



LOWER DISCOVERY BAY Restoration Project

TURNING BACK TIME

For centuries, this part of Discovery Bay was a rich mosaic of estuary, beach and forest habitat filled with shorebirds, native shellfish, and salmon migrating to and from nearby Snow and Salmon Creeks.

By the early 1900's, however, it had become a landscape of sawmill buildings and associated infrastructure supporting local timber and agriculture enterprises. Over time, businesses closed and the rail line was abandoned, leaving remnants of buildings, a mound of sawdust waste 50 ft high and old railroad trestle pilings in the shallow waters of the shoreline.

For a decade, NOSC worked with Jefferson Land Trust and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to acquire properties, and the Chumsortium partners on planning and implementing creative solutions to bring this shoreline back to life. They pulled out creosote pilings and the railbed structures they supported, removed riprap and concrete bulkheads to restore this beach, and cleared out the sawdust that had buried a vital saltmarsh.

Volunteers then planted thousands of native dune-grass plugs, shrubs, and trees to restart natural processes. These sandy shores, quiet lagoons, rich tidelands and young alder forest are again sheltering chum salmon, Dungeness crab, Olympia oysters and myriad other species that inhabit nearshore environments. Forage fish (small fish of various species that are important food for salmon and shorebirds) have begun spawning on the newly created beach spit immediately after project completion. The gently sloping beach provides a much safer shallow water passage for juvenile summer chum trying to avoid predators as they migrate out to sea.

We welcome you to this quiet, relatively unfrequented area to stroll on the Olympic Discovery Trail and neighboring beach, watch birds, kayak, walk your dog or just feel the sun on a beautiful day. Interpretive signs along the trail provide more details about this restoration as well as the history of the railroad in Discovery Bay.

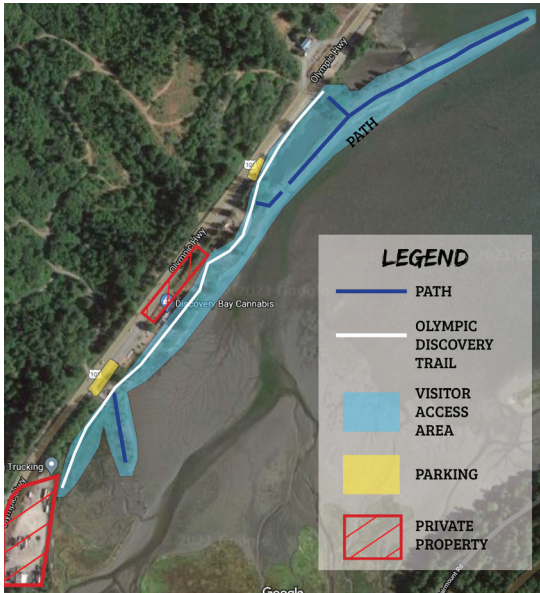


BEFORE



AFTER

Visiting the Site



ACCESS

Park on the water side of Highway 101, just south of the Discovery Bay Cannabis parking lot, near the Olympic Discovery Trail access point. This area is known to locals as the 'Train Cars.' Alternate parking is available in a large pull-off area about 0.2 miles north of there, marked by a bus stop sign. Both parking areas are marked in yellow on the map. ****NOTE:** Please be respectful and do not trespass onto the private properties marked in red on the map.

Open: All year from dawn to dusk
Limited Parking

VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

Flora: Spring is the best time to see red flowering currant, madrone, and Nootka rose in bloom. Look for the golden flowers of Puget Sound gumweed and the red madrone fruits in summer and fall. A single madrone preserved on the sand spit yielded hundreds of seedlings in the years following restoration.



RED FLOWERING CURRANT



MADRONE

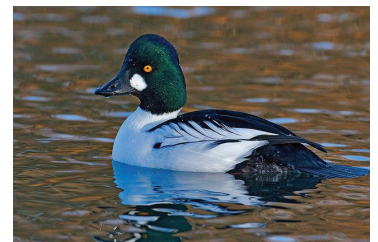


NOOTKA ROSE



GREAT BLUE HERON

Birds: Keep an eye out for shorebirds on the mudflats, songbirds in the trees, and waterfowl in the lagoons. Caspian terns, Great Blue Herons, Bufflehead ducks, Common Goldeneyes and many other species frequent the area. This location is part of The Audubon Society's 'The Great Washington State Birding Trail: Olympic Loop'.



COMMON GOLDENEYE

BY THE NUMBERS

Shoreline Restored: 1,700 feet | Fill Removed: 13,000 cubic yards | Creosote Pilings Removed: 150 (700 tons)
1 Tidegate Removed | Dunegrass Plugs Planted: 5,500 | Trees Planted: 2,945

PARTNERS: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Jefferson Land Trust, Chumsortium, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Peninsula Trails Coalition, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jefferson County, Washington Department of Transportation, Washington Department of Ecology, Moa-Tel Water System, Point No Point Treaty Council, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, and hundreds of volunteers.