Historical Park, the presence of trails to guide them enhances the experience.

Recreation

Many of the recreational activities enjoyed here by San Juan Island residents and visitors would be enhanced by a more extensive trail network. Visitors and residents in large numbers enjoy the active pursuits of walking, running and cycling, as well as many outdoor interests such as birding and wildlife watching, photography, orienteering, or just walking the dog.

Public Outreach and Participation

It has always been the Trails Committee's goal to initiate broad public discussion with San Juan residents about the location and maintenance of trails on the island. The Committee anticipates enthusiastic community support and participation in the planning, implementation, and ongoing stewardship of an island-wide trails system. Below are some of the ways the Committee has been reaching out to community residents for help in developing the San Juan Island Trails Plan.

County Fair

The Trails Committee co-hosted a booth at the San Juan County Fair in 2005 with San Juan County Parks and with both County Parks and the National Park in 2006. This has been a successful way for Committee members to distribute information about the trails planning process and solicit comments from residents as to where they would like to see new trails on the island, and it provides a one-on-one opportunity to "talk trails" with people.

Community Hikes

Trails Committee member volunteers instituted an occasional hiking program in 2005 to lead public hikes to acquaint residents with existing trails and enlist their support for extending the trail system on the island. New members have been recruited through this outreach.

Trails Partner Breakfasts

The Trails Committee hosted breakfast meetings for trails partners in 2003, 2005, and 2006. Much valuable information has been shared as a result of these informal get-togethers. Those attending have included representatives of San Juan Island National Historical Park, Lime Kiln Point State Park, San Juan County Parks, Island Rec, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan County Public Works, the Port of Friday Harbor, the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources, and three private entities, the San Juan Preservation Trust, Roche Harbor Resort, and Saltchuk Resources. At the most recent breakfast these partners were joined by representatives of the San Juan Island Chamber of Commerce, the San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau, and the B&B Association of San Juan Island.

Island Trails Survey

In late 2005, with assistance from the Rivers & Trails Program, the Trails Committee designed a survey asking what trail opportunities people would like to see pursued on the island. The survey was mailed to all 5000 postal box holders on San Juan Island. With a very successful response rate of 10%, the Trails Committee feels even more confident that it is working toward goals supported by the wider public. See Appendix B for a copy of the Trails Survey and the summary of results.

Working with Private Property Owners

Implementing a trail network on San Juan Island will take cooperation among both public and private landowners. The Trails Committee advocates and facilitates discussion among

property owners, local organizations, public agencies, and local officials regarding trail-building ideas and concerns. The Committee is fortunate to count private landowners and organizations among its partners, and San Juan residents greatly benefit from the extended network of trails provided on private lands. The Committee was heartened to receive offers from a number of landowners, either in person or through the recent Trails Survey, to consider public use of their property for trails.

Public Open Houses

The Committee hosted two Open Houses in July of 2006, seeking public reaction to this Plan. One was held at 3 P.M. on Wednesday, July 12, at the Mullis Center, with 32 persons present. The second was held at 7 P.M. on Tuesday, July 18, at the Grange Hall, with 22 persons present. At both meetings there was expressed concern about bicycle safety on the island and the need for improved facilities in that regard. Other discussion related to funding strategies and opportunities, improved safety for students going to and from school, how to involve young people in the creation, maintenance, and use of trails, and the importance of this network of trails being intended for residents as well as visitors.

The Committee had previously presented the Plan to both the Town Council and the County Council. At all four meetings it appeared to be well-received.

Website Trails Plan Review

This plan was also made available to the public during the month of July on our web site, www.sanjuanislandtrails.org, where individuals were invited to review the plan and provide feedback online to the Trails Committee if desired. Similar comments to those at the public meetings were received in this fashion.

San Juan Island Trail Network

One of the Trails Committee's primary goals is making it possible for residents and visitors to walk, or ride a bike, or even ride a horse to the places they want to go. The major parks and public natural areas on the island are currently out of reach except by car, or by bike for those willing to ride on a busy road. There are no safe, pleasant trails connecting the town and the ferry landing with these parks.

Long distance trails to these areas would— like the existing paved roads for cars—also enable shorter trips on foot or by bike or horse. Just one example: A long distance trail from Friday Harbor to American Camp would also allow two friends living along Cattle Point Road perhaps no more than a mile apart to visit one another without using their cars.

Opportunities like this repeated many times throughout the island might well reduce traffic on the roads as people choose to leave their cars home when traveling short distances.

Other destinations people might choose to get to by bicycle or perhaps on foot would be restaurants (Ernie's at the airport, the Golf Course, Duck Soup Inn, and the restaurants at Roche Harbor Resort); the University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs, Skagit Valley College, the Animal Shelter, B&Bs, campgrounds and picnic areas, San Juan Vineyards, Pelindaba Lavender Farm, Krystal Acres Alpaca Farm and Store, Lakedale Resort, and Westcott Bay Sculpture Park.

Jackson's Beach, containing a boat launch ramp and the only public beach close to Friday Harbor, could be reached on foot or by bicycle if a safe, pleasant route away from traffic were created. As it is now the non-motorized route combines sidewalks, narrow shoulders, and roadway passage on well-traveled roads. A new off-road route might make use of the former gravel pit property, acquired by Island Rec in the summer of 2006.

Map #1 shows the locations of some of these various resources and destinations that a trails network could include.

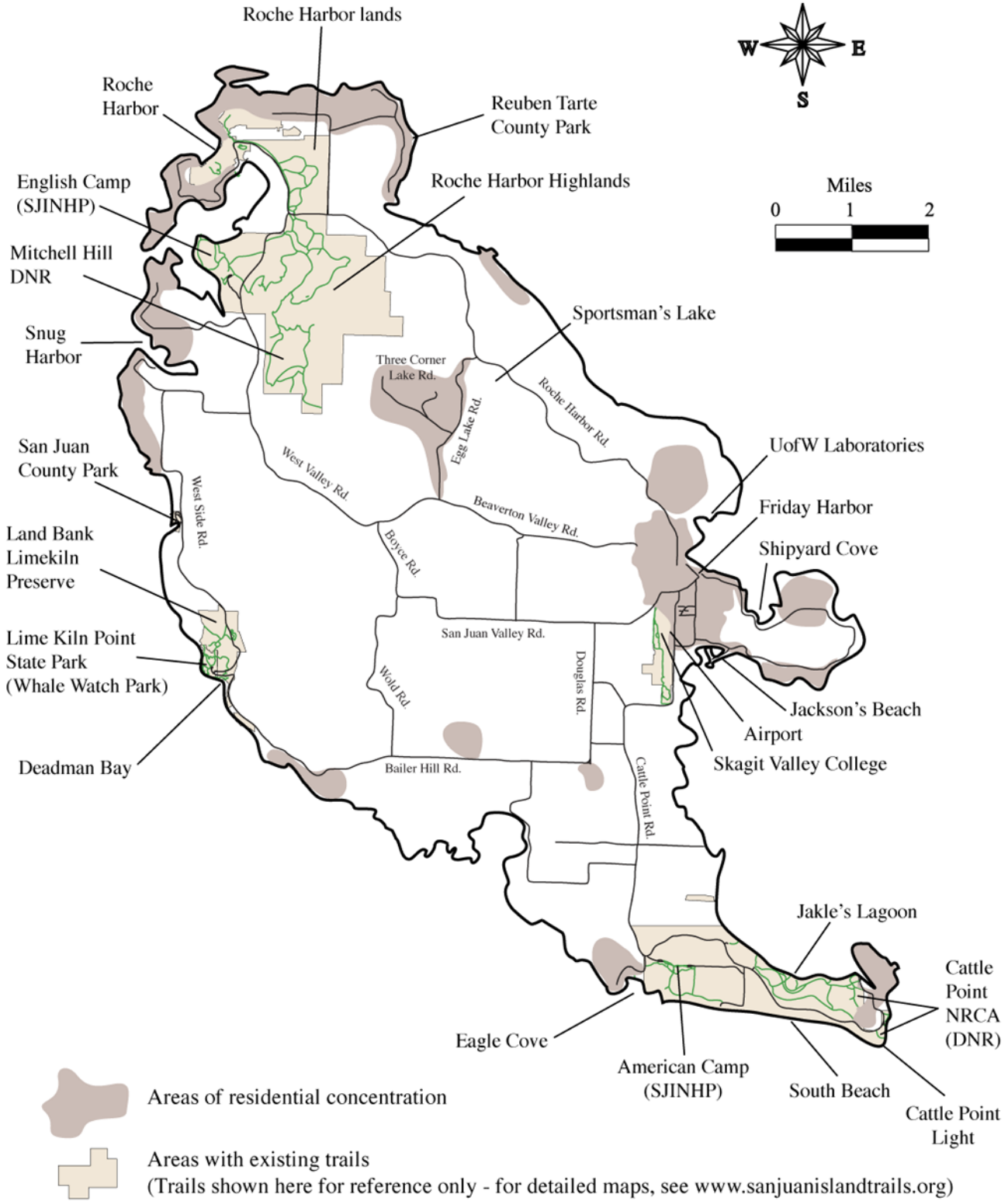
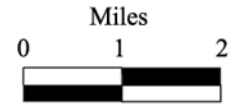
Existing San Juan Island Trails

The Trails Committee deeply appreciates the public agencies and private entities, which—often in cooperation with one another—have created and maintain the multitude of trails on the island. These trails are listed below, along with brief descriptions of their location, who manages them, their length, and the types of users they accommodate. Most of these trails, along with detailed color maps, are featured on the Trails Committee's website, www.sanjuanislandtrails.org. The website also offers information about trail amenities (restrooms, drinking water, parking, picnic tables, etc.); rules and regulations (pets, parking fees, seasonal closures, etc.); links to partner websites; slide shows; and printable maps for trail use.

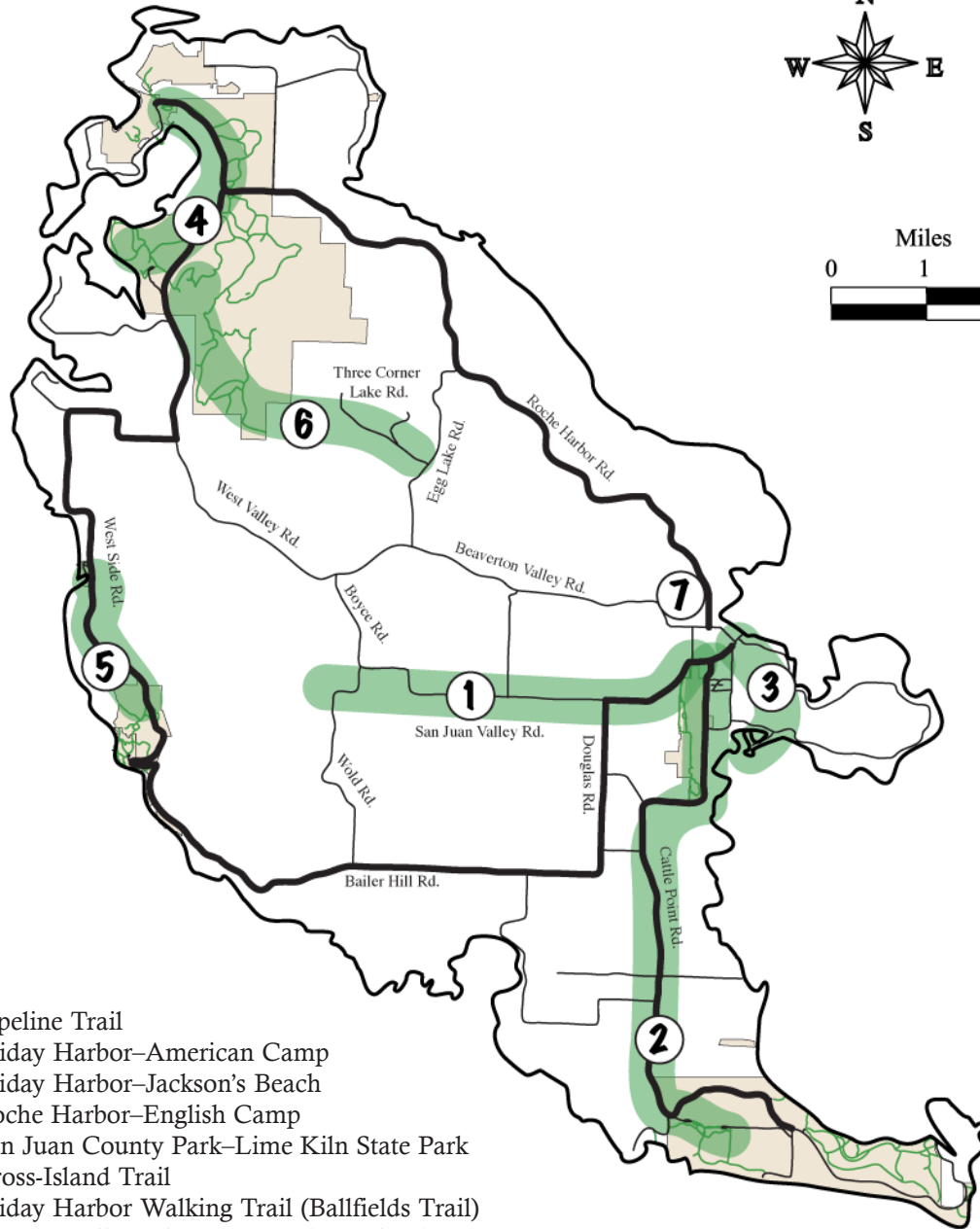
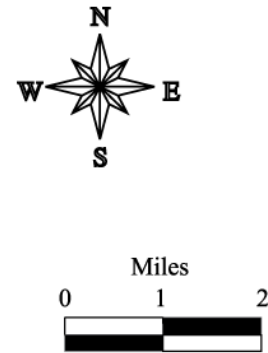
Map #2, "Existing Trails & Proposed Priority I Trail Corridors," shows existing trails on the island as well as conceptual locations where our first priority new trails might be located. Specific routing is yet to be determined. The trail numbers are for convenience only and do not indicate any priorities for completion. No trails will be built on private lands without the permission and cooperation of landowners.

Island Resources & Destinations


Map 1




Existing Trails & Proposed Priority I Trail Corridors (2007 - 2012) Map 2



- 1. Pipeline Trail
- 2. Friday Harbor–American Camp
- 3. Friday Harbor–Jackson’s Beach
- 4. Roche Harbor–English Camp
- 5. San Juan County Park–Lime Kiln State Park
- 6. Cross-Island Trail
- 7. Friday Harbor Walking Trail (Ballfields Trail)
- 8. Nature Trail(s)–Site yet to be determined

 Indicates wide paved shoulders (existing or proposed)

 Indicates proposed Priority I trail corridors

Airport Trails

The network of trails along the west side of the airport was built by the Port of Friday Harbor, with some assistance by the Trails Committee and Boy Scout Troop #90. It begins on Spring Street just west of M&W Auto Sales and the Office Center and continues through airport property to the Terminal and Skagit Valley College. Part of it is a narrow path along the airport fence and through the woods, and it loops back on a paved road open for emergency vehicles only (walkers welcome) that goes all the way to Shelter Road south of the airport.

This trail was extended with a grassy loop south of Shelter Road to Cattle Point Road near Golf Course Road in June of 2005 by airport staff and the Trails Committee. The airport trails are the most convenient hiking trails for people who work in town, as well as town residents and others. They are maintained by members of the Trails Committee with some assistance by airport staff.

Miles of trail: 3-mile loop from Spring Street
Types of uses: hiking, dog walking

American Camp & Cattle Point NRCA Trails

Widely visited by both residents and visitors, American Camp is part of the San Juan Island National Historical Park. Located on the southeast end of the island, American Camp offers a variety of trail experiences, from the open prairie near the Visitor Center and the Redoubt area, to the old logging roads through the woods near Jakle's Lagoon, to the high climb over Mount Finlayson, with a view (on a clear day) of Mt. Rainier, to the vast expanse of South Beach. Trails are maintained by National Park Service staff. For more information go to www.nps.gov.

The Jakle's Lagoon trail links with the Cattle Point Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) trail system near Third Lagoon owned by the State Department of Natural Resources. This nearly 120-acre area includes undeveloped rocky shorelines with scenic vistas, rich marine habitats supporting a broad diversity of aquatic plants and animals, grasslands, dunes, mature forests of Douglas fir, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, and western hemlock, a freshwater wetland, and a rare high-salinity salt marsh. The NRCA includes state-owned tidelands adjacent to the uplands. The 19-acre Third Lagoon Preserve is owned by DNR in partnership with the San Juan County Land Bank. The Cattle Point NRC is adjacent to American Camp, lending continuity to several miles of hiking trails and excellent opportunities for low-impact public use. A day-use recreation area and interpretive site, which includes a parking lot, restrooms, picnic area with shelter, and access to the shore, occupies the south portion of DNR's Cattle Point property. For more information on DNR's Natural Areas Program go to its web site at www.dnr.wa.gov/nap/index.html.

Miles of trail: 9
Types of use: hiking, dogs on leash only

Lime Kiln Point State Park (Whale Watch Park) Trails

This park, managed by Washington State Park staff, has a variety of walking trails: some moderate, some easy, and one leading to the whale-watch overlook that is wheelchair accessible. The name "Lime Kiln" references the remaining structures and evidence of the lime quarry operations at this location over a hundred years ago. Excellent displays about the nearby marine life and the former lime kiln operations are provided along the trails, and there is a short self-guided nature trail. For more information go to www.parks.wa.gov.

Miles of trail: 1.6
Types of use: hiking

Limekiln Preserve Trails

Directly adjacent to Lime Kiln Point State Park, the 176-acre Limekiln Preserve is owned and managed by the San Juan County Land Bank and has trails that connect with those in the State Park, including a new trail going down to Deadman Bay, a prime spot for kayak launching, and to other whale-watching spots along Westside Road. A smaller new trail makes a loop next to West Side Lake. Other trails follow abandoned roads from the days when the lime quarries and lime kilns were in operation and lead to cliff-top views of Haro Strait. Short side trails branch off into the old quarries. For more information go to www.co.san-juan.wa.us/land_bank.

Miles of trail: 1.9
Types of use: hiking

San Juan County Park Trails

Located on Smallpox Bay off West Side Road, this park is maintained by San Juan County Parks. There is a shallow boat launch for hand-carried boats, a beach, picnic tables, and the only publicly owned campground on San Juan Island. A short trail loop provides views out to Haro Strait and Vancouver Island. This park is a popular destination in the summer for kayakers and small boating activities. For more information go to www.co.san-juan.wa.us/parks.

Miles of trail: 0.3
Types of use: hiking

Mitchell Hill Trails

Mitchell Hill is a 320-acre parcel of land owned by the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The trails here are mostly former logging roads where mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers are welcome, but motorized vehicles are not. English Camp and the Roche Harbor Highlands are directly adjacent to Mitchell Hill. The DNR has announced its intention to divest itself of this and other properties in the San Juan Islands, and a local group, Friends of Mitchell Hill, has formed to work for continued public ownership of this property. Our Representative in Congress has introduced a bill to attach this property to the adjacent National Park, but so far this bill has not been reported out of committee. Maps of trails connecting Mitchell Hill and the Roche Harbor Highlands are incomplete, and it is easy to get lost in this area. Trails here are maintained primarily by volunteer users.

Miles of trail: about 3
Types of use: hiking, bicycling, horseback riding

Keeping Vigilant

It's sometimes easy to take for granted the trails we have, but it's important to be vigilant lest some of them disappear. After the DNR announced its intention to divest itself of San Juan County properties, including Mitchell Hill, a local group, Friends of Mitchell Hill, was formed to see what possibilities there might be to keep the property in public ownership. Your participation in this group will be welcome. See their web site at www.mitchellhill.org.

English Camp Trails

English Camp, at the northwest end of the island, is part of the San Juan Island National Historical Park, and sits on a sheltered bay. The National Park Service maintains a network of scenic trails through English Camp, the area occupied by the British during the Pig War of 1859–1872.

Trails lead to the open Parade Ground, through the woods, up to the cemetery, and to the top of Mt. Young, where there are breathtaking views to Vancouver Island in Canada, neighboring islands, and the Olympic Mountains. English Camp is adjacent to Mitchell Hill and the Roche Harbor Highlands. Trails here are maintained by the National Park Service. For more information go to www.nps.gov.

Miles of trail: 4
Types of use: hiking

Roche Harbor Village Trails

Roche Harbor Village, a private company, has generously welcomed island hikers, bikers, and horseback riders for many years. Its property has now been divided in two: Roche Harbor Village and Roche Harbor Highlands. The north portion of the property remains in Roche Harbor Village ownership. A mowed trail from the Arch, between the airstrip and the Westcott Bay Sculpture Park, travels along the east side of the road to the OPALCO substation at the intersection of Roche Harbor and West Valley Roads. Other trails have been mowed throughout this area, which horse riders and hikers are welcome to enjoy while respecting the private property around them. Maintenance is done by a combination of Roche Harbor employees and volunteers from the Pony Club with occasional help from Trails Committee members.

Miles of trail: about 3
Types of use: hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, horseback riding

Roche Harbor Highlands Trails

The south portion of the Roche Harbor Village property, now called Roche Harbor Highlands, is in new private ownership. The Trails Committee is working in partnership with the owners, Saltchuk Resources, to conserve this important local landscape. Walkers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers, but no motorized vehicles, are welcome on these trails and forestry roads while respecting the private property around them. Signs in this area lead trail users to English Camp, and the Trails Committee continues to work with the National Park Service to complete off-road trail connections to English Camp. The owners of this property provide trail maintenance, with some help by Trails Committee volunteers.

Miles of trail: about 5
Types of use: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, dog walking

Staying Respectful

Land owned by Roche Harbor Resort and Saltchuk Resources should not be taken for granted. Both entities have been very generous with allowing public use on their land, and it is important that we treat this land with respect so that our presence continues to be welcomed.

Walking in Friday Harbor

The Town of Friday Harbor has been adding sidewalks where feasible in town, and the Trails Committee has been very supportive of this effort, believing that pedestrian safety is a major concern and priority. Sidewalks constructed on Caines Street in 2004 have made access to the Senior Center much safer, and the Town has now begun construction of a sidewalk to the Library, which will be done over a two-year period. Other small connections have been made, eliminating one by one the places where pedestrians have to walk in the street.

The current mayor, David Jones, has listed safe walking in town as one of his top three priorities, and the Trails Committee enthusiastically supports him and the Town Council as they work towards this goal.

San Juan County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

The San Juan County Public Works Department prepared a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for the County that was adopted by the County Commissioners as part of the County Comprehensive Plan in 2005. This plan identifies specific priorities and projects over a 20-year period to improve facilities for non-motorized travel on each island within the County. The Trails Committee enthusiastically endorses the policies and goals of the Non-Motorized Plan, and specifically supports the goal to create 3- to 4-foot shoulders on arterial roads throughout the island to provide safer travel routes for bicyclists and pedestrians. Since the Non-Motorized Plan was prepared, Public Works has successfully completed widened shoulders on Cattle Point Road between False Bay and Little Roads. The agency is also collaborating with the Trails Committee and other partners on other island trail opportunities.

Proposed New Trails

During the planning process of the last two years, the Trails Committee has identified a number of proposed new trails. While some of the potential trails are short, many of them are envisioned as longer routes that serve as connections between distant island destinations. We have separated the proposed trails into a Priority I group and a Priority II group, based largely on the amount of planning, logistics, expense, and time that will likely be necessary to bring them to fruition. In some cases, there would be significant cooperation necessary on the part of private landowners, which makes predictability very difficult.

The list of proposed new trails is not intended to exclude nor discourage any other possibilities that are identified by public agencies or by private individuals. The Trails Committee supports development of non-motorized trails accessible to the public wherever feasible. It is the Committee's intent to move forward with planning and constructing proposed new trails as opportunities present themselves and as partners and citizens can offer support. The goal is to develop three to five miles of new trails annually from 2007 to 2012.

Proposed Priority I Trails

Pipeline Trail

This proposed 5 mile trail would follow, in large measure, the public utility right-of-way to Friday Harbor from the town's water treatment plant, located at the intersection of Kiehl and Wold Roads. The trail would parallel San Juan Valley Road and is envisioned as a multi-purpose trail and/or a shoulder bikeway (3- to 4-foot-wide paved roadway shoulder). This proposed new trail has the potential to become a reality in the near future due to the expected replacement of the Utility's water line, when the trail might more feasibly be included in the larger project than be built at a later time. The Committee anticipates that the Town of Friday Harbor and San Juan County Public Works would be the major trail partners for this project.

Friday Harbor–American Camp Link

Identified as the top priority by respondents to the Committee's 2005 Trails Survey, this proposed trail route would use National Park land, the public right-of-way along Cattle Point Road, and the new Terminal Trail at the airport to connect Friday Harbor with American Camp. If owners of private property along the route agree to participate, the trail may, in places, cross private land as well. This trail, approximately 7 miles long, is envisioned to be used mainly by walkers. Newly widened shoulders along much of Cattle Point Road now provide a safer roadway for bicyclists to travel between Friday Harbor and American Camp.

Friday Harbor–Jackson's Beach Link

Also a top vote-getter in the survey, this proposed trail would provide a convenient and much needed off-road route for residents and visitors alike to walk or bike from Friday Harbor to the public beach closest to town. The transfer of ownership of the former gravel pit property to the public (the waterfront to the County and the uplands to Island Rec) in the summer of 2006 makes a trail connection both more needed and more possible. Successful completion of this trail will depend upon the cooperation of private landowners in the area.

Roche Harbor–Roche Harbor Highlands–English Camp Link

This proposed walking trail would connect Roche Harbor Resort and English Camp, via Roche Harbor Highlands. It could use National Park Service land, Roche Harbor Village property, and property owned by Saltchuk Resources, as well as the public right-of-way along Roche Harbor and West Valley Roads. Much of this 5-mile trail already exists.

San Juan County Park–Limekiln State Park Link

A 1-1/2-mile park-to-park trail would connect these two westside gems. This potential trail route also received a large number of votes on the Island Trails Survey. The Trails Committee expects that this would be a trail mainly running parallel to Westside Road. It might be within the public right-of-way or further removed if permission were granted by landowners.

Cross-Island Trail

Utilizing publicly-owned land and willing landowners, this trail would connect the Roche Harbor–Mitchell Hill–English Camp area with Egg Lake Road through the center of the Island. This may be a component of the Friday Harbor–Roche Harbor Link (mentioned below). Being cross-country in nature, it might possibly accommodate walkers, horses, and mountain bikes. The creation of this trail would require significant cooperation of private landowners.

Friday Harbor Walking Trail

A flat walking trail in town, connecting several neighborhoods surrounding the proposed new ballfields, would provide safe strolling for people of all ages and abilities. One idea discussed by the Committee is a smooth-surfaced perimeter trail on the School District property that might be used by people walking for exercise, runners, young children learning to ride bikes, strollers, and perhaps roller-bladers of all ages. Partners in construction and maintenance might be Island Rec, the School District, the Friday Harbor Athletic Association, and a neighborhood group formed for this purpose.

Island Nature Trail(s)

Ideally, a nature trail would be designed as a loop, but it could also be an out-and-back experience. This proposed trail's distinguishing trait would be that it was designed to interpret key natural features such as wetland habitat, flora, geography, marine life, geology, and other resources inherent to San Juan Island. No trail location has been determined yet, and it would certainly be possible to have more than one Nature Trail on the island. There may be potential for a trail like this on property owned by the Land Bank, where conservation practices on the island could also be explained.

Island Bike Routes

In accordance with the San Juan County Non-motorized Transportation Plan, this plan supports 3 to 4-foot-wide paved shoulder bikeways on the island's arterial roads.

Currently there are three-foot-wide paved shoulders along the entire length of Roche Harbor Road from Friday Harbor to Roche Harbor, and also along Cattle Point Road from Friday Harbor to False Bay Road. Beaverton Valley Road between Friday Harbor and the intersection with Boyce Road has variable paved shoulders less than 3 feet wide. There are few wide paved shoulders on any of the other roads on the island. There are 9 bike turn-outs on the island road system, where cyclists can pull off the road safely.

The Trails Committee recommendation is that top priority should be given to adding paved shoulders to Douglas, Bailer Hill, and West Side Roads. Widening Cattle Point Road along its full length is also recommended. The Committee is aware that current levels of funding will not allow such construction within the time frame of this Plan but believes that citizen demand could lead to increased funding.

Proposed Priority II Trails

Although desirable additions to a San Juan Island trail network, the Trails Committee considers the proposed Priority II Trails listed below as major trail connections that are supported by the public, but that will need to be implemented incrementally over the long term due to their location, distance, and complexities of land ownership. Proposed Priority II Trails are not shown on any maps. They are still conceptual in nature and they are at this time a second priority to all of the Proposed Priority I Trails.

Friday Harbor–Roche Harbor Link

An alternative overland route to the existing Roche Harbor Road paved bike shoulder, this proposed trail would connect the island's two main activity centers of Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor, a distance of approximately 13 miles.

English Camp–American Camp Link

During the 19th century, while soldiers of England and the U.S. were concurrently stationed on San Juan Island, and before most of our current public roads existed, there was a roadway that connected the two camps. Commonly referred to today as the Historic Military Road, or the Old Military Road, only remnants of this roadway exist, as well as sections that are now contiguous with modern roadways, both public and private. There has been much interest as well as controversy on the Island about the Old Military Road over the last twenty or more years. The San Juan County Department of Public Works conducted an extensive trail feasibility study of it in 1990. Much of the road travels across what is now private property, and the possibility of reviving or restoring it has been greeted with great interest on the part of some, and great resistance by others. The allure of recreating an historic trail across this lovely countryside is very compelling, but the potential for controversy and rancor discourages the Committee from pursuing this very aggressively as we would rather create trails (and supporters) in more feasible ways and locations.

Trail Funding

Funding a network of San Juan Island trails will require many sources of in-kind and monetary contributions. All of these sources cannot be known with certainty, but certain categories of aid, particularly state and federal recreation and transportation funds, can be sought on an annual or biennial basis. Building trails is only one part of the challenge; maintenance and necessary improvements is the other major part.

The Trails Committee has enjoyed uninterrupted financial support from Island Rec since 2000 to cover the Trails Committee's administrative needs (chiefly website maintenance and GIS trail mapping work).

To date the Trails Committee has embraced an opportunistic strategy for garnering the larger resources necessary to construct sections of new trails. The Committee will continue to assess each opportunity for enhancing the island's network of trails, and with the Trails Plan in hand will be able to act more strategically to implement priority trail projects. It is important to recognize, however, that while trails may be linear in appearance, the construction and support facilities for these connecting resources will often be realized in sections (like links in a chain) and at times will be disconnected due to the challenges of land ownership and the varying economic and political conditions that affect public support.

All trail acquisitions, by whatever means, must focus on funding for both capital and on-going maintenance costs. Liability concerns for trails on San Juan Island will be addressed by the use of public partnerships whenever possible.

Below are several strategies for funding and supporting our trail work on San Juan Island. The Trails Committee fully intends to explore, use, and benefit from all of them as it continues to work to establish an island-wide network of trails.

In-Kind Donations

Local volunteers and groups can lend expertise and labor for the construction of most footpaths. The necessary tools, equipment, and materials for building trails on most terrain on San Juan Island do not represent monumental costs, and can be secured from local businesses by donation or at cost. The business community of San Juan Island has a long track record of supporting local causes, and the Trails Committee has benefited by partnering with companies such as the local electric power cooperative (OPALCO).

Cash Donations

Cash donations are tax deductible for donors since the Trails Committee is an official subcommittee of San Juan County Parks, a government agency. Fundraising efforts should focus on priority trail projects identified in the Trails Committee's Annual Work Plan. Cash contributions work best when a tangible target is seen and attained. The generous, unsolicited donations the Trails Committee has received to date indicate a strong recognition by island residents of the need for trail management and stewardship costs.

Grants

Grant programs through the State of Washington's Inter-Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), through state and non-profit health and fitness initiatives, or through state and federal non-motorized transportation allocations are the most steady and promising

sources of grant monies for supporting trails on San Juan Island at present. Grant opportunities through the Scenic Byways program may become a possibility, as well as by the joint efforts of the local tourist cooperative and many San Juan County groups. Several of the Trails Committee's partner organizations, in addition to the San Juan County Park Board, are able to administer trail grants using well-established accounting systems. The Park Board, in particular, has a history of securing grants for several community groups engaged in planning and recreation endeavors.

Partnerships

Partnerships with local, state, and federal government agencies often offer the greatest opportunities for the development and maintenance of trails. Partnership and cooperation with private landowners and corporations should not be underestimated, however. The San Juan Island Trails Committee's partnership efforts with private land owners in the Roche Harbor area are an outstanding testament to shared development and maintenance of public-private trails.

Over the last six years, the Trails Committee has nurtured relationships with a number of public and private partners to leverage resources for island trails. (See page 6 for profiles on two of our partner organizations, the San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust.)

A list of our trails partners appears on page 3 of this Trails Plan, and the Trails Committee is proud and privileged to be working with all of these organizations.

Facilities Support Systems

As trails are developed and extended on San Juan Island, they will need support systems to provide a variety of trail facilities, amenities, and services. Attractive and consistent signage will be needed at trailheads and along trails to provide directional guidance, identify trail managers, and explain trail rules and regulations. Location and design of parking facilities also requires careful planning and cooperation among trails partners. The need for services such as toilets and trash receptacles will be evaluated. Trail design and construction standards (trail width and surfacing materials, culverts, bridges, benches, interpretive panels, etc.) will be established as appropriate and feasible for each project.

Trail maintenance plans will be the responsibility of trail owners and/or holders of trail easements. When volunteer assistance from the Trails Committee is desired, the Committee will collaborate to help prepare maintenance plans and assist in organizing volunteer labor to execute maintenance activities. (See Appendix C for a sample maintenance plan.)

Appendix A—Trails Committee Mailing List

These people, nearly all of them residents of San Juan Island, have asked to be on the Trails Committee's mailing list. Participation varies among them from none to huge expenditures of time in furtherance of trails on the island. Their support for more trails appears to be extremely high. Any who choose to attend a Trails meeting thereby become members and are entitled to participate in every way.

Sue Abbott	Bill & Linda Cobos	Dilys Goodman
Eric Adelberger	Jim Cole	Pamela Gross
David & Phyllis Adelman	Sam Connery	Pete & Rosi Groves
Paul & Marty Ahart	Betty Conrad	Sven Haarhoff
Shona Aitken	Joe Cooper & Paula West	Eliza Habegger
Bob Alexander	Sue Corenman	Bobbi Hamilton
Gene & Donna Alexander	Susan Corning	Will Hamilton
Charlie Anderson	Jo Critchlow	Joyce Harrell
Mary Jane Anderson	Ellis & Shelle Cropper	Susan Harris
Lea Andrade	Darby Crouss	John Hart
Marcia & Ron Ashbrook	Pat & Chris Curtin	Shelley Hartman
Robin Atkins	Lynn Danaher	Eleanor Hartmann
Joanruth Baumann	Shannon Dean	Carolyn Haugen
Peg Bessette	Peter Dederich	Krissy Haugen
Janis Betts	Cathy Degnan	Ben Haynie
Clarke Biggers	David & Susan Dehlendorf	Catherine Heckel
Patti Bjarnason	Nancy DeVaux	Judy Hengested
Robin Blair & Mike Lazzari	Jane Dill	Fred & Judy Henley
Janice Bobb	Dawn Dolbec	Mike Herber
Terri Boden	Robin & Tom Donnelly	Mark Hetrick
Jai Boreen	Paul Dossett	Bill Hodgson
Lincoln Bormann	Mac & Patti Douglas	Paul Hopkins
Patrick Boyles	Dee Doyle	Vern Howard
Marian Braseth	Eileen Drath	Jonathan Hoyt
Denice Brown	Louise Dustrude	Cole & Amy Hull
Lisa Brown	Tim Dustrude	Alice Hurd
Patty Brownlee	Bob Dyck	Phil & Jane Hutchison
Paulette Brunner	Susan Eberhard	Liz Illg
Cynthia Burke	Bill Evans	Jerilyn Ingram
Vivien Burnett	Patty Francisco	Carol Jackson
Jody Burns	Ken Frazell	Ann & Don Jarrell
Ed & Betty Carlberg	Dodie Gann	Colin & Kathleen Jenkins
Mike & Kathy Chadwick	Glen & Noel Garrett	Marguerite Jennings
Judith L. Chovan	Peg Gerlock	Brent Johnson
Roxanne Christensen	Yvonne Gifford	Diana Johnson
Carol Christianson	Betty Gilson	Allwyn Jones
Debra Clausen	Gail Glass	Megan Jones
Roger Close	Martin Goldman	Nancy Jones

Rik Karon	Bruce & Judy Moorad	Tess Simendinger
Elaine & Dick Keefe	Peter Morrison	Steve Simpson
Clare Kelm	Mark Moss	Jude Sirois
Seanene Kennedy	Louisa Nishitani	Lars Sjöholm
Steve Kennedy	Mark & Kelly Norman	Terry Skorheim
Sally Kerr	Richard & Fiona Norris	Tom & Maria Small
Becky Kilpatrick	Marilyn O'Connor	Doc Smith
Skip & Pat Kimble	Ruth Offen-Pearson	Brent Snow
Arnie Klaus & Kay	Denis O'Keefe	Lewis & Nancy Spaulding
Kammerzell	Cheryl Opalski	Jared Starr
James Knight	Judy & Dick Packard	Valerie Stuart
Eric Koons	William Patterson	Lee Sturdivant
Kari Koski	Charles Peckinpaugh	Bill Sunderland
Anna Coffelt Kuetzing	Thom Pence	Richard Swanson
Pat Kuklenski	Rhonda Perozzo	Jeremy Talbott
Claudia LaCava	Cinda Pierce	Bob Tauscher
Colette Landerville	Sharon Pigman	Thomas Teuwen
Bequin Lapwing	Liz & Brad Pillow	Sharon Towson
Lisa Nash Lawrence	Tim Pope	Amy Trainer
Robbie Lawson	Annie Prevost	Amy Traxler
Nina LeBaron	John Privat	William & Judy Trieber
Jeanne Lee	David L. Provan	Janis Ullin
Jim Lehocky	Ruthe Ramirez	John Van Lund
Alison Johnston Lohrey	Sandy Randall	Marta Vaughan
Roger Loring	Jerry Rasmussen	Karen Vedder
Suzanne Lowe	Emily Reed	Leslie Veirs
Dean Mack	Bill Rice	Susan Vernon
Joan Mann	Donna Riley	Jay S. Wakefield
Randy Martin	Laurie Riley	Rita & Dick Weisbrod
Sharon Massey	Darrell Roberts	Karl Westerback
Pat Mayo	Bruce Robinson	Shann Weston
Cloud McCauley	Lynne Rogers	John & Patti Wickham
Leah McConnell	Howie Rosenfeld	Nancy Wight
Doug McCutchen	Levi Ross	Genie Williams
Mac McElhenie	Steve Sabine	Tori Williams
John Mcmain	Marshall Sanborn & Beth	John Wilson
Jim McNairy	Helstien	Shannon Wilson
Peggy Sue McRae	Jane Sawyer	Barbara Wollman
Robert & Barbara Meier	Lee & Jamie Schiff	Jennifer Woodbridge
David Meiland	Sue Schindale	Jack & Carole Woolsey
Susan Meredith	Kevin Schofield	Bill & Colleen Wright
Liza Michaelson	Tim Seifert	Dona Wuthnow
Chita Miller	Andrew Seltser	Scott Zehner
Judy Miller	Rick Shekelle	Dave Zeretzke
Ramsay Milne	Roger & Michelle Shober	
Shannon Minniken	Jean & Ron Shreve	
Doren Mooney	Charlie Silverman	

Appendix B—Trails Survey

In January 2006 the San Juan Island Trails Committee sent out surveys to every address on San Juan Island, 5000 in all. As of March 1, 2006, 530 surveys had been returned. This is a return rate of better than 10%. Many respondents wrote comments supplementing their answers to specific questions and these comments were included in the data interpretation. Certain trends are evident from the results of the survey and hopefully can be utilized not only by the Trails Committee but also by other public and private agencies looking for direction in future planning of off- and on-road pathways.

The following conclusions were drawn from the survey tallies. See the survey on pages 31-32 of this appendix for specific questions.

Current and if-available use of trails. Responses to the question “**how do you and how would you like to use trails on San Juan Island**” were grouped into 4 categories. Many respondents checked more than one answer, so totals may add up to more than 530.

Walkers and joggers. Many respondents (1014) currently use trails for walking as a means of exercise, recreation, or transportation, with or without a dog. Another large number (486) reported they would use trails for these purposes if they were available.

Cycling, rollerblading, skateboarding (mostly smooth trails). The second highest response category (283) was current trail users for wheeled vehicles (excluding wheelchairs and strollers) as a means for exercise, recreation, or transportation. However, even more responders (354) indicated they would use such trails if they were available.

Off-road trails for mountain bikes or horses. Off-road mountain biking and horseback riding yielded 89 current users with 114 indicating they would use these if available.

Level, paved or town walking. Sixty-seven responders reported they currently use trails for walking with a child in a stroller, with the assistance of a cane, or in a wheelchair. These were grouped on the assumption that one would want a relatively smooth, level, or paved trail for this purpose. Fifty responders indicated they would use these types of trails if they were available.

The above groupings suggest that walkers/joggers currently use trails and would use them more if more were available, but more on-road and off-road bicyclists and horseback riders would use trails if they were available than are currently using them now.

Respondents would clearly like improved non-motorized access to all major roadways for both walkers and cyclists. A significantly lower number of cyclists requested off-road paths than those wanting wider, safer roadways.

Responses to the question “**where do you want new or expanded trails**” were ranked (number of responses x5 if people ranked it first, x4 if they ranked it second, etc., and x1 if it ranked fifth or no rank), yielding the following weighted results:

1. Friday Harbor to American Camp	853
2. Bicycle lanes on widened road shoulders	619
3. Friday Harbor to Roche Harbor	613
4. Cross-country trails, wherever	571
5. Old Military Road	568
6. Safe walking ... in town	527
7. Friday Harbor to Jackson Beach	484
8. Nature-oriented loop on Land Bank property	442
9. Roche Harbor to English Camp	385
10. Lime Kiln to County Park	331
11. English Camp, Three Corner, Egg Lake	296
12. Off-road bike paths	278
13. County Park to Mitchell Hill DNR	231
14. Level, paved in-town trail	156

A pattern emerged for **roadways deemed the most dangerous** when examining comments cyclists made for widening roads. These are grouped below. A look at the map with these roadways highlighted also shows a desire for loop trails.

1. Douglas, Bailer Hill, West Side Roads	103
2. Cattle Point Road	45
3. Beaverton Valley Road, West Valley Road	38
4. San Juan Valley Road	36
5. Roche Harbor Road	25

Individual comments:

15% of written comments indicated a desire for trails in or near Friday Harbor.

Strong interest was expressed in the Military Road both in the trails ranking and in separate comments.

Dogs were a sore point with many residents. Dog owners would like trails where they can take dogs on- or off-leash.

Several people recommended lowering the speed limit to improve safety for all.

A fee for non-resident trail users was suggested.

Eight respondents out of 530 were specifically opposed to trails or increasing the number of trails.

Twenty indicated an interest in having trails on their property.

San Juan Island Trails Committee Survey

January 2006

Since 1999 the San Juan Island Trails Committee has worked to create a network of non-motorized trails on San Juan Island. The Trails Committee is a volunteer citizen group supported by the San Juan **Island Park and Recreation District** and the San Juan **County Park Board**. Island Rec formed the Trails Committee initially and continues to provide funding, while County Parks provides administrative support. The Committee thanks both agencies for their commitment to trails. At www.sanjuanislandtrails.org you can learn more and print free maps of the trails on San Juan Island.

The Trails Committee is developing a long-range plan for a trails network. We have been awarded a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program to help with this effort. **Your help is also needed. Please take a few minutes to answer these trail-related questions** for your household.

The Committee considers “trails” to be a broad term including many types of non-motorized travel on, beside or away from a road. Trails serve many purposes: safer transportation, recreation, health, the local economy, or the island heritage. A sidewalk is simply a paved “trail.” The favored trails of the Committee, though, tend to be unpaved pathways off the road.

How do you and how would you like to use trails on San Juan Island? (Check all that apply to your household)	Currently use	Would use if available
Walking for exercise or recreation	_____	_____
Walking as a way to get somewhere	_____	_____
Walking with a child in a stroller	_____	_____
Walking with a dog	_____	_____
Jogging or running	_____	_____
Walking with the assistance of a cane	_____	_____
In a wheelchair	_____	_____
On a bicycle for exercise or recreation	_____	_____
On a bicycle as a way to get somewhere	_____	_____
Mountain biking off-road	_____	_____
On a skateboard, non-motorized scooter, or rollerblades	_____	_____
Riding on horseback	_____	_____
Other (describe)	_____	_____

Please continue the survey on the back of this form and follow instructions for mailing / delivering.

Affix 37¢ stamp, or 39¢ after January 8



San Juan Island Trails Committee
 c/o San Juan County Park Board
 350 Court St., No. 8
 Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Where do you want new or expanded trails on San Juan Island? Rank your **top 5 choices** beginning with #1
 (Please note: Many of these would depend upon voluntary participation by affected landowners.)

- ___ Friday Harbor to American Camp (beginning with existing trails on airport property and proposed roadside trails by Public Works)
- ___ Friday Harbor to Jackson Beach (beside the road or off-road? Please circle your preference)
- ___ Friday Harbor to Roche Harbor (beside the road or off-road? Please circle your preference)
- ___ A nature-oriented loop trail on Land Bank property beside Roche Harbor Road (just north of Friday Harbor)
- ___ Roche Harbor to English Camp (this one is well under way)
- ___ Cross-country trails wherever possible and appropriate, such as:
 - ___ Lime Kiln State Park to the County Park
 - ___ County Park to the Mitchell Hill DNR property
 - ___ English Camp to Egg Lake Road via Three Corner Lake Road
 - ___ English Camp to American Camp, via the Old Military Road where possible
- ___ Safe walking paths, sidewalks, and shortcuts in town (the Town plans to build a sidewalk to the library)
- ___ A level, paved trail for children learning to ride bikes, somewhere in town
- ___ Bicycle lanes on widened road shoulders—suggest where _____
- ___ Separate off-road bicycle paths—suggest where _____
- ___ Other (describe) _____

Voluntary participation by private landowners will be a key component of a successful trails plan. The Trails Committee would like to speak with you if you are willing to consider having a public trail cross your land. If so, write your name and telephone number here and we'll be in touch.

Any other comments? _____

Please re-fold this survey, tape it, add a stamp and mail it, or drop it off by February 1 at the County Park Board office, 135 Rhone Street (across from Printonyx) during business hours. You do not need to give your name unless you wish to. **THANK YOU!**

Would you like to be notified of our twice-monthly meetings, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 3:30 at the Library? If so, please give us your name and email address, or postal address if you do not have email.

name

e-mail or postal address

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Pre-sorted Standard US Postage PAID Friday Harbor, WA Permit No. 9 ECRWSS



BOXHOLDER

*Please give us
 your thoughts!*

Appendix C—Sample Stewardship Plan—Airport Trail

Owner: Port of Friday Harbor

Contact person: Pat Mayo, Airport Manager

Objective of Trail:

Walking, dog walking, access between town and golf course and segments of Cattle Point Road, access from both north and south to airport terminal, possible use as emergency access by Port as needed.

Long Range Objective:

Possible link in future walking/biking trail to American Camp and south end of island.

Stewardship Standards:

Maintain mowed width of 6 feet, using rental equipment as necessary.

Maintain surface suitable for walking, using rental equipment as necessary.

Trim encroaching growth from sides of trail as necessary.

Visit trail monthly year-round, and mow it frequently as needed, primarily in May and June, and again in October before the winter rains.

Areas of Trail for Special Concern:

Area to be maintained is from the little bridge north of the Weber Way intersection with Franklin Drive past the airport terminal and Skagit Valley College to Cattle Point Road near the intersection with Golf Course Road (excepting only the paved road portions, which are maintained by the Port of Friday Harbor).

Smooth the tread as feasible throughout. In cooperation with the Port, see that signage is clear for first-time users. Fill low areas that collect water, or divert the water. Flag areas of water collection for heavier maintenance equipment to achieve drainage and additional surfacing.

Observe water heights and flows in the stream that crosses the trail. Identify location for bridge. Assure trail leading to water crossing is smooth, not too steep, and at least 3 feet wide. Assure proper drainage from sidehill portion of trail.

Be constantly aware of encroaching vegetation. Mow and trim as necessary. Keep smoothing the tread. Flag areas becoming soft or waterlogged.

Liability:

Stewards are volunteers and not paid. They are to be free from liability for temporary hazards that may occur between visits.

Trails



www.sanjuanislandtrails.org