

As part of the Puget Sound Initiative, the Washington Department of Ecology is cleaning up and restoring habitat at seven priority locations along the coast, including the Anacortes Baywide Cleanup in Fidalgo Bay. The Trail Tales project is among the local partners working together to build a healthy shoreline habitat for marine species, wildlife, plants, and people.

"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




Nicole Tesch

Trail Tales offers self-guided and docent-led interpretive walks in Anacortes along the flat, paved Tommy Thompson Trail between 34th Street and March Point. Parking is available at 34th Street and at Fidalgo Bay RV Resort, 4701 Fidalgo Bay Road.

Join the conversation

 Like us on Facebook and share your stories at facebook.com/TrailTalesFidalgoBay.

Continue your journey

 Read more and find a calendar of events and a schedule of interpretive walks at www.skagitbeaches.org.

Walk schedules also are available at the Anacortes Visitor Center and other locations.



Ivan Dolph

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, Samish Indian Nation



Trail Tales is a project of

Friends of Skagit Beaches, 501(c)(3)
PO Box 481, Anacortes WA 98221
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www.skagitbeaches.org



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

Tommy Thompson Trail
Anacortes, Washington

www.skagitbeaches.org/trail-tales-home

Discovery Points ALONG THE TRAIL



Grassy meadows in the bay

Eelgrass beds in nearshore waters slow waves, stabilize sediments, and provide food, shelter, and shade for marine species.

Our aquatic reserve

Tides and currents churn up marine life that attracts local and migrating bird populations. This rich habitat is now a protected aquatic reserve.

Watershed to sea

Fresh water from the surrounding watershed dilutes the salty Salish Sea. Forested slopes once filled Fidalgo Bay with logs for local mills.

Historic mill site

A century of wood mill operations left behind toxic soil and water. A restored wetland is part of a bay-wide cleanup of these materials.

Shoreline habitats

Erosion, wind, and waves shape our coast. Shoreline vegetation provides food, shelter, and breeding habitats for fish and wildlife.

Habitat restoration

Restoring beach sediments on March Point aids surf smelt, an important forage fish that lays its eggs on gravel beaches.

Fidalgo Bay cultural history

Weaverling Spit and March Point attracted Coast Salish tribes long before pioneer settlers made it a hub of culture, transportation, and recreation.

Nature and Ecology

Natural systems, like wetlands and eelgrass meadows, are essential to shoreline and marine ecosystems. Understanding the connections between them helps keep the bay healthy for wildlife, jobs, food, and enjoyment.



Flickr - Mark L. Watson

History and Culture

The resources of Fidalgo Bay attracted Coast Salish foragers for thousands of years. Since pioneer settlement, the bay has continued to support fishing, farming, commerce, and recreation.



Anacortes Museum

Protection and Restoration

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 restoring the health of the bay.



Ivar Dolph

Trail Mileage (one-way)

- (0.6 miles) 11th Street to 22nd Street
- (0.7 miles) 22nd Street to 34th Street
- (1.0 miles) 34th Street to RV Park
- (1.0 miles) RV Park to March Point Rd.

