

Lime Kiln Point State Park

is a special place of natural beauty, wildlife and history.

Wander the craggy shoreline, explore the upland forests or challenge yourself with a short but vigorous hike to breathtaking views above the old limestone quarry. Hidden in the woods are the footprints of buildings that supported the lime industry in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Loop back by the lighthouse, built in 1919, and enjoy a moment of living history as you tour this still functioning navigational beacon.

If whales are the main reason for your visit, plant yourself at one of the many picnic tables along the shoreline trails and witness nature at work. Strong tidal currents and deep waters off the coast create a rich, diverse marine environment that is home to harbor seals, river otters, sea lions and many species of birds. Of course, most important is the orca. Lime Kiln, nicknamed the “Whale Watch Park,” is considered by many to be the best spot in the U.S. to view the beloved orca from land.

Lime Kiln Point State Park is a 41-acre day-use park that is easily accessed by car or by bike from Friday Harbor on San Juan Island.

WATER, FIRE AND ICE

There's no question that the primary lure of Lime Kiln Point State Park is the water. From the park's shoreline trails, you can watch up close as wildlife feeds and plays in the deep-water tidal zones, or you can enjoy panoramic vistas of the Olympic Mountains and Canada's Vancouver Island. Set on a rocky bluff at the west end of San Juan Island, Lime Kiln Point, though small as parks go, leaves an oversized impression of awe for both its raw beauty and abundant wildlife. Three resident pods of orca, also known as Killer Whales, frequent the area from May to September with peak times determined largely by the strength of salmon runs. Humpback, gray, minke, transient orca whales and porpoises also can be seen from the shores of Lime Kiln Point.

Visitors will find informative hands-on exhibits featuring wildlife and local history at the Lime Kiln Point Interpretive Center adjacent to the lower parking lot.

WATER, FIRE AND ICE

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the kilns, used to separate lime from limestone, were burning around the clock. Douglas-fir and other trees taken from the patchwork of forests on the island stoked the kiln fires. Also shaping the historic landscape was the long-established Native American practice of burning undergrowth to enable cultivation of camas. When harvested and baked, the camas bulbs provided a sweet fructose rich food. Today, with the practice of annual burning abandoned, Douglas-fir forests are dominating the landscape, possibly for the first time since glaciation. The large red-barked Madrona trees, which were likely too gangly to be harvested for the kiln fires, now stand as majestic giants throughout the park.

From the upper parking lot, a short walk along an ADA trail takes visitors to the two-story restored lime kiln. This namesake of the park is the largest single kiln still standing in the San Juan Islands.

The next step in time brought the lighthouse to Lime Kiln Point in 1919, during an era when maritime traffic was the lifeblood of our economy. The lighthouse was originally fueled by kerosene, requiring two families to share the responsibilities of keeping the flame on at night, in dense fog and during winter storms. Though the lighthouse still functions today, most vessels in the straits rely on their own on-board navigational equipment. Nonetheless, ascending the spiral staircase and witnessing the flash of light as it sweeps the horizon will transport you to the past.

From the lower parking lot, a trail takes you to the park's historic lighthouse (first lit on June 30, 1919) passing the lighthouse keepers' quarters, which now serve as housing for park staff. Lighthouse tours and park information are available from Lime Kiln's friendly and knowledgeable volunteer staff.

WATER, FIRE AND ICE

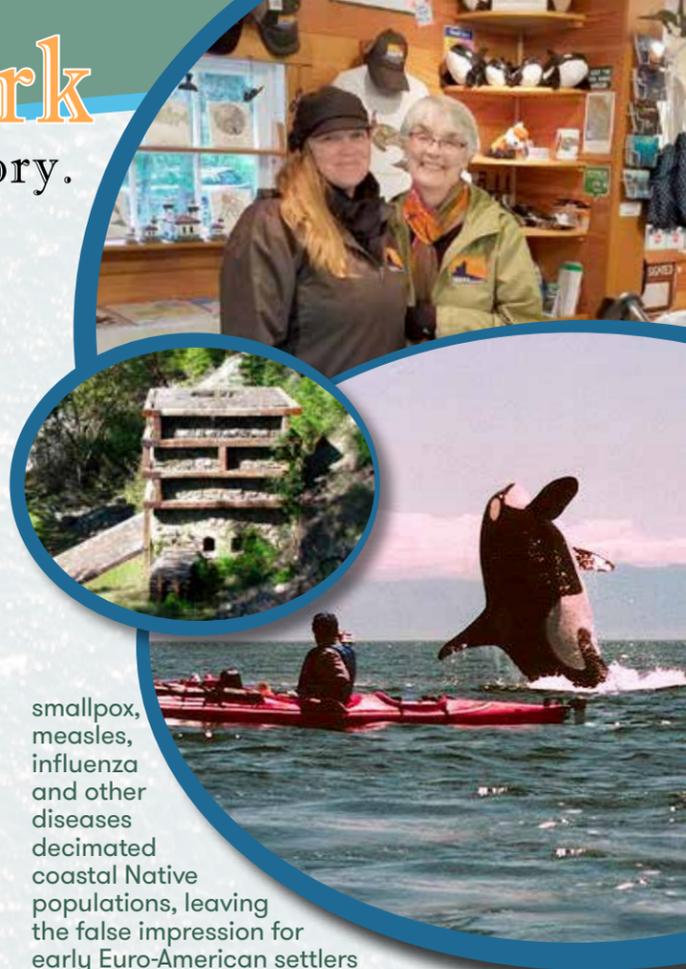
When the mile-high ice of the last Ice Age melted, it carved deep channels in the Straits of Haro, Juan de Fuca and Georgia, creating a flourishing marine environment. Rising sea levels due to glacial melting swelled the seas by several hundred feet, leaving many cultural sites under water. As pressure from the ice diminished, land masses shifted upward, creating a complex island archipelago of igneous rock and sedimentary limestone formed from ancient marine life. These limestone deposits were a key attraction for the islands' early settlers, and lime kilns were built and operated in more than 30 different locations around the islands. In subsequent years, fishing and farming dominated the island economy, and before irrigation came to eastern Washington, the San Juan Islands were known as Washington's fruit basket. Today, Moran, Sucia and many outer island state parks still have productive orchards that were originally planted in the 1930s.

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

The Shifting Tides of Culture

Though the kiln and lighthouse stand today as historic park landmarks, the entire area has a much older history and culture. Archaeological evidence suggests that during the last Ice Age, the first humans crossed over a glacial land bridge from Siberia to North America and migrated south. These early people arrived in the San Juan Islands area about 10,000 years ago.

Archeological evidence and oral histories point to the existence of permanent Native American settlements at Mitchell and Westcott bays as well as Stuart, Orcas and other islands throughout the area. During the late 1700s and early 1800s,



smallpox, measles, influenza and other diseases decimated coastal Native populations, leaving the false impression for early Euro-American settlers that there were no significant permanent Native communities. Those settlers, attracted in part by the grassland prairies that Native camas cultivation had opened, soon cleared more land for farming and introduced livestock and many non-native species of plants to the San Juan Islands.

During this period, the ecosystem changed dramatically, challenging and sometimes decimating local flora and fauna. Many of those changes have remained. Where beavers were once common, they are rarely seen on the islands today. Deer populations, held in check by Native Americans and settlers who saw them as a welcome source of food, today outnumber people on some of the islands.

In recent years, the federally endangered southern resident killer whale population, whose primary food source is salmon, has suffered because of weak salmon runs. Contamination of Puget Sound waters also poses risks to their health and survival, and disturbances from vessels large and small limit their ability to hunt for food and find one another. Washington State Parks is a member of the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery Task Force. The task force was created in March of 2018 to find solutions for the survival and recovery of this majestic and iconic species, treasured in Washington and the greater Pacific Northwest. For more information about the task force, visit online at www.psp.wa.gov/southern-resident-orca-task-force.php

To learn more about orca recovery and how you can help, visit:

- www.wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/orca
- www.whalemuseum.org
- www.orcaconservancy.org
- www.whaleresearch.com
- www.bewhalewise.org

Today, the park showcases the historic and cultural influences of the area and its constantly changing natural processes. As tourism and ecotourism replace resource-based industries, the park environment is adjusting to a new balance between natural and human influences.

Visitors to the park can enjoy exploring the ever-changing marine environment and the various competing ecosystems in the harsh terrain of the shoreline uplands. Please remember that our ecosystem is fragile, and “Leave No Trace.”



Park amenities and facilities

Lime Kiln Point State Park offers a variety of facilities and amenities to make your visit more enjoyable, including:

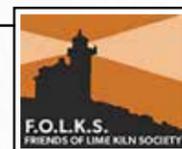
- 18 picnic sites (one ADA-compliant site)
- 0.2-mile ADA-compliant hiking trail
- 1.6 miles of hiking trails
- Interpretive center
- Whale listening station
- Scheduled lighthouse tours

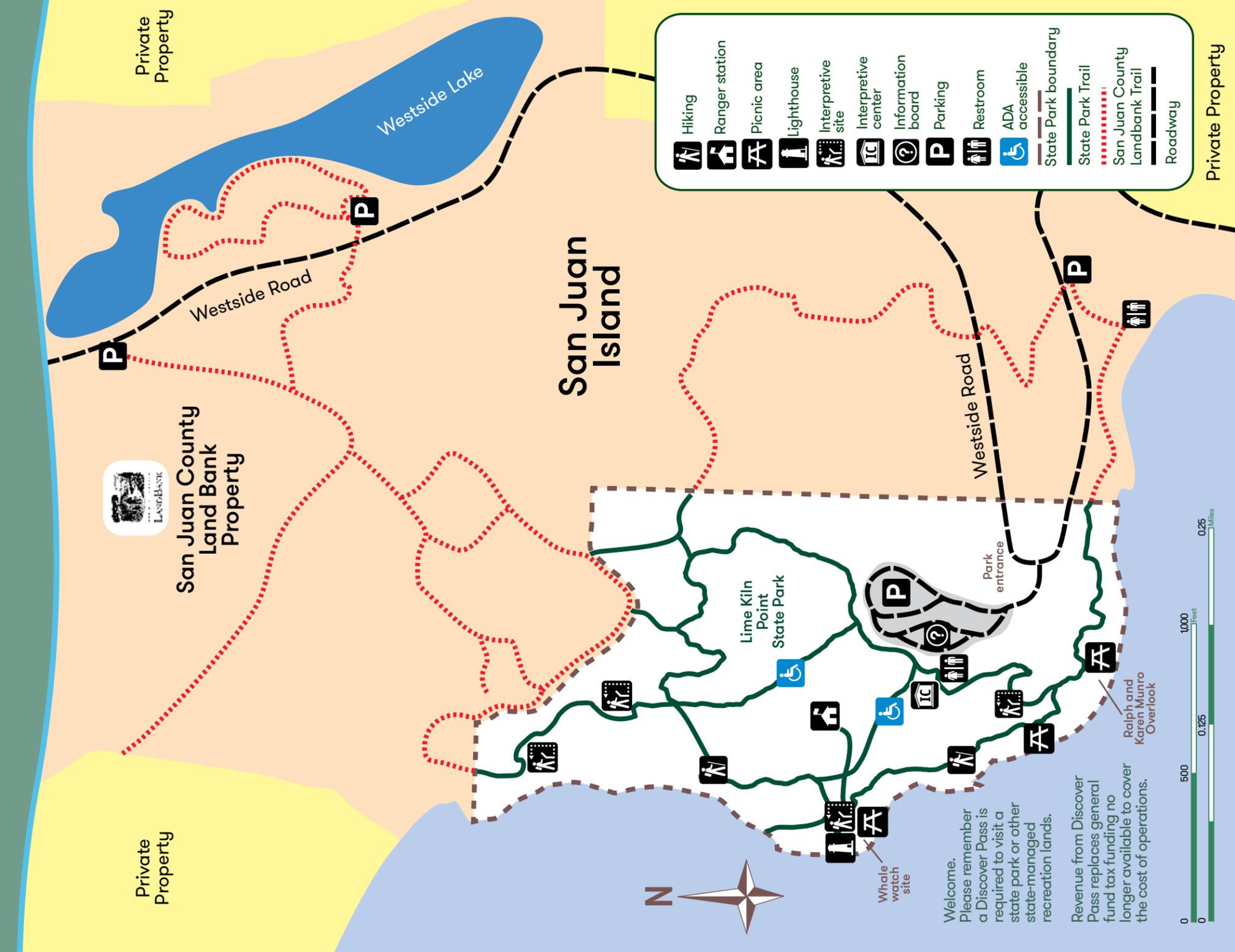
Friends Support

Lime Kiln Point State Park is one of the most beloved parks in Washington and attracts visitors from all over the world. A microcosm of the Salish Sea, Lime Kiln serves as a spectacular educational platform with boundless opportunities for interactive learning experiences.

Friends of Lime Kiln Society's (FOLKS) mission is to provide a unique experience for visitors through support and development of educational programs and activities related to Lime Kiln Point State Park's extraordinary location, diverse ecosystems and historic structures. We seek to inspire awe into action! Thank you for your support!

Contact FOLKS
www.FolksSJI.org
Info@FolksSJI.org
(360) 378-5154





Things to remember

- Hours – The park is open year round, 8 a.m. to dusk
- Winter schedule – Although most parks are open year round, some parks or portions of parks are closed during the winter. For a winter schedule and information about seasonal closures, visit www.parks.state.wa.us or call the information center at (360) 902-8844.
- Wildlife, plants, historic artifacts and all park buildings, signs, tables and other structures are protected; removal or damage of any kind is prohibited. Hunting, feeding of wildlife and gathering firewood on state park property is prohibited.
- Pets must be on leash and under physical control at all times. Pet owners must clean up after pets on all state park lands.
- Stay on designated trails.



The Discover Pass is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: \$30
- One-day pass: \$10 (transaction and dealer fees may apply)



The Discover Pass can be purchased online, by phone or in person. For details, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov or call (866) 320-9933.

Thank you for supporting Washington state recreation lands.



Lime Kiln Point State Park
1567 Westside Road
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378-2044

State Parks information:
(360) 902-8844

Reservations:
Online at www.parks.state.wa.us
or call (888) CAMPOUT
or (888) 226-7688



Parks nearby:
San Juan County Park
English Camp National Historic Park,
American Camp National Historic Park,
Moran State Park (Orcas Island), Spencer Spit State Park (Lopez Island), Sucia, Jones, Posey, Stuart and additional outer island state parks.

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If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks. Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. For more information, visit www.parks.state.wa.us/donations

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650
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www.parks.state.wa.us

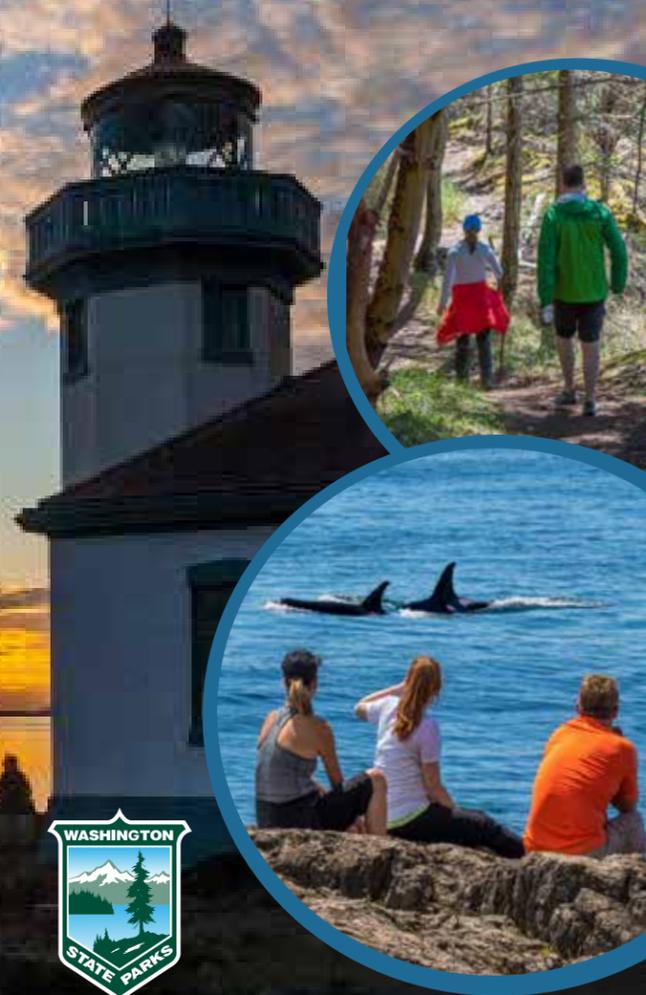
Commission members:
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Agency director: Don Hoch

All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388.

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www.parks.state.wa.us