

Friends of Whidbey State Parks (FOWSP) 2018 Accomplishments

January 95 people attended the 1st Day Hike at Fort Ebey!



We served cocoa, cookies and had a campfire. Janet Hall, Parks Interpretive Specialist, led the hike.



Friends Website and Facebook page go Live: www.friendsofwhidbeystateparks.org/
www.facebook.com/FriendsofWhidbeyStateParks/

3 Community Meetings were held at the Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Freeland libraries to share our plans for the Friends group.

We received our IRS 501(c) (3) Nonprofit status!

February

Fort Ebey Campground Cleanup: On a frosty morning (28 degrees), 16 Friends volunteers cleaned up 50 campsites and filled 3 large truckloads with debris in preparation for the March 1st campground opening. Volunteers enjoyed hot cider and cookies.



Sound Waters University: We shared an information table with State Parks staff

March



Team work party at South Whidbey SP for our State Parks' 105th Birthday

23 volunteers cleaned up the day-use area around the main parking lot and the roads leading to the old campsites, including the group camp. 4 truckloads of large branches were collected, and invasive weeds were removed. Cookies and hot cider were served.

Team Leader and Volunteer Training by State Park staff, Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue, WSU Extension Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator and the Friends group

April FOWSP became an Official State Parks Friends Group!

5-year agreement with the Washington State Parks and Rec approved April 30th.

Ebey's Landing Trail Work Party: On April 14th Friends volunteers helped the Friends of Ebey's Landing stabilize the bluff trail at Ebey's Landing.

May



Joseph Whidbey SP Cleanup: 8 volunteers removed rocks and driftwood on the grass around the beach picnic area dug up and bagged poison hemlock; dug grass out of the concrete rounds below the water faucets; flagged rebar; cleaned stairs to the beach; removed moss from under picnic tables; and worked on the boardwalk/moved large rock with the assistance for park staff to improve the trail.

June



Grant Heiken, retired Volcanologist & Geologist, completed a **Geo Parks** project to provide information and maps about areas that have interesting geology in our parks. Check out [Geo Parks](#) on our website.



July

Weeding at Fort Casey to get ready for the Big Guns Celebration: 6 volunteers hand-weeded the battery area that leads to the Big Guns and weed-whacked the area around the small guns.

Petition to have Speed Reduced on Smugglers Cove Road, as it bisects South Whidbey State Park submitted to Island County.

August



Big Guns Celebration on Aug. 11: Our Big Guns Cake Team was amazing!

The Friends group purchased 2 large photo cakes. Our Cake Team volunteers served cake to guests during a heavy rain and thunder storm. Go Team!

Amazon Smile program: Our Friends group was approved to receive donations.



Family Discovery Day August 25th

Friends members greeted families and handed out prizes to kids at this fun, educational event organized by Kelly Zupich, Sound Water Stewards Coordinator.



September

Friends 2019 Operating Plan submitted to Washington State Parks

Annual State Parks Friends Conference: Two Board members attended the 2-day conference at Cama Beach State Park.

October

Haunted Fort, October 26 & 27

Friends members served food to Haunted Fort volunteers and helped with parking.



November

Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Park Area guidelines approved by park staff.

Island County Commissioners Approve Study needed to reduce the speed on Smugglers Cove Road.

December

Thanks to all of our members who have been helping to care for and support our local Whidbey State Parks this year!