

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, fascinating history and diverse recreational opportunities.

Tucked in the famous "rain shadow" north of Puget Sound, Deception Pass often has sunny skies when nearby cities are soggy with rain. Visitors may enjoy fishing, hiking, camping, swimming, boating, photography, beach-combing, scuba diving, learning or simply relaxing and doing nothing.

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

Attracted by its abundant resources and protected shorelines, Coastal Salish tribes settled the area now known as Deception Pass. These tribes are well known for their spiritual strength and artistic accomplishments. Their stories continue to be an integral element of the park's values.

Captain Salvador Fidalgo of Spain explored the area in 1792, leaving behind many Spanish names that are still used today, including Rosario Beach and Fidalgo Island. At about the same time, Captain George Vancouver of England explored the area. He believed the pass was a small bay or inlet until his lieutenant sailed around the land to the south, discovering it was actually an island. Vancouver named the island after his lieutenant, Joseph Whidbey. Having been deceived by the narrow waterway, Vancouver named it Deception Pass.

In 1866, the United States government set the land aside as a military reservation. A Congressional Act designated the property for public recreation in 1925, creating Deception Pass State Park. During the Depression of the 1930's, the Civil 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. Discover its many secrets and pleasures. Explore its scenic beauty and spectacular setting. Visit with friends, family, or in quiet solitude. Adventure and discovery await you.

Popular park features

- Rosario**
 - Maiden of Deception Pass - Samish story pole
 - Rosario Head
 - Tidepools (please respect all marine life)

Bowman Bay

- CCC Interpretive Center (open daily during the summer)
- Children's play area
- Kayak rentals during the summer season
- Dock for strolling, crabbing and boating

Goose Rock

- Excellent views in all directions from this high hill

West Beach and North Beach

- Sand Dune Interpretive Trail with observation deck
- Swimming beach on Cranberry Lake
- Paddle and rowboat rentals summer season
- Amphitheater
- Salmon fishing in season

Hoypus Point/ Hoypus Hill

- Natural forest area with trails through old-growth forest

Cornet Bay

- Boat launch with six lanes
- Mooring docks and nearby marine services

Offshore islands

- Skagit and Hope islands offer remote camping
- Strawberry, Deception and others are park natural areas

Cornet Bay Retreat Center

Groups may reserve Cornet Bay retreat center year round. The retreat center, which is at the head of Cornet Bay, is ideal for groups that want a relatively low-cost, overnight retreat in a secluded setting.

The center accommodates up to 186 people and offers a fully equipped kitchen, a meeting lodge overlooking Cornet Bay, meeting rooms and sleeping cabins with bunks. The surrounding grounds feature a sports court, large central field lawn area, an amphitheater and fire circle, restrooms, an archery range and numerous trails that lead to scenic park features. For reservations, call 1-360-902-8600.

Cornet Bay Retreat Center
400 Cornet Bay Road
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 679-2482

Camping facilities

The park has 166 tent sites and 144 utility sites with water and electricity. The campsites are very popular, especially in summer. Each standard site has a table, a fire ring and water nearby. Reservations may be made year round and are highly recommended.

Cranberry Lake campground

Tall, old-growth trees shelter the Cranberry Lake campground, which is situated near Cranberry Lake on Whidbey Island. This campground offers:

- 146 standard tent sites
- 84 utility sites - mostly in the Forest Loop to the east
- Three walk-in sites
- Five hiker/biker sites - mostly in the lower loop close to West Beach
- Showers in most restrooms

Quarry Pond campground

Quarry Pond campground, east of Highway 20 and north of Cornet Bay Road, offers:

- Two standard tent sites
- 58 hookup sites
- Single restroom with showers
- Nearby visitor center to open in 2007

Bowman Bay campground

On the north side of the Deception Pass, Bowman Bay offers:

- A small, old-fashioned campground tucked into the trees and close to the water
- 18 standard tent sites
- Two hookup sites
- Showers in the nearby restroom



Group camping

There are three primitive group camps in the woods near North Beach.

Group Camp No. 1 accommodates up to 64 people. It has a fire circle, picnic shelter, vault toilet, five tent pads and two Adirondack (three-sided) sleeping shelters with bunks. Each Adirondack sleeps eight.

Group Camp No. 2 has a fire circle, picnic shelter, tables, vault toilet and an Adirondack shelter that sleeps eight. Group Camp No. 3 is similar to Group Camp No. 2, but has no picnic shelter.

Group Camps 2 and 3 each accommodate up to 32 people. Fees depend on the size of the group.

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. Call 1-888-CAMPOUT to make reservations.

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

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 Bowman Bay has one lane.

The park's two lakes, Cranberry Lake and Pass Lake, each 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 allowed.

Saltwater areas of the pass and nearby bays and passages can be extremely dangerous, due to strong currents, winds and waves. Please use the utmost caution and care while out on the water.

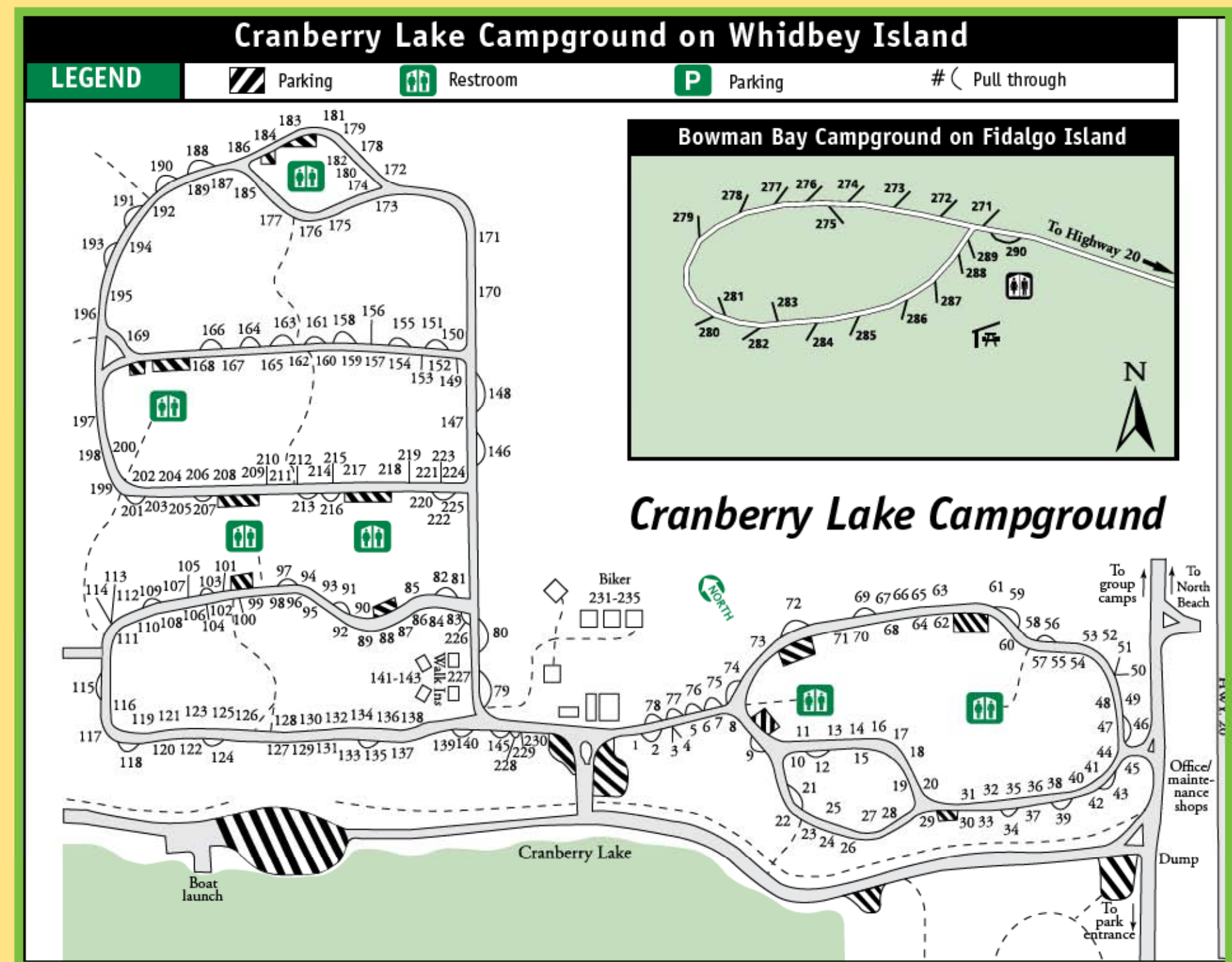
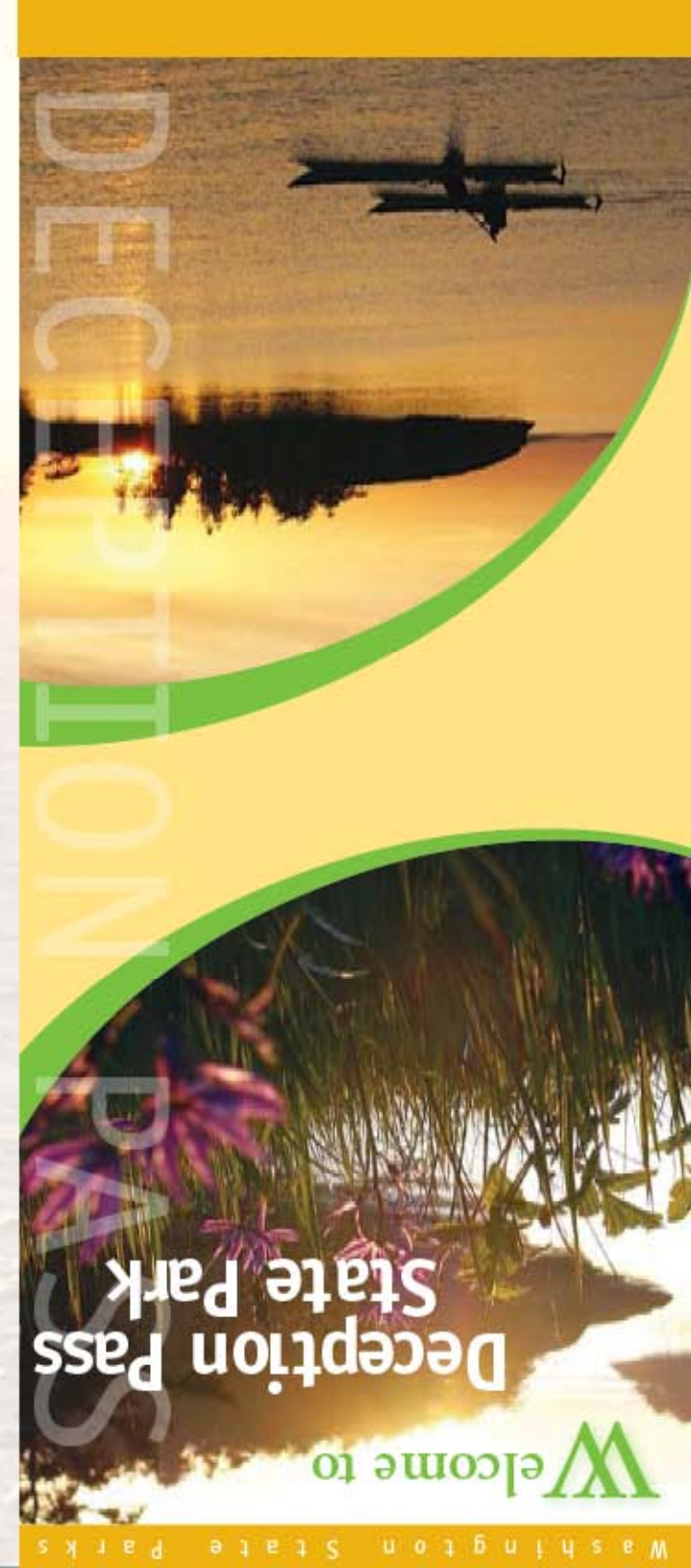
Interpretive programs

Throughout the summer, regularly scheduled interpretive walks, talks and evening programs are presented at various locations throughout the park. Check at the welcome station or park bulletin boards for current schedules.

Some special programs are offered by advance reservation.

Things to remember

- Park hours:**
6:30 a.m. to dusk April to Sept.
8 a.m. to dusk October to March.
- All campsites are reservable year round. Check at the welcome station for available sites if arriving without a reservation.
- Camping check-in time is 2:30 p.m., and 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, 20 days in the off-season.
- Campsites are limited to one recreational (camping) vehicle and a maximum of eight people.
- An additional non-camping vehicle may be accommodated in most sites for an additional fee.
- Pets must be on leash and under physical control at all times. Pet owners must clean up after pets on all state park lands.
- Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.
- Do not gather or collect any firewood, including driftwood, from the park. Wood is available for sale at the campground entrance in the evenings during the summer and at nearby stores.
- Keep campfires small, and attend to fires at all times. Watch for seasonal fire restrictions during the summer.
- Do not leave trash in the fire rings.
- Recycle appropriate items at convenient recycling stations in the park.
- Bottles and cans are not permitted on beaches or trails. 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.
- To reserve a campsite, call 1-888-CAMPOUT.



Deception Pass State Park
41229 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 675-2417
Fax (360) 675-8991
Deceptionpass@parks.wa.gov

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
(360) 902-8500 • TDD (360) 664-3133
www.parks.wa.gov

Commission members:
Clyde Anderson Joe Taller
Mickey Fearn Joan Thomas
Bob Petersen Cecilia Vogt
Eliot Scull
Agency Director: Rex Derr

All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people, regardless of age, sex, creed, ethnic origin or physical limitation.

This brochure will be provided in alternative formats by calling the public affairs office at (360) 902-8562 or Telephone Device for the Deaf at (360) 664-3133. P&R 45-52500-1 (06/06)

