



Friends of Whidbey State Parks 2019 Accomplishments!

A great year for Friends helping to support our local State Parks...

January 2 - 1st Day Hikes at South Whidbey State Park

More than 50 people attended each of the hikes. Volunteers cleared the trails after the big windstorm to get ready for New Year visitors. The Friends served cocoa, hot cider and cookies. Jackie French, Parks Interpretive Specialist, led the hikes.

Thanks to **Calyx Community Arts School** teachers who helped us keep the cider hot!

2 Community Meetings were held in Clinton and Freeland, to share information about the Friends group with community members who live near Possession Point and South Whidbey State Parks.

South Whidbey Ridge Trail - Gravel "Burrito" Upgrade - From mud to a clean gravel path...



South Whidbey Clean up the Park - 39 volunteers removed downed tree limbs & cleaned up trails



February Fort Ebey Campground Cleanup - 29 volunteers cleaned 50 campsites for the March 1st opening



Picnic Table Assembly Training

Volunteers learned how to disassemble picnic tables & rebuild them using new wood. **Thanks to instructors Barb and Ed Adams**, 3 picnic tables were completed during the training. The new wooden table tops & benches were sealed before the tables were moved into place.



Sound Waters University - Our Friends group shared an information table with local State Parks staff.

March Possession Point Clean Up the Park - 30 volunteers, including Boy Scouts from Troop 57, cut & removed a large truckload of blackberry canes, pulled ivy off trees & removed invasive weeds.



April Possession Point - Rx Day in the Park - volunteers helped with this new event.

North Whidbey Community Meeting - was held for volunteers who live near Fort Ebey, Fort Casey and Joseph Whidbey State Parks.

May Fort Casey - Building New Picnic Tables (reusing the sturdy metal frames) 17 tables completed!



Sound Water Stewards Volunteer Opportunities Fair - Recruiting new State Park Friends in Freeland.

Washington Trails Association Crew Leader College - Thanks to Washington Trails Association for inviting 2 Friends volunteers to participate in 2-days of high quality, hands-on training to care for trails.

June Joseph Whidbey - Spruce Up the Park Volunteers bagged poison hemlock, replaced rotting stairs and bridge decking, cleaned trails and trimmed brush encroaching on the trails.



Fort Casey - Yachts of FUN Event



Boating education for kids and their families. Kids learned about "Oceans in Motion" - tides and ocean currents at the Friends station.



July South Whidbey Hand Carved Cedar Bench with a fantastic view is ready for hikers!



Thanks to Pat McVay for carving a beautiful cedar bench! It awaits hikers on the trail just below the kiosk at the main parking lot.



August Fort Casey Family Discovery Day - Loads of Educational Fun for Lots of Kids & Families!



We brought Bagley Beaver to visit the kids! Our volunteers staffed the Welcome Station, handed out books to be stamped and gave kids prizes when the books were filled ~ a Jr. Ranger book, pencils, erasers, a granola bar, flashlight and more...



September Fort Casey Trail to the Beach Rebuild & Training - Thanks to Washington Trails Association! Friends volunteers received hands-on training to design and build a sturdy trail with box steps.



Finding Grants Workshop - 2 Board Members attended this excellent workshop focused on locating granting organizations and writing grants. Thanks to the **Whidbey Community Foundation** for this training!

October Fort Casey Haunted Fort - We built fun, new games for the Children's area, decorated rooms, read Halloween stories & parked vehicles. **Coupeville Honor Society** students helped both days!



Friends 2020 Operating Plan submitted to Washington State Parks

National Park Service - Volunteers in Parks Training - We were invited to join an intensive 3-day training on working with volunteers. **Thanks to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve staff!**

November Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Park Area Training - 20 Friends members were trained by park staff to care for trails and park areas. Volunteers signed an Individual Volunteer Service Agreement and were given a volunteer vest and name tag. We were so engaged during the training we forgot to take a photo...

Thanks to our local State Park staff for offering this training!

Annual State Parks Friends Conference -

Two Board members attended the 2-day conference at Cama Beach State Park. The Washington State Parks Director, park staff and guest speakers shared information to help us be successful & help our parks.



December Fort Casey's Admiralty Head Lighthouse - Getting Ready for Restoration Work



Volunteers moved plants and removed fencing to get ready for several months of work on the outside of the lighthouse, starting in January.



*Thanks to our Members, Partners and State Park Staff
who helped care for and support our local
Whidbey State Parks this year!*



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