

History of Deception Pass

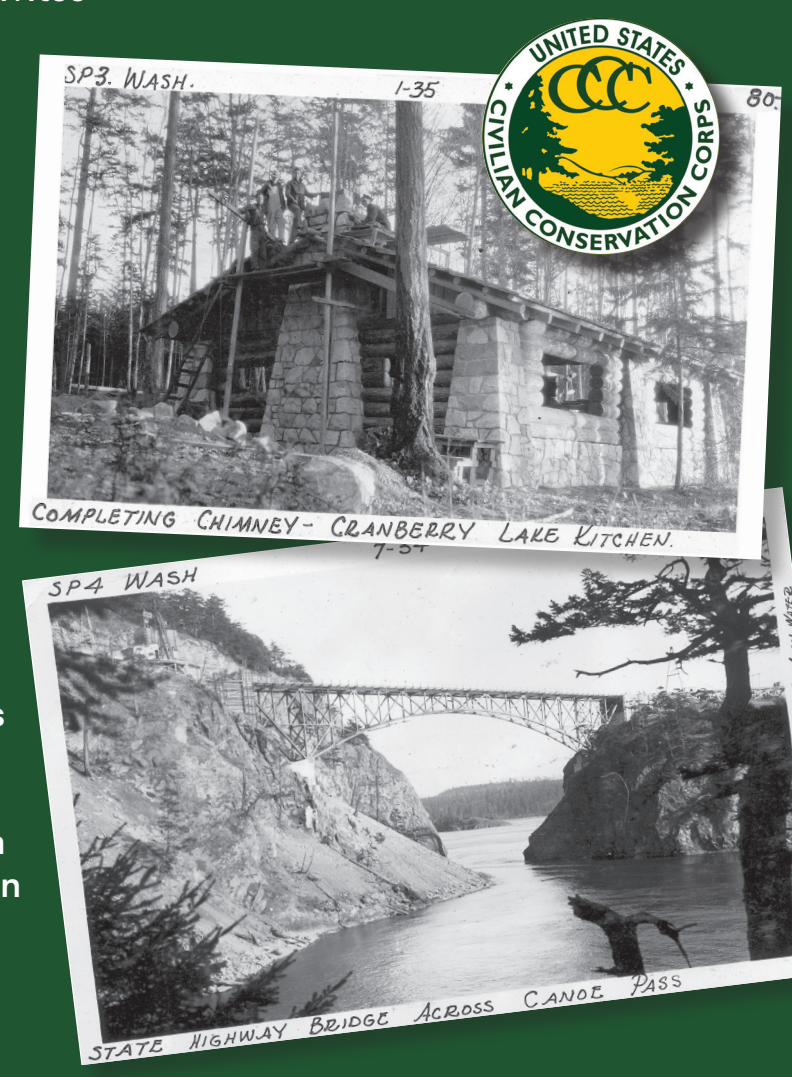
With dramatic headlands, tranquil forests, windswept beaches and quiet meadows, Deception Pass State Park captures your imagination and invites your exploration. Spanning the tips of Whidbey and Fidalgo islands, the park is treasured for its spectacular scenery, rich history and diverse recreational opportunities. Visitors may enjoy fishing, hiking, camping, swimming, boating, photography, beach exploration, scuba diving, learning or simply relaxing.

Discover its many secrets and pleasures. Explore its scenic beauty and spectacular setting.

The park also is respected for the power of its beauty and spirit. Forests with centuries-old trees, tide pools with vibrant but sensitive marine life, and viewpoints of stunning beauty set this park apart from everyday life.

The land became a public park in 1922. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built roads, trails, buildings and log railings to develop the park for visitors. Look for evidence of their construction throughout the park.

Deception Pass State Park welcomes you.



Popular park features

- Rosario**
- Maiden of Deception Pass - Samish story pole
 - Rosario Head
 - Rosario Discovery Center (open seasonally)
 - Tide pools (please respect all marine life)

- Bowman Bay**
- CCC Interpretive Center (open seasonally)
 - Children's play area
 - Kayak rentals (open seasonally)
 - Dock for strolling, crabbing and boating

- Goose Rock**
- Excellent views in all directions
 - Rare rocky bald ecosystem

- West Beach and North Beach**
- Sand Dune Interpretive Trail with observation deck
 - Swimming area with sandy beach at Cranberry Lake
 - Amphitheater
 - Salmon fishing in season

- Hoypus Point and Hoypus Hill**
- Natural Forest Area with trails through old-growth forest
 - Some multi-use trails (bikes and horses allowed)

- Cornet Bay**
- Six-lane boat launch
 - Mooring docks and nearby marine services

- Offshore islands**
- Skagit and Hope islands offer primitive campgrounds
 - Kukutali Preserve on Kiket Island
 - Strawberry, Deception and other islands are Natural Areas

- Kiket Island**
- Part of the Kukutali Preserve
 - Co-owned by Deception Pass State Park and the Swinomish Indian tribe
 - Two-mile round-trip hike across the island
 - Views of wind-swept beaches, Deception Pass bridge and other nearby islands
 - Limited parking off Snee-Oosh Road
 - Pets and bicycles are not permitted on Kiket Island

Cornet Bay Retreat Center

The Cornet Bay Retreat Center is ideal for groups that want a relatively low-cost overnight retreat in a secluded setting. The center accommodates up to 70 people and offers a fully equipped kitchen, a meeting lodge overlooking Cornet Bay, meeting rooms and sleeping cabins with bunks. The grounds feature a sports court, a large central field lawn area, an amphitheater and fire circle, restrooms, and trails that lead to scenic park features. For reservations, call (360) 902-8600.

Cornet Bay Retreat Center, 400 Cornet Bay Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Camping facilities

The park has 172 standard sites and 134 partial-hookup sites with water and electricity. Campsites are very popular, especially during summer. Each standard site has a table, a fire ring and water nearby. Reservations are highly recommended. Please visit www.parks.wa.gov or call (888) CAMPOUT to make reservations.

- Cranberry Lake Campground (open seasonally)**
- Hidden in the old-growth forest between North Beach, West Beach and Cranberry Lake on Whidbey Island, Cranberry Lake Campground is the largest campground at Deception Pass.
 - 147 standard sites
 - 83 partial-hookup sites - mostly in the Forest Loop
 - Five hiker/biker sites
 - Showers in all restrooms



- Quarry Pond Campground (open year round)**
- The park's newest campground; set beside a pleasant rock-rimmed pond to the east of Highway 20.
 - Seven standard sites
 - 49 partial-hookup sites
 - One hiker/biker site
 - Kitchen shelter and a gazebo at center of campground
 - Restroom with showers
 - Five rustic cabins

- Bowman Bay Campground (open seasonally)**
- A small, old-fashioned campground tucked into the trees and close to the water.
 - 18 standard sites
 - Two partial-hookup sites
 - Showers in nearby restroom

Group camping

Designated sites for group camping are available. Please visit www.parks.wa.gov or call (888) CAMPOUT for more information.

Picnic and event facilities

Ten CCC-era kitchen shelters are available for reservation for large or small groups. Fees vary depending on shelter and group size. Visit www.parks.wa.gov or call (888) CAMPOUT to make reservations.



Several sheltered and unsheltered picnic tables are available throughout the park on a first-come, first-served basis.

Amphitheater

The Amphitheater is a wonderful place to catch an interpretive program, evening concert, or host your own event. Located at the western terminus of North Beach, it can be driven to by heading towards West Beach on Cranberry Lake Road and turning right before entering the West Beach Parking lot. This facility was constructed in 2017 by highly skilled park employees using materials from around the park. It contains thirty-two benches creating stadium seating, a covered performance area, along with views of Deception Pass Bridge beyond the stage. The Amphitheater is reservable through www.parks.wa.gov or by calling (888) CAMPOUT.

Recreation

Fishing and boating

Deception Pass features a variety of popular water activities, including boating, sailing, kayaking, canoeing and fishing. The park offers both saltwater and freshwater fishing opportunities for salmon, ling cod, shrimp and many other fish species. Cornet Bay has six saltwater boat launch ramps and there is a single lane at Bowman Bay.

The park's two lakes, Cranberry Lake and Pass Lake, offer quiet, protected waters with small launches for freshwater fishing. Only electric motors are permitted on Cranberry Lake; combustion engines are prohibited. On Pass Lake, all motors are prohibited and only catch-and-release fly fishing is permitted.

The saltwater areas of the Pass and nearby bays and passages are very scenic, but also extremely dangerous due to strong currents, winds, and waves coming in from the Strait. Use caution and care while on the water, obey all safety rules, and know your limits and the limits of your vessel.

Biking and horseback riding

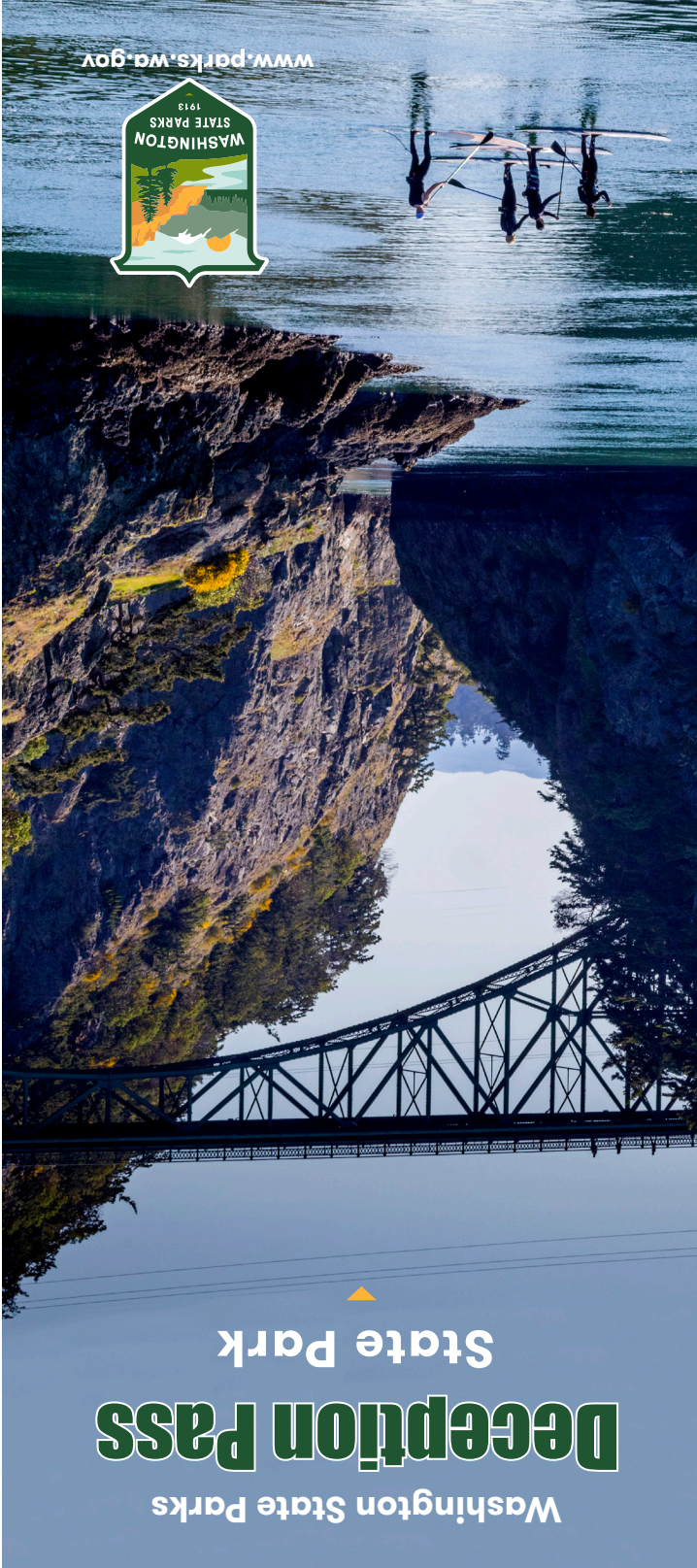
Some trails in the park are open to bikes and horseback riding. The southern portion of Hoypus Forest offers the most multi-use trails. Check the official park map (reverse side) to see on which trails these activities are permitted.

Interpretive programs

Throughout the summer, regularly scheduled interpretive walks and talks and Junior Ranger programs are presented at various locations throughout the park. Check at the welcome station or park kiosks for current schedules. Some special programs are offered by advance reservation. Please contact Deception Pass Interpretive Services at (360) 675-3767 ext. 31, for more information.

Things to remember

- Park hours - 6:30 a.m. to dusk April through September, and 8 a.m. to dusk October through March.
- Campsites can be reserved at www.parks.wa.gov or by calling (888) CAMPOUT. Check at the welcome station for available sites if arriving without a reservation.
- Camping check-in time is 2:30 p.m., check out time is 1 p.m. Please register within 30 minutes of arrival.
- Campsites may not be held for other parties.
- Campers may stay a maximum of 10 days in the summer and 20 days in the off-season.
- Campsites are limited to one recreational (camping) vehicle and a maximum of eight people.
- An additional extra vehicle may be accommodated in most sites for an additional fee.
- Pets must be on leash and under physical control at all times. This includes trail areas and campsites. Pet owners must clean up after pets on all state park lands.
- Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.
- Generators may be used from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Do not gather or collect any firewood, including driftwood, from the park. Wood is available for sale during the summer.
- Keep campfires small and attend to fires at all times. Watch for seasonal fire restrictions during the summer.
- Please take your recyclables home with you.
- Keg beer is not permitted in the park. Alcoholic beverages are allowed only in campsites or at picnic tables.
- Crows and raccoons are frequent campground visitors. Please keep all food in airtight containers or in vehicles. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Drive slowly in the campground in consideration of children and other pedestrian traffic. The speed limit is 10 mph.
- Report disturbances to park rangers or camp hosts. They are trained to help you resolve issues and concerns. In case of emergency, call 911.



Deception Pass State Park Campground Areas

Cranberry Lake Campground

Legend:

- After-hours pay station
- Interpretive trail
- Parking
- Restroom
- Trailer dump

Walk-in campsites

Hiker/biker sites

To North Beach

To West Beach

Cranberry Lake

To welcome station and park entrance

(Revised 5-2-24)

Quarry Pond Campground

Legend:

- ADA accessible
- Convenience store
- Gazebo
- Picnic shelter
- Trailer dump
- Cabins
- After-hours pay station
- Gas
- Phone
- Restrooms
- Welcome station

To main park & trailer dump

Park Admin

Quarry Pond

Sport court

Cornet Bay Road

(Revised 5-2-24)

Want to help out?

The Deception Pass Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to supporting education, interpretation and resource protection at Deception Pass State Park.

For more information about their work and how you can help, please visit www.deceptionpassfoundation.org

DECEPTION PASS PARK FOUNDATION

The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands.

The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: \$30
- One-day pass: \$10 (transaction and dealer fees may apply)

The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov or call (866) 320-9933.

Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.

Deception Pass State Park
41020 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 675-3767

Fax: (360) 675-8991
deception.pass@parks.wa.gov

State Parks information:
(360) 902-8844

Reservations: Online at www.parks.wa.gov or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688

Other state parks located in the general area:
Fort Ebey and Fort Casey



Fidalgo Island trails

1. Rosario Head Trail

Distance: 0.25 mile round-trip loop;
Elevation change: 80 feet

Attractions:

- Views of San Juan Islands and Whidbey Island
- High cliffs (remain on trails, and do not leave children unattended)
- Tide pools exposed on low tide days (fragile ecosystem, please stay on trail, guided tours required for large groups)

2. Bowman Bay/Rosario Beach Trail

Distance: 0.5 mile one way;
Elevation change: 100 feet

Attractions:

- Varied forest environment
- Views of rocky shoreline
- Steep climb near Bowman Bay

3. Lighthouse Point Loop

Distance: 1.5 miles round-trip loop;
Elevation change: 100 feet

Attractions:

- Lighthouse is an active navigation aid on a small steel structure topped with a light bulb (access prohibited)
- Views of Deception Pass bridge, rocky coves, San Juan Islands and Whidbey Island
- Varied forest, meadow and wetland environments

4. Lottie Point Loop

Distance: 1.5 miles round-trip loop;
Elevation change: 100 feet

Attractions:

- Close views of Deception Pass and bridge



10. Discovery Trail

Distance: 0.7 mile one way;
Elevation change: 150 feet

Attractions:

- CCC-built underpass
- John Tursi Commemorative Sign
- Evergreen forest environment
- Access to Cornet Bay Retreat Center (guests with reservations only)

11. North Beach Trail

Distance: 0.9 mile one way;
Elevation change: 190 feet

Attractions:

- Beach access at low tides
- Access to amphitheater, CCC-built picnic shelters and bridge

12. Sand Dune Interpretive Trail

Distance: 1.2 miles round-trip loop;
Elevation change: minimal

Attractions:

- ADA trail (paved)
- Native sand dune environment
- Marsh overlook
- Dune forest
- 18 interpretive panels designed by local high school students
- Dune plants are fragile—please remain on pavement at all times

13. Cranberry Lake Trail

Distance: 1 mile one way;
Elevation change: minimal

Attractions:

- CCC-built kitchen shelters at east end of lake
- Access to Cranberry Lake Campground
- Marshy habitat (watch for beavers)

14. Upland Interpretive Trail

Distance: .25 mile round-trip loop;
Elevation change: minimal

Attractions:

- Self-guided interpretive hike through varied forest ecosystem
- Dry coniferous and open transitional forest environments

15-26. Hoypus Hill/Hoypus Point Natural Area Trails

Distance: variable (see map)
Elevation change: variable (see map)

Attractions:

- Varied forest environment
- Solitude
- Old-growth forest is one of the largest remaining in Puget Sound lowlands
- Access to Cornet Bay Marine Area
- Multi-use trails (bikes and horses allowed) in Hoypus Hill area.

5. Pass Lake Loop Trail

Distance: 2.2 miles round-trip loop;
Elevation change: 400 feet

Attractions:

- Trail follows north shore of Pass Lake
- Deep evergreen forest along a forested hill

6. Tursi Trail

Distance: 1 mile one way;
Elevation change: 350 feet

Attractions:

- Varied forest environment
- Views of Naked Man Valley

Whidbey Island trails

7. Goose Rock Perimeter Trail

Distance: 1.9 miles round-trip loop;
Elevation change: 150 feet

Attractions:

- Views of Deception Pass Bridge, Ben Ure and Strawberry islands, and Cornet Bay
- Evergreen forest environment

8. Goose Rock Summit Trails

Distance: 0.3 to 0.5 mile to top;
Elevation change: 250 feet

Attractions:

- Summit is highest point on Whidbey Island
- Wide views of San Juan Islands and Whidbey Island
- Views of Mount Rainier on clear days
- Rare rocky bald ecosystem
- At the summit, walk on bare rock and main trail only—fragile vegetation is underfoot!

9. Lower Forest Trail

Distance: 0.4 mile one way;
Elevation change: 150 feet

Attractions:

- Evergreen forest environment
- Access to Quarry Pond Campground and park administration building

