

THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, as part of the Puget Sound Initiative, is removing contaminants and restoring habitat at seven coastal locations, including Anacortes.

Public education and participation are key elements of Ecology's restoration goals. Trail Tales, a local educational outreach and shoreline interpretive program, is working closely with Ecology and local partners to achieve this goal and protect a healthy marine environment.



"Our elders would often tell us that when the tide was out, our table was set. They taught us to offer a prayer or a song to thank our ancestors for the gifts they preserved and left to sustain us."

— Samish Indian Nation Cultural Committee

*Trail Tales leads us on an enjoyable journey of discovery and calls us to protect Fidalgo Bay for future generations.*

**Join the conversation**

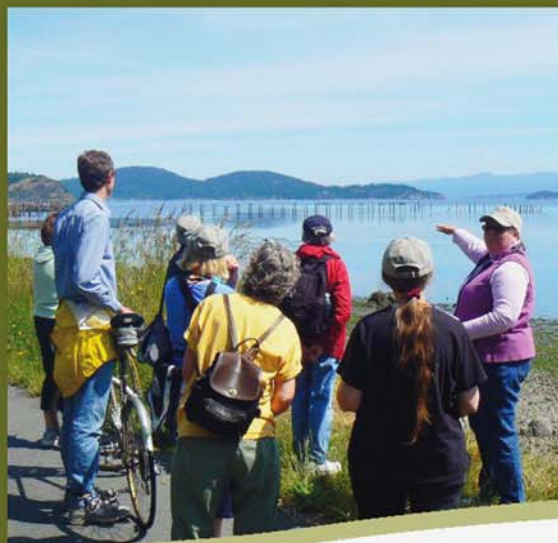


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Visit our website to learn more about Trail Tales and find a calendar of events and interpretive programs.

[www.skagitbeaches.org/trail-tales-home](http://www.skagitbeaches.org/trail-tales-home)



# Make Your Walk

## A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY



**Trail Tales Partners**

Funded by Washington Department of Ecology Public Participation Grant program and generous local donors, with support from City of Anacortes, Port of Anacortes, and Samish Indian Nation



**Trail Tales is a project of**

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**DISCOVERY MAP**

Explore history, ecology, native culture, and the natural beauty of Fidalgo Island

Anacortes, Washington

[www.skagitbeaches.org/trail-tales-home](http://www.skagitbeaches.org/trail-tales-home)

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## A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY



**FOLLOW THE SHORELINES** of Fidalgo Bay and Guemes Channel to explore the history, culture, and marine ecology of the Anacortes waterfront. Fidalgo Island boasts bountiful estuaries, beautiful vistas, and fascinating stories of native cultures, pioneer settlers, and modern, cutting-edge marine technologies.

**Continue your journey!**

- Explore interpretive signs on the trail (*map inside*).
- Visit the Trail Tales website to learn more.
- Join a docent-led Trail Tales walk.
- Attend lectures, films, and events sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches.



**What is Trail Tales?**

**TRAIL TALES** began in 2011 under a grant to Friends of Skagit Beaches from the Washington Department of Ecology to support environmental cleanup of Anacortes shorelines. The program blends recreation with education on restoration and protection of marine shorelines, wildlife habitats, and water quality.

Today, interpretive signage and volunteer-led programs share stories about the history of the working waterfront, native and immigrant cultures, ecosystems, and the Anacortes Baywide Cleanup.

**FRIENDS OF SKAGIT BEACHES**, a Skagit County 501(c)(3) non-profit, sponsors educational programs and provides financial support to volunteer projects that seek to protect local shorelines and marine waters through education, citizen science, and stewardship.

**Did you know?**

**EARLY WATERFRONT INDUSTRIES** provided jobs and economic opportunities, but left a legacy of marine and shoreline contamination.

**TODAY**, the once-damaged shoreline is again providing usable habitat and new community resources.

**FIDALGO BAY** is one of eight Washington State Aquatic Reserves, providing special recognition of its valuable habitat.

**OVER 200 SPECIES OF BIRDS** and six juvenile salmon species utilize the reserve's ecosystem.



"In 1925, Anacortes had four sawmills, three with box factories, seven shingle mills and one pulp mill."

— Logs to Lumber, 2007  
 Terry Slotemaker, Anacortes Museum



**History and Culture**

The resources of Fidalgo Bay attracted Coast Salish foragers for thousands of years. Today, it provides rich habitat for species important to Washington's economy and for native cultural traditions.



**Nature and Ecology**

Natural systems, like wetlands and eelgrass meadows, are essential to shoreline and marine ecosystems. Understanding these connections helps keep the bay healthy for wildlife and people.



**Protect and Restore**

Wood processing mills along Fidalgo Bay helped build Anacortes into a vibrant city, but left behind environmental damage. Today, state, tribal, and local groups are rebuilding a healthy shoreline.