



WOODARD BAY NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AREA

FRIENDS OF WOODARD BAY
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Arranging a Field Trip to the Conservation Area



To arrange a field trip, please contact Michele Zukerberg, Natural Areas Manager, by email michele.zukerberg@wa.dnr.gov or phone (360) 902-1417. Docent/s may be available if arrangements are made before the trip. You do not have to sign a liability waiver, but DNR requires a letter, or some other document, showing proof of your liability coverage through the school.

What you need to know about the site

The parking lot at the site is small. Special arrangements can be made to park carpool cars and/or school bus inside the gate next to parking lot or to help you organize a shuttle from the Chehalis Western Trailhead parking lot up the road. Please discuss with Michele. A Discovery Parking Pass is not required if you are using an exempt vehicle like a school bus or van. If you are carpooling using your own vehicle and parking at the site, then DNR can provide you with a temporary Discovery Pass to use during your visit.

There is one vault toilet at the end of the 3/4 mile Whitham Road. The conservation area **does not have running water or drinking water available**, so please consider bringing some from school. Also, there is no public telephone on site. Cellular phone service may be available, depending on your service provider. **No pets or bikes allowed** to help conserve the ecology of this site. Also, no fires, fireworks, brush picking or feeding of animals. Garbage service is not provided. Pack out what you pack in. Day use only.

Whitham Road, the main access into the conservation area, does not meet the highest standard of accessibility because the grade is too steep, and is designated, "accessible with assistance". For wheelchair access, please make arrangements to have the main gate opened to allow people to drive to the end of Whitham Road (Weyer Point interpretive area) where there is an ADA parking spot.

Preparing students to have a great time and a great learning experience

Appropriate clothing

Discuss with the class the importance of wearing layers of clothing when going on a long walk outside. It may be cool in the morning, but warm in the afternoon. Layers of clothes will allow for many types of weather conditions and unanticipated weather changes. Rain gear may be necessary. Encourage students to wear comfortable shoes for walking on a trail. Sandals and dress shoes are not appropriate.

What to bring

- Clipboards or journals (along with a plastic bag for protection if it rains)
- Pencils (pens will not work on wet paper)
- Plastic bags for trash/gloves for picking up trash

- Binoculars/Cameras
- Cellular phone
- Drinking water
- Plant, bird and animal identification books
- Printed copy of conservation area map
- First Aid Kit
- Student Handouts
- Snack or lunch
- Sunscreen and/or sunglasses

Where are we going?

Before taking a field trip, it is helpful to discuss with students where you're going and what you'll see. Please visit the Woodard Bay Conservation Area website for more information: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/WoodardBay> Whitham Road, the main access road to the conservation area, is a 3/4 mile long trail. It begins at the parking lot and takes you to the Weyer Point Interpretive site and viewpoint overlooking Chapman Bay. This wide, paved, path runs parallel to the shoreline of Woodard Bay. A second trail called the Loop Trail is accessed off the Whitham Road Trail a short distance from the main parking lot off Woodard Bay Road. This 1.5 mile loop trail takes you through the woods and returns you to Whitham Road just before it reaches Weyer Point.

Special expectations for behavior in a conservation area

- Discuss with your class that Woodard Bay Conservation Area is a special place designed to protect the habitats of plants and animals, unlike a park that is meant for play. So what is appropriate behavior for this conservation area?
- When visiting a natural area, calm, observant behavior is appropriate and you won't scare away the wildlife you came to see.
- Stay on the trail. Taking shortcuts can cause damage to plants. Also avoid steep banks.
- Carry out your trash and, if possible, take out litter that might have been blown in or left by others.
- Plants are to be viewed and explored, but not picked. You are a guest in their home and they can't move out of your way.
- Respect wildlife; do not harass any living creatures, keep your voices low so that you don't scare them.
- Throwing things, such as rocks and sticks, could scare animals and possibly hurt fish and other wildlife.

Enjoy your visit!