



Things to See and Do at Ebey's Landing

Enjoy Scenic Waysides at Ebey's Landing and the Prairie Overlook, near Sunnyside Cemetery.

Take a Walk through History with the Historical Society walking tour of Coupeville's historic structures. (Information available at Historical Museum)

Climb inside the Admiralty Head Lighthouse at Fort Casey State Park.

Walk the Planks to the Coupeville Wharf in downtown Coupeville.

See the Ten-inch Disappearing Guns at Fort Casey State Park.

Gaze at Wild Rhodys during June, at Rhododendron Park.

Take a Hike at Ebey's Landing, The Prairie Overlook, Coupeville Town Park, Rhododendron Park, Fort Casey State Park and Fort Ebey State Park.

Set Up Camp or Have a Picnic at Fort Casey State Park (35 campsites), Fort Ebey State Park (50 campsites) or Rhododendron Park (6 campsites).

Launch your Boat at Keystone Harbor (Fort Casey State Park), Captain Coupe Town Park (Coupeville) or Monroe's Landing.

Scuba Dive at Fort Casey State Park.

Visit the Historical Museum in downtown Coupeville.

Get Your Feet Wet at Monroe's Landing.

Hide in a Blockhouse at Fort Casey Road, Downtown Coupeville or Sunnyside Cemetery.

Bicycle or Drive the many rural, scenic routes.

View Historic Structures throughout the Reserve. There are over 90 of them.

Bird Watch at Crockett Lake, Keystone Spit, Penn's Cove and the Prairies.

Please Respect Private Property

Private property comprises most of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. That makes it different from most parks. You have unlimited rights to visual access throughout the Reserve. But physical access is limited to publicly owned land and other clearly designated public use areas.

Please respect the privacy of residents and the crops and fields of farmers.

In many ways, the Reserve is still an experiment. Please help us make it a success.

For More Information About . . .

The Reserve in general - A free detailed brochure explaining the history of the Reserve is available at stores, hotels and public buildings throughout the area or by writing to the Trust Board.

State Parks - Toll-free (Summer only), 1-800-562-0990, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm



Trust Board of Ebey's Landing
National Historical Reserve
P.O. Box 774
Coupeville, WA 98239



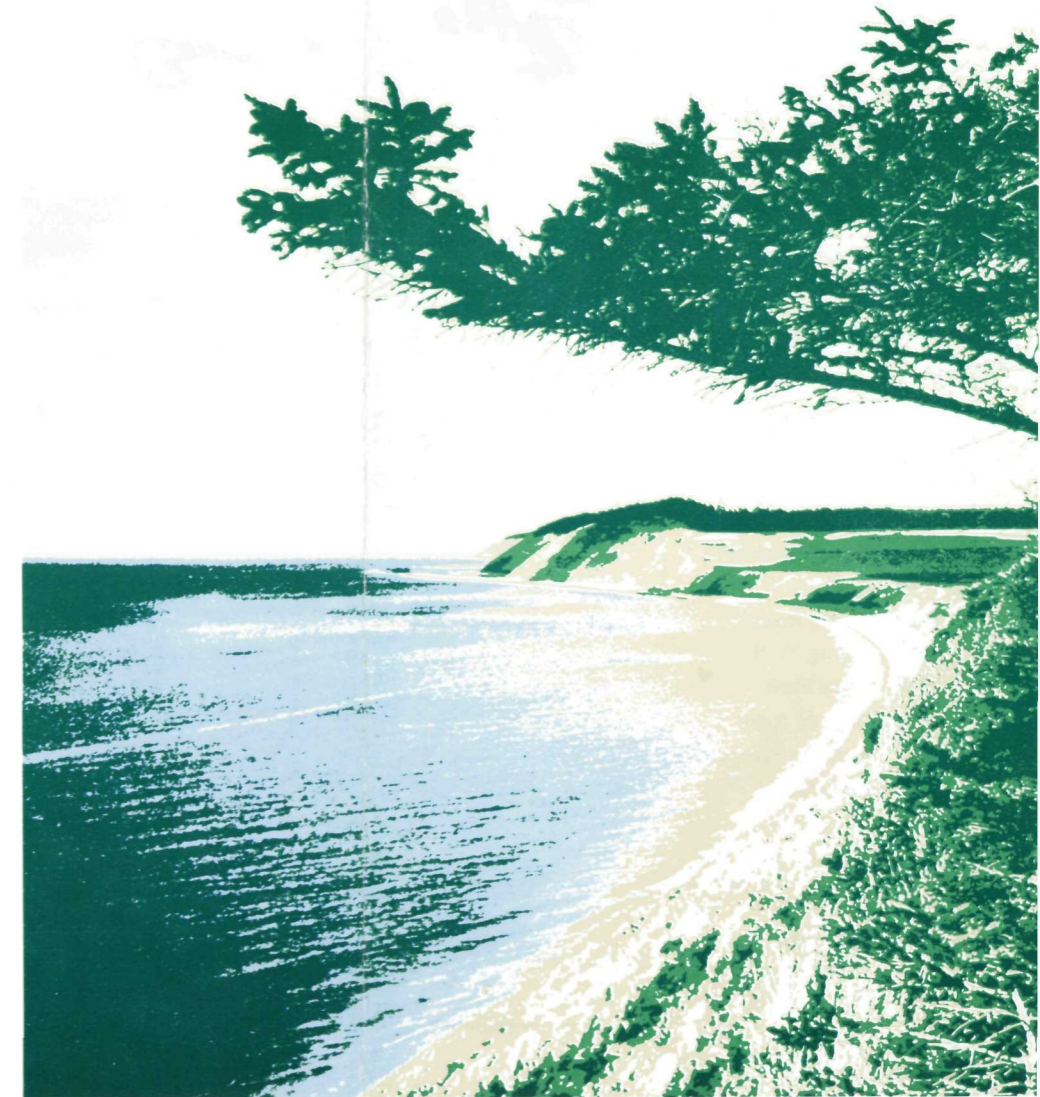
Deception Pass State Park - 675-2417
Fort Casey State Park - 678-4519
Fort Ebey State Park - 678-4636
South Whidbey State Park - 321-4559



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EBEY'S LANDING

National
Historical Reserve



EBEY'S LANDING

National Historical Reserve

Welcome to a New Kind of Park!

This is our country's first Historical Reserve, created by Congress in 1978. The people of Central Whidbey who urged its creation knew that the unspoiled natural beauty and the many historical buildings told a special story worth sharing. The Reserve is officially a unit of the National Park Service, but its various components make it a completely new kind of park.

Over 90% of the Reserve's 17,000 acres is privately owned, so please show consideration as you tour country lanes by car, bicycle or foot. State, county and town parks within the Reserve offer plenty of public access for camping, picnicking and general recreation. The Reserve is administered by a nine-member Trust Board with ample local representation. Thus the Reserve you see today will continue to grow and change and add to its own history in tune with the hopes and dreams of the people who live here.

Discover a Cultural Landscape

The unbroken historical record of Central Whidbey means that farms are still farmed, forests logged, and most historic buildings actively used as residences or places of business. The enduring patterns of community life, within a setting of breathtaking natural beauty, have created a unique cultural landscape. The vistas, woodlands and fertile prairies that you will discover here are much the same today as when they attracted New England sea captains and farmers to Penn's Cove and Ebey's Prairie over 100 years ago.

A Path back through Time

Now begin, find a handhold, and start climbing back into time.... All you need to outfit your field trip of discovery is your curiosity, imagination, and a little time.

Near the south entry to the Reserve is the Coupeville Outlying Landing Field. The field was built during World War II to train Navy pilots and is still in use today. Before the Navy arrived in Central Whidbey, the US Army had already come and, for the most part, gone. Fort Casey State Park, located within the Reserve, is a massive reminder of a time when men and mules did most of the work. Though the huge ten-inch guns on display are now silent, they once rattled teacups on shelves up and down Puget Sound. Although they never

saw action, together with guns at Fort Worden and Fort Flagler they protected the entrance to Puget Sound from foreign invaders. Explore the ghostly tunnels of the deserted fort and imagine the spit-and-polish bustle of an active Army garrison around 1910. Go back another 45 years and join a council of early settlers arguing over whether they still needed the blockhouses they had built as protection against Indian attack. Four of these blockhouses still stand, one in downtown Coupeville and the others scattered throughout the countryside. But the warpath goes back even further in time, to the hostile Haida Indians from the distant Queen Charlotte Islands. The sight of their distinctive canoes in Puget Sound terrorized the local Skagit Indians who hid to escape death or enslavement.

A Continuing Abundance

Penn's Cove, with its protected waters, natural abundance of shellfish, fish and edible plants was an important gathering place for Native Americans of the region. Some archaeologists estimate that the population of the area two hundred years ago was nearly what it is today. Yearly "potlatch" celebrations, with their colorful camps and canoe races, occurred on the Cove through the 1930's.

Today's farmers, many themselves descendants of early settlers, continue to plow land claims established by their families in the 1800's. Their faithful stewardship of the rich alluvial soils left by melting glaciers continues to produce crop yields which rival the record setting wheat and potato crops of the early years of this century.

This Is Your Reserve

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve has much to teach us about our history. Time has left a clear but gentle impression upon this place, and your visit is part of the most recent chapter of time unfolding.

We hope you will be able to spend a pleasant time discovering the Reserve and capture the spirit of times past. Then you might walk down the Coupeville waterfront half expecting to greet the daily packet steamer or board a dugout canoe for points unknown. This is your Reserve, your chance to explore a very special landscape, and enjoy it over and over again.

