

# Walking in Skagit County

Family-Friendly Day Hikes



Skagit County offers a variety of hikes. There is something for all ages, capabilities and skill levels. Hikes range from less than one mile to far more than a mile. The most important aspect of hiking in Skagit County is that there is not one area that does not offer spectacular scenery. The hikes listed on these pages is not comprehensive. Finding more family-friendly hiking destinations is easy with our user-friendly maps. Please refer to our parks section beginning on page 64, and look for the hiking symbol and map location for more hiking in Skagit County.

## ANACORTES

**Anacortes Community Forest Lands**  
**Length:** Each area varies in length.

**Location:** Cranberry Lake Forest Area (Map AN F-9/H-5, Pages 6-7), Heart Lake Forest Area (Map FI-SW C/D-2/3, Page 8), Mt Erie Park (Map FI-SW C-3/D-4, Page 8), Whistle Lake Forest Area (Map FI-SW C-2/3, D/E-3, Page 8).

**Description:** Surrounding and including Cranberry Lake, Heart Lake, Mt Erie, and Whistle Lake is 2,200 acres of forest, wetlands, lakes, and mountaintops. Trails are open to hikers, horseback riders, and cyclists year-round. To avoid confusion, a map of



*Hiking with friends and family make for a fun and healthful outing.*

the forest is a necessity, since the trails are numbered, not named, and there are many connections. Hiking trail map guides are available for \$10 from the Anacortes City Parks and Recreation Department, the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, and Anacortes Cyclery. Call (360) 293-1918 for information.

**Washington Park**  
 – “Scenic Loop Road”

**Length:** 2 1/3-mile loop  
**Location:** West end of Sunset Ave (Map AN A/B-6/8, Page 6)

**Description:** A gorgeous paved two-mile loop through a cedar, fir, and madrona forest with expansive views of Rosario Strait, the San Juan Islands, Puget Sound, Burrows Channel, South Sound, Fidalgo Island, and Mt Erie. This single-lane road is closed to traffic until 10 am each morning.

## BAY VIEW/EDISON

**Padilla Bay Shore Trail**

**Length:** 2 1/4 miles

**Location:** Bay View-Edison Rd, just south of Bay View (PB B-7, Page 12)

**Description:** A scenic flat gravel trail follows the southeastern shore of Padilla Bay. Scores of seabirds, great blue heron, and harbor seals can be seen from this shoreline walk. Free parking is available at either end of the trail. Pets on leashes are welcome.

## MOUNT VERNON

**Little Mountain Park Trail**

**Length:** 1 1/2 miles

**Location:** (Map MV-S D/F-2/4, Page 15)

**Description:** A multi-purpose paved road leads to an elevation of 934 ft. The road can be used for walking, but other hiking trails are available. A covered viewpoint provides a spectacular look at Skagit Valley, San Juan Islands, Olympic Mountains, and the tulip fields.



*Watch the excitement of children as they look forward to a day of exploring.*



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### Skagit Playfields

**Length:** 1 1/2 miles

**Location:** (Map MV G/H-1/2, Page 19)

**Description:** Part of a 25-acre complex that provides a fitness trail used for walking and jogging. The trail makes a loop around the perimeter of the athletic field complex and college campus. Several cross trails are available for shorter loops.

### SEDRO-WOOLLEY TO CONCRETE

#### Cascade Trail

**Length:** 23 1/2 miles

**Location:** (Map SC I-4/P-3, Pages 3-4)

A multi-use trail for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Parking located at Fruitdale Rd and State Route 20, or Baker Lake Rd and State Route 20, or Concrete Senior Center.

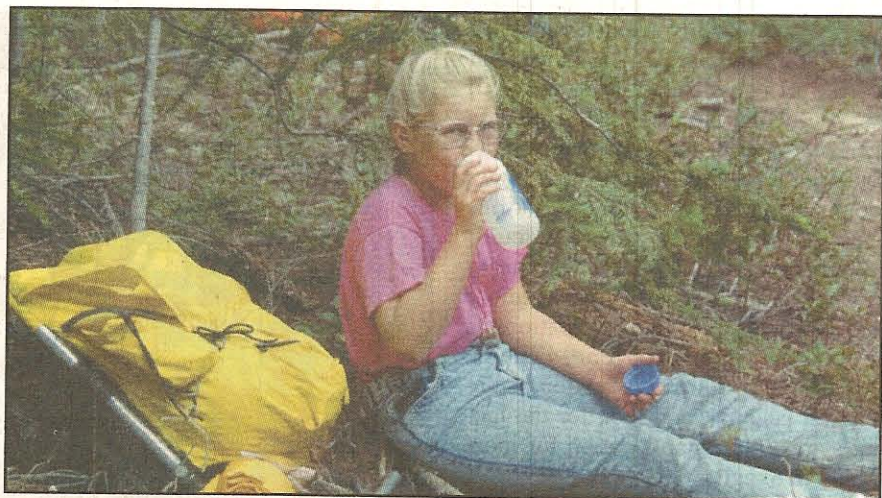
### BIRDSVIEW & ROCKPORT

#### The Shadow of the Sentinels

**Length:** 1/2-mile loop trail

**Location:** 15 1/2 miles north on Baker Lake Rd (Birdsview) off State Route 20.

**Description:** Offers hikers with disabled companions an opportunity to revel in the beauty of an ancient forest. Old-growth forest with interpretive signs. Trees as old as 700 years can be found here. Listen and watch for great horned owls, woodpeckers, and deer. A Northwest Forest Pass is required.



*Be sure to take plenty of breaks and keep everyone hydrated – especially the kids.*

### NORTH CASCADES HWY/ STATE ROUTE 20 EAST

#### Happy Creek Forest Walk

**Length:** 1/3-mile boardwalk

**Location:** Five miles beyond Colonial Creek Campground.

**Description:** This walk is suitable for wheelchairs. Deer may be present here. A Northwest Forest Pass is required.

#### Ross Dam Trail

**Length:** 1 mile

**Location:** Happy Flats parking lot about five miles east of Colonial Creek Campground.

**Description:** A very popular hike for

individuals wishing to see one of Washington's most impressive dams. The hike crosses a bridged stream and drifts through a forest of Douglas fir to the top of Ross Dam. The path continues to Ross Lake and Ross Lake Resort. A Northwest Forest Pass is required.

### ADDITIONAL INFO, LICENSES & PASSES

*Trails in Washington State Parks*, a flyer printed by Washington State Parks, is available through Visitors' Information Centers/Chambers of Commerce.

To obtain free, detailed maps for Blanchard Mountain trails and information about the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, please send a self-addressed, stamped 9x12 envelope to PNTA, PO Box 1817, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

**Northwest Forest Passes** are required for parking and hiking in certain areas of the National Park and Mt Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. A day pass is \$5 per vehicle, annual pass \$30, available at National Park Headquarters, 810 SR 20, Sedro-Woolley. Call (360) 856-5700 for information or call toll free 1-800-270-7504 or online at [www.naturenw.org](http://www.naturenw.org). For more information on local hiking and walking trails see the parks section on Blue Pages 64. ❖



*Your hike along any of the Skagit trails will provide a memorable experience for all.*