

Freund Marsh and Freund Field

'In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.'

—John Muir

Welcome to a Biological Supermarket

Marshes provide fresh water for birds and wildlife, and attract a specially-adapted community of native plants and shrubs. These plants produce berries, seeds and other foods that sustain these wild creatures. Look closely and you may see not only aquatic birds but also raptors and songbirds, snakes, frogs, salamanders and even glimpse an occasional muskrat or raccoon hurrying up the trail.

Habitat Snag

Common
Yellowthroat

Great Blue
Heron

American
Goldfinch

Semipalmated
Plover

Spotted Towhee

We Need Places Like This

Wetlands are parts of the landscape where water accumulates either year-round or seasonally. For nearly 200 years many thought wetlands were a waste of land that could be better used for farms, houses or pavement. Only recently have we understood their essential role in filtering ground water, removing pollutants, slowing flood waters, recharging our underground aquifer and sustaining wildlife. Wetlands help us keep Puget Sound cleaner by absorbing harmful substances that would otherwise accumulate in salmon, shellfish, orcas and other creatures, including humans.

How Can I Help?

Keep pollutants from entering the storm drains. This includes car wash soap, automotive fluids, fertilizers and pesticides. Pick up pet waste in a plastic bag and deposit it in a garbage can. Left on the ground, it can spread harmful bacteria into nearby soil and waters. Keep Puget Sound clean.

Reclaiming Our City's Natural Spaces

This land was some of Oak Harbor's loveliest when Swiss immigrant, Ulrich Freund, came ashore in 1850 to homestead 320 acres at the western end of this bay. After over a century of farming, this portion of his claim is being rehabilitated with native trees and shrubs such as snowberry, Oregon grape and willow. Wildlife is returning, making this section of Oak Harbor's waterfront trail a haven for walkers, nature lovers and those who seek a quiet escape to rest and rejuvenate.

Mallards

Dragonfly

Willow

American Wigeon



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