

Keep exploring!



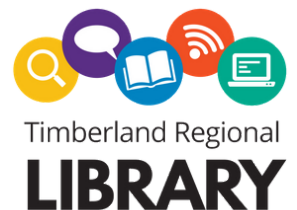
Passport to Mason County

Explore outdoors!

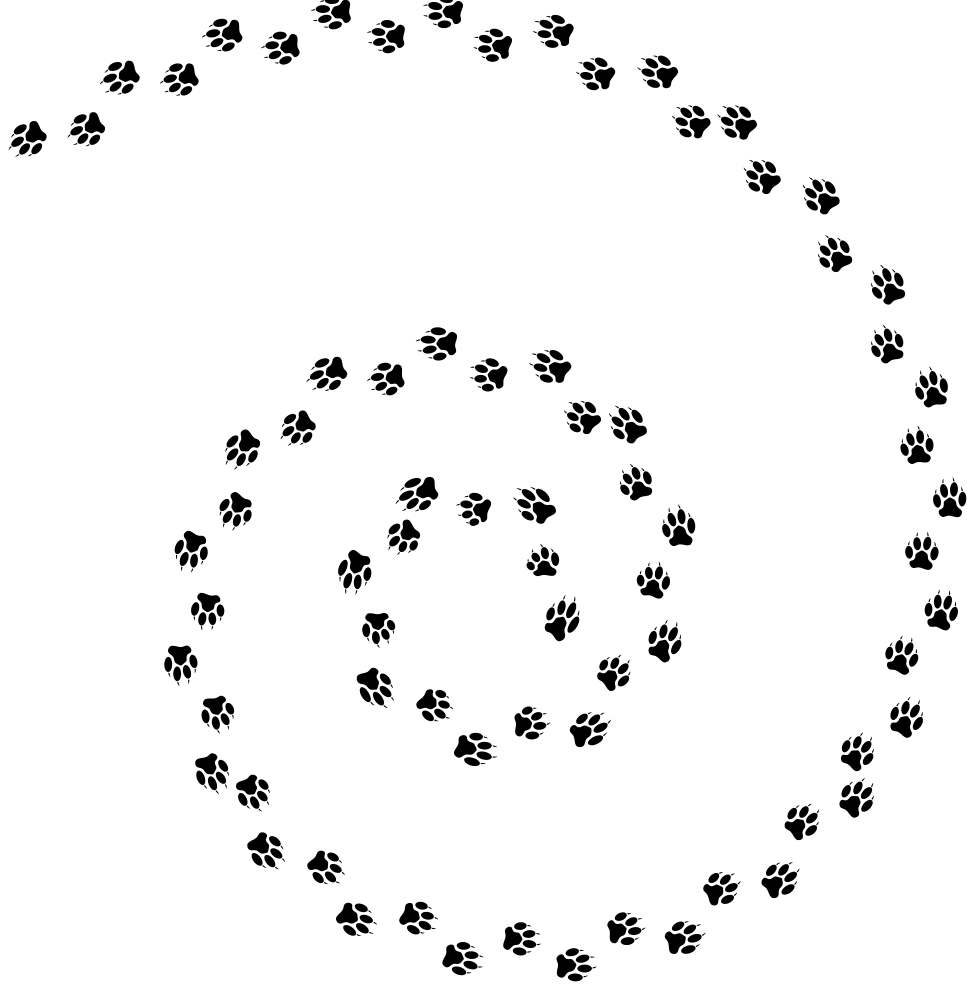
We are honored to be in the beautiful native lands
of the Twana/Skokomish and Squaxin peoples.
Visit www.Skokomish.org and SquaxinIsland.org
to find out more about who they are.



Collaboratively
presented by



**This may be the end of the
passport, but that doesn't
mean your adventures
have to be over!**



**This passport
belongs to:**



Scribble Space

Use this blank space to draw a picture, write a poem, write observations, do a leaf rubbing, or however else you'd like to use it!

Get ready!

Practice safe exploring by packing a hiking pack with these Eleven Essentials! You may not use everything each time, but you'll be glad you brought it if you find yourself in a situation!

- ☐ **Sturdy shoes for happy feet**
- ☐ **A map & compass or GPS so you don't get lost**
- ☐ **Water**
- ☐ **Food & snacks**
- ☐ **Warm layers & rain gear to stay warm & dry**
- ☐ **Sunscreen & sunglasses so you don't get burned**
- ☐ **First aid kit just in case!**
- ☐ **Safety items: mini flashlight, fire-starter, and whistle**
- ☐ **Knife or multi-tool: useful for many things!**
- ☐ **A space blanket for warmth & shelter**
- ☐ **A trash bag: useful if you find litter on the trail!**

Remember to take care of the outdoors and leave no trace!



Adapted from americanhiking.org/resources/10essentials/

Pick your own adventure!

Here are some activities you can do while visiting each location in the beautiful outdoors of Mason County!

Take a photo of a moss-covered tree in the forest or a close up photo of the shells on the shore and share it on social media tagged #PassportToMasonCounty.

Choose a spot to sit down and draw the view so you can remember it. Take a photo to put with it for comparison.

Check out a Birding Backpack from your Timberland Library. What birds did you see today? Close your eyes for 10 seconds. What do you hear? How many human sounds? What was your favorite sound?

List 3 words (thoughts, feelings, descriptions, etc.) that come to mind when you first see the place you visit. What does this place remind you of... another place you have been, a song, a movie, etc.?

Scribble Space

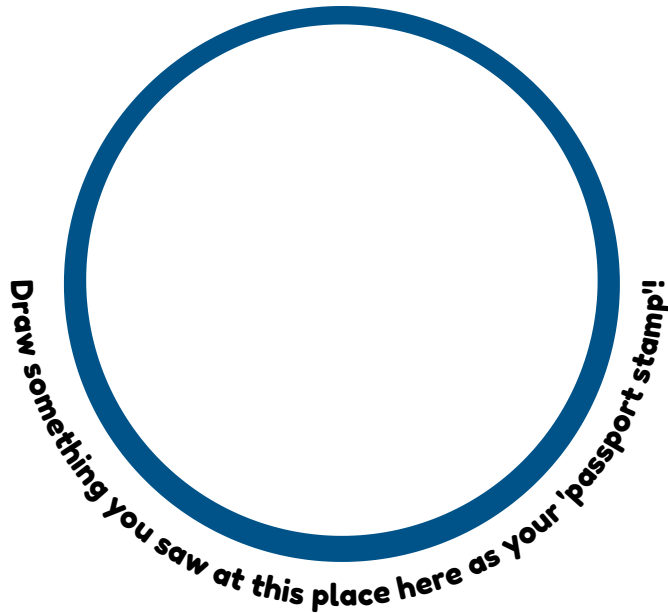
Use this blank space to draw a picture, write a poem, write observations, do a leaf rubbing, or however else you'd like to use it!

Free Choice!

There are so many great places to explore outdoors in Mason County that they wouldn't all fit in this booklet. Now it's your turn to choose where to go!

Try this!

Take a photo at the place you visited, then share it and why you chose this place with [#PassportToMasonCounty](#) **OR** Draw a plant or animal that you saw in this place



Theler Wetlands / Belfair Salmon Center

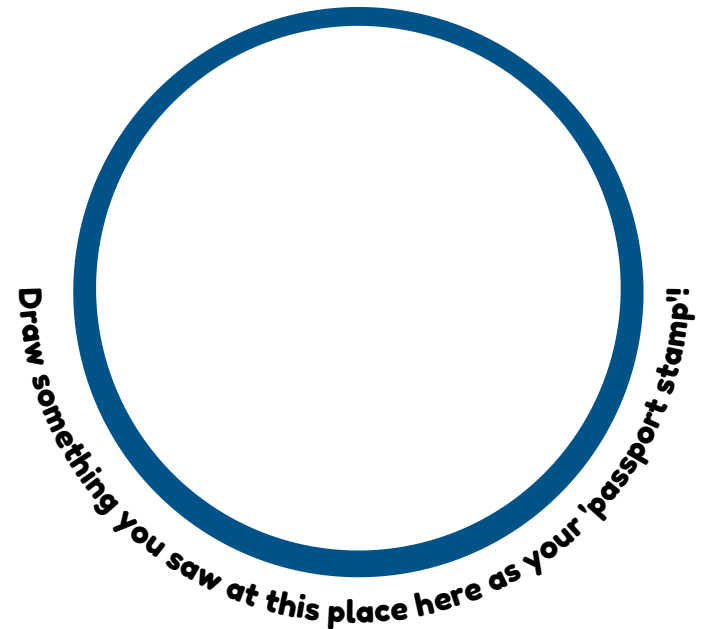


Did you know that Theler Wetlands and the Belfair Salmon Center are right next to each other? You can visit both in the same trip!

Theler Wetlands goes through a variety of habitats - forest, wetlands, and riparian! Dogs will have to stay home; they are not allowed in. The Salmon Center strives to deepen the connection between land, people, and salmon through restoration, education, and research. It offers many programs, activities, and volunteer opportunities to everyone!

Try this!

Take a photo from 1 of 7 boardwalk bridges and share it with [#PassportToMasonCounty](#) **OR** Keep a tally of all the animals you see as you walk the trail and try drawing one or two



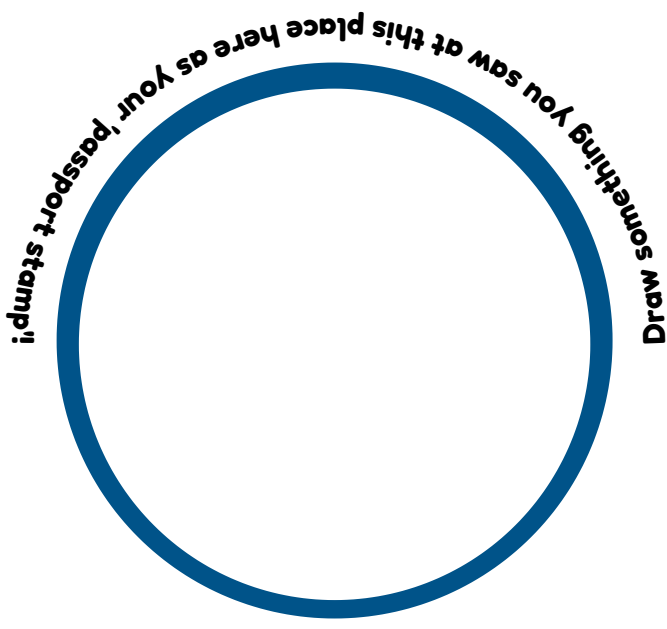
Spider Lake in Olympic National Forest

Hike a loop around Spider Lake through old-growth forest and marshland, located in Olympic National Forest near Shelton. Be aware that the trail is rather steep at first! Parking is free and it's dog-friendly.



Try this!

Find a safe spot to look into the lake and see if you can spot salamanders in the water **OR** Take a photo of your favorite angle of the lake and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty



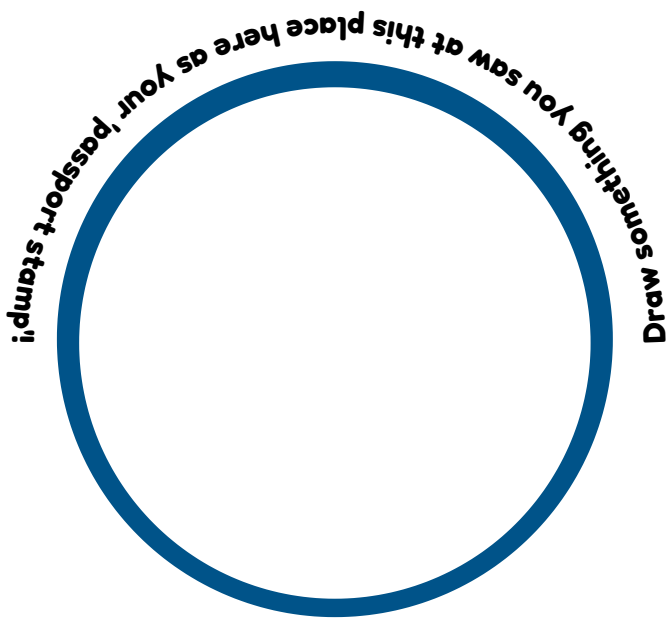
North Mason Timberland Library

Come visit the newly refreshed North Mason Timberland Library in Belfair, open Tues-Thurs 10am-6pm and Fri-Sat 10am-5pm. Ask the friendly library staff for your very own Passport to Mason County and check out some books, movies, or a Birding Backpack (place a hold in the library catalog ahead of time to make sure one is available). And please remember to wear a mask!



Try this!

Take a photo at the library and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Talk to a friendly library staff member!



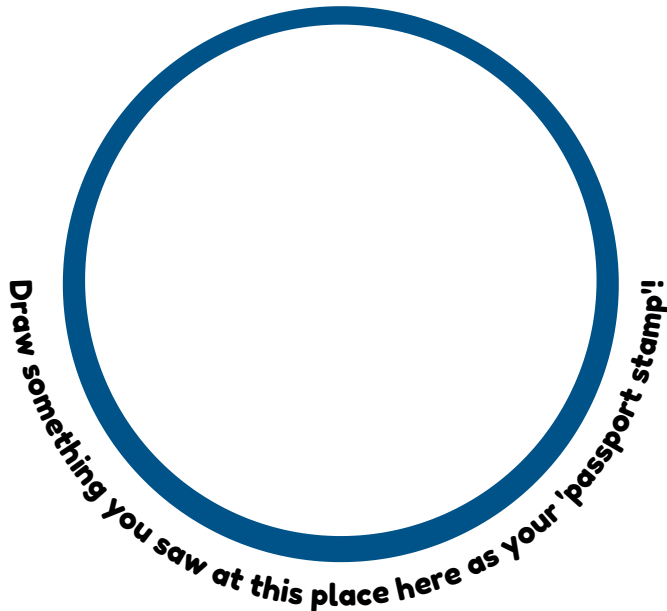
Staircase Rapids at Olympic National Park



Staircase Rapids is in Olympic National Park near Lilliwaup. Take the easy 2 mile loop trail through old-growth forest to a bridge over the North Fork Skokomish River! Keep in mind that the access road to Staircase is unpaved and sometimes closed if snowy, pets and bikes are not allowed on park trails, and Olympic National Park charges an entry fee of \$30/vehicle. Or go on a free day! (Aug 4 & 25, Sept 25, & Nov 11, 2021.)

Try this!

Take a photo of the bridge that makes the trail a loop and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Take a deep breath and focus on the scents in the air. What do you smell?



Belfair State Park

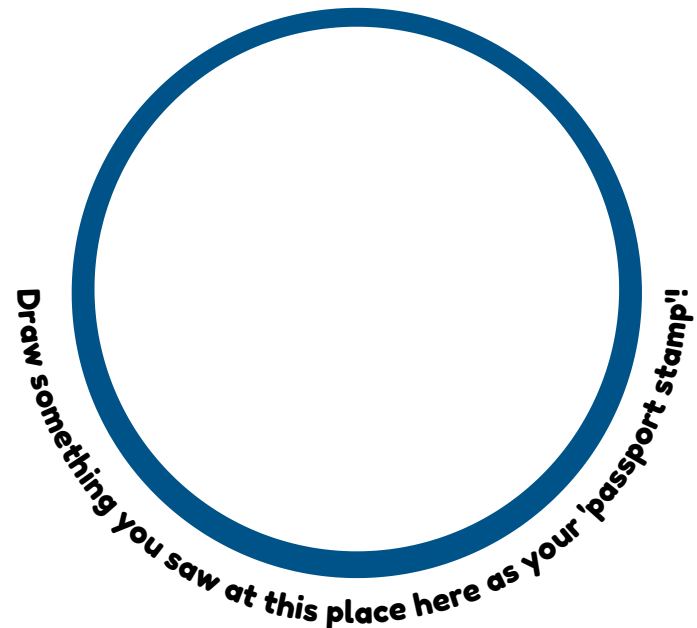


Belfair State Park is at the southern end of Hood Canal, and is accessible year-round and good for all skill levels. Take a walk through forest, wetlands, streams, and shoreline! Dogs can join in if kept on a leash.

A Discover Pass is needed for parking: Check out a Birding Backpack from your local Timberland Library; a Discover Pass is included!

Try this!

Take a photo of your favorite part of the park and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Go to the waterfront and see what species you can find, then create a story or poem about what you think their day is like



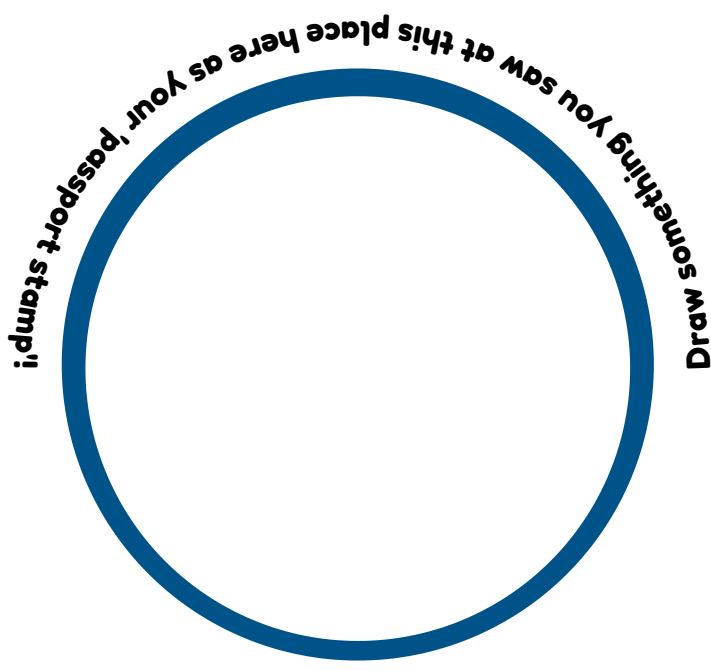
Twanoh State Park



Twanoh State Park is located on Hood Canal in Union. It is accessible year-round, good for all skill levels, and dogs can join in if kept on a leash. **A Discover Pass is needed for parking:** Check out a Birding Backpack from your local Timberland Library; a Discover Pass is included in it!

Try this!

Hike the 2 mile trail and look for plants to identify **OR** Walk the rocky beach and look for sea stars or other tidepool species



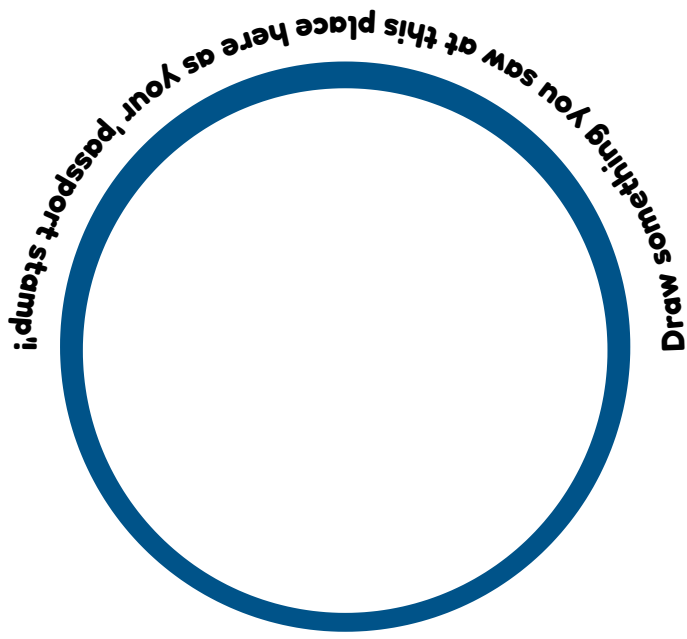
Walker Park



Located on the south shore of Hammersley Inlet in Shelton, Walker Park is a very family-friendly and accessible park full of old-growth trees and shoreline. Parking is free and it's dog-friendly!

Try this!

Find your favorite tree and take a picture of its best angle, then share with #PassportToMasonCounty. What kind of tree is it? **OR** Check out a CD from the library that has nature sounds -- Can you hear those same sounds here?



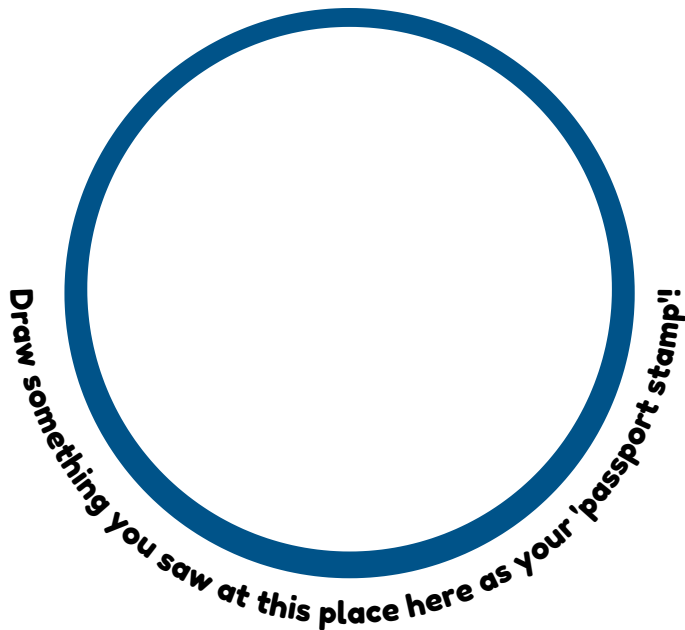
Hilburn Preserve



Hilburn Preserve is a riparian forested hiking trail that follows Goldsborough Creek in Shelton. The creek is a recovering ecosystem for salmon! You'll have to leave dogs at home, but parking is free!

Try this!

Check out a bird or tree identification book from the library and see how many you can identify while here **OR** Take a picture of the salmon ladder and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty!



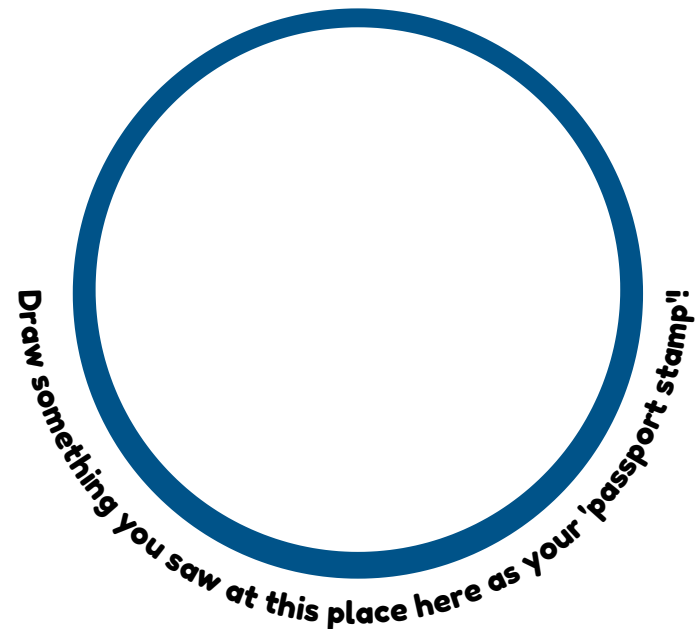
Dalby Water Wheel / Alderbrook Trail



Dalby Water Wheel/Alderbrook Trail is near Union, accessible year-round, is leashed dog-friendly, and good for families. Take a walk through the forest, see the historic water wheel, and enjoy the wildflowers! Parking is free.

Try this!

Take a photo from the directional sign at the trail head and share which way you chose with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Try 'forest bathing'! Stop and listen to the sounds of the forest. What do you hear?



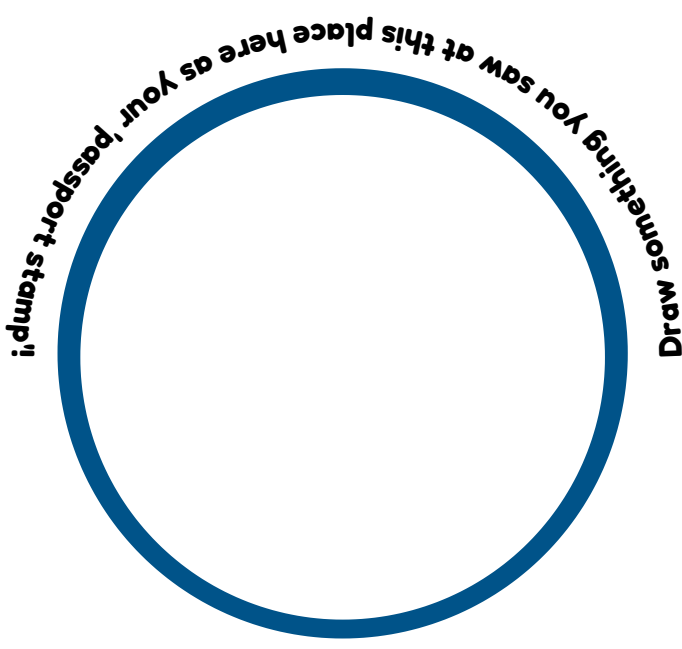
Menard's Landing



Menard's Landing Park is on the shores of Hood Canal in Tahyua, accessible year-round and dog-friendly! Take the walking trail for lovely views across Hood Canal of the Skokomish River Valley, and see clam and oyster beds, tide life, and birds. Parking is free.

Try this!

Take a picture from the gazebo before reaching the water and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Think of three words to describe how this place makes you feel



Draw something you saw at this place here as your 'passport stamp'!

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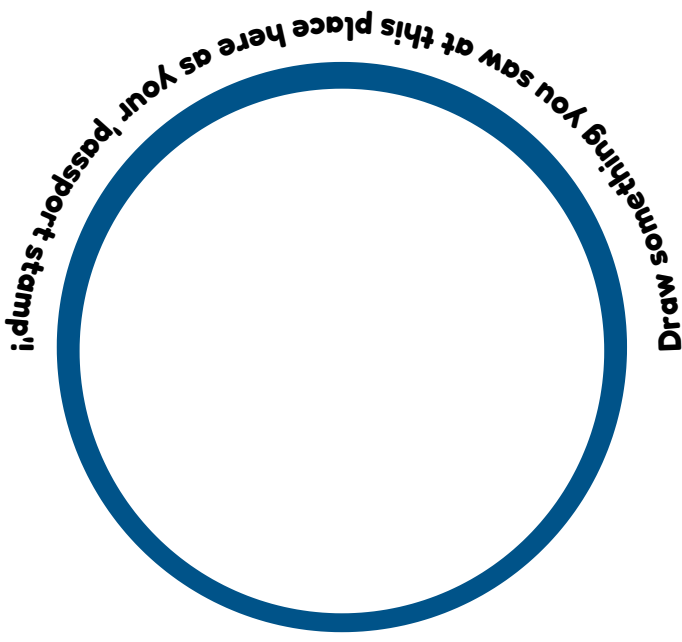
Bayshore Preserve



Bayshore Preserve is located on Oakland Bay in Shelton on the site of a former golf course that is being restored to natural salt marsh habitat. Bayshore Peninsula is an important cultural location to the Squaxin Island Tribe. Take a walk on the accessible trail year-round! Dog-friendly and free parking!

Try this!

Find the restoration site post on the trail and take a photo to document its progress; share it with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Check out a book of nature poetry from the library and read it outside



Draw something you saw at this place here as your 'passport stamp'!

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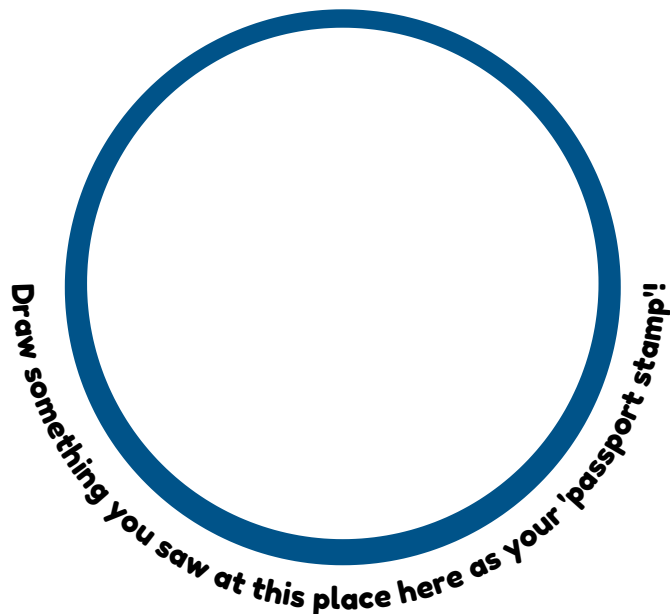
Shelton Timberland Library



Come visit the Shelton Timberland Library; open 11am-5pm Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sat and 11am-7pm Tues. Ask the friendly library staff for your very own Passport to Mason County and check out some books, movies, or a Birding Backpack (place a hold in the library catalog ahead of time to make sure one is available). And please remember to wear a mask!

Try this!

Take a photo at the library and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Talk to a friendly library staff member!



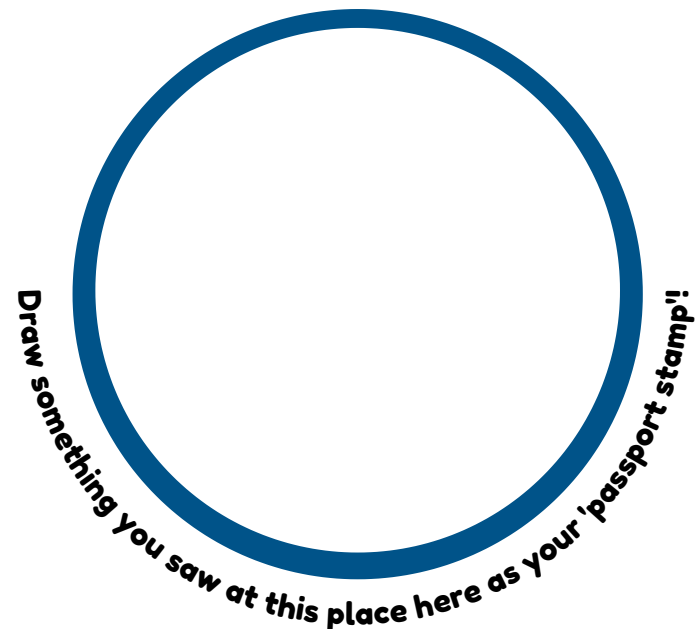
Allyn Waterfront Park



Allyn Waterfront Park is located on Case Inlet between Belfair and Shelton. It is accessible year-round, good for all skill levels, and is dog-friendly. Take a walk on the shoreline and enjoy nature! Parking is free.

Try this!

Walk the length of the waterfront from one end of town to the other; choose a spot to sit down and draw the view so you can remember it. Take a photo to put with it for comparison!



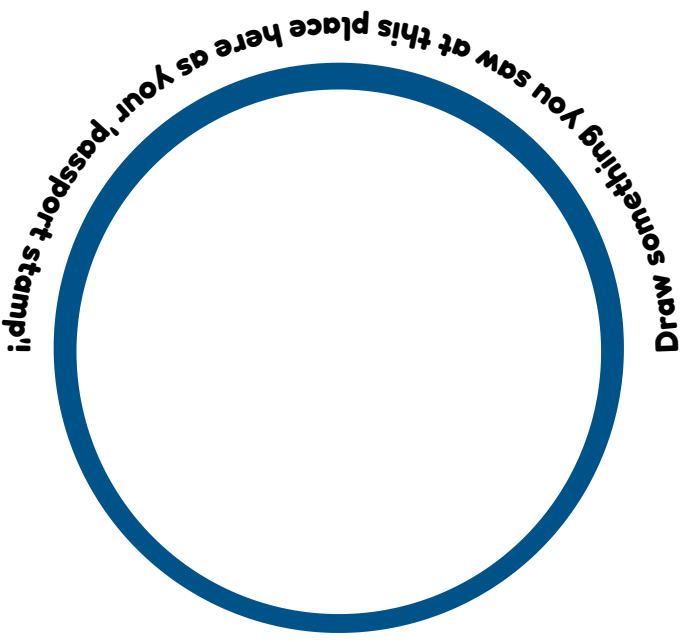
HoodSPORT Community

Trail Park

HoodSPORT Community Trail Park is located above HoodSPORT halfway to Lake Cushman. It's a delightful forested trail with a couple of bridges over Dow Creek, appropriate for all skill levels and open year-round. Check out the new TRL Story Trail there, too! Dog-friendly and free parking!

Try this!

Take a picture from one of the creek bridges or from the Story Trail and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty **OR** Think about the animals that live here. Imagine what their day might look like!



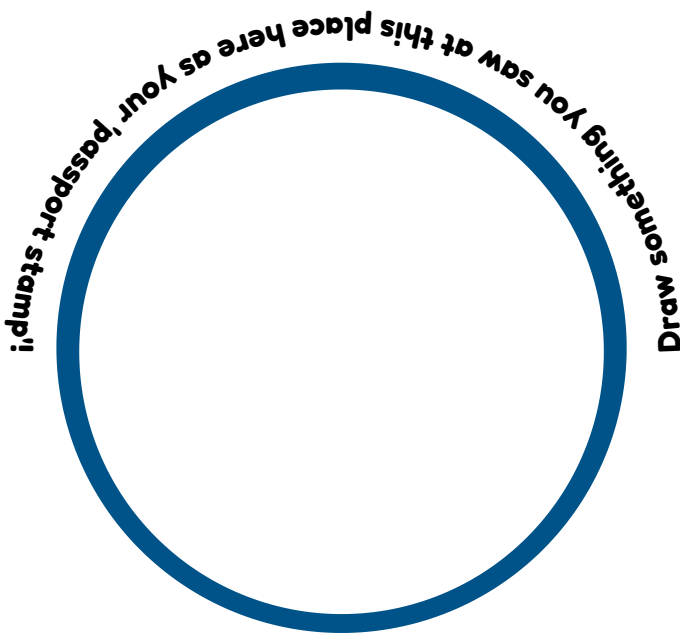
Potlatch State Park

Potlatch State Park is located on beautiful Hood Canal along Highway 101 north of Shelton on the way to HoodSPORT. Walk the short forested hiking trail or visit the shore for gorgeous views of Hood Canal.

A Discover Pass is needed for parking: Check out a Birding Backpack from your local Timberland Library; a Discover Pass is included in it!

Try this!

Visit the shoreline and see if you can identify any creatures **OR** Find a spot to sit and write a poem about this place



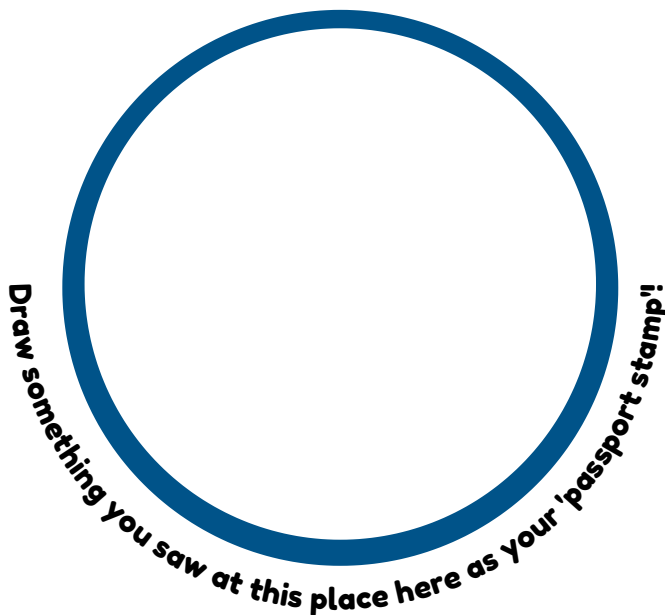
Hoodspport Timberland Library



Come visit the Hoodspport Timberland Library; open 10am-5pm Tues, Wed, Sat and 10am-6pm Fri. Ask the friendly library staff for your very own Passport to Mason County and check out some books, movies, or a Birding Backpack (place a hold in the library catalog ahead of time to make sure one is available). And please remember to wear a mask!

Try this!

Take a photo at the library and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty
OR Talk to a friendly library staff member!



Vincent Creek Falls / High Steel Bridge



View the Vincent Creek Falls crash 250 feet into the Skokomish River from the High Steel Bridge on Forest Road 2340 northwest of Shelton. Stay on the bridge and use caution; the guardrails are only 3ft high. Parking is free and it's dog-friendly!

Try this!

Write down the first three words that come to you to describe how this place makes you feel **OR** Take a picture (safely and carefully!) from the bridge and share it with #PassportToMasonCounty!

