

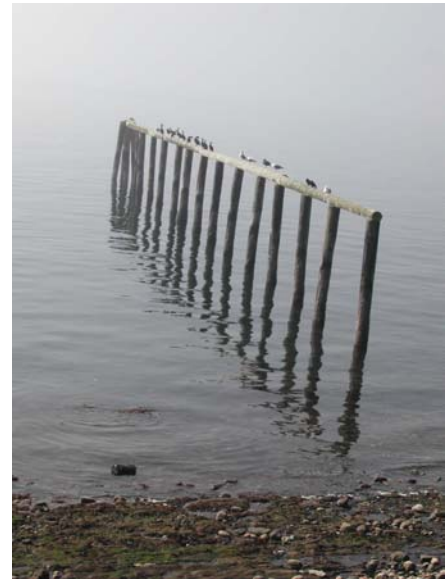
# Fort Ward State Park ISLAND-WIDE USE

**USES & AMENITIES:** For more information see [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov). Scenic views (Olympic Mountains, Orchard Rocks, Blake Island, ferry route, Rich Passage), wildlife watching, boat launching, mooring buoys (2), kayaking, picnicking, walking, biking. The park has one water trails campsite available only to those arriving by human-powered watercraft.



**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Fort Ward State Park is 137-acres with 4,300 feet of shoreline. The smooth gravel/cobble beach along Rich Passage is gradually sloped and easily accessed via the boat ramp or picnic sites. The proximity of a large fish pen operation to Orchard Rocks attracts seals and sea lions. The park includes about ¾ mile of flat, paved road closed to vehicles, several trails, and many shore side picnic areas. The boat ramp is heavily used in the summer months. Park is open 8am to dusk year-round, except upper day-use area is closed mid-October to mid-April. Visitors can extend their shore-view walks and bicycle rides south beyond the park along South Beach Drive.



**BACKGROUND/ HISTORICAL INFORMATION:**

In 1903, Fort Ward was commissioned as a seacoast fort with the primary objective of protecting the Bremerton Naval Shipyard. Two gun batteries are located in the park. During World War II, the navy used the fort as a radio station and training school for communication personnel and installed a submarine net across Rich Passage. In 1958, the navy decommissioned the fort, and Washington State Parks purchased Fort Ward in 1960.

**MAP & DIRECTIONS:**

47°35.39'N 122°31.86'W

Refer to South Bainbridge Area Map.

From Lynwood Center, continue south along Pleasant Beach Drive. Veer right at “Y” intersection with Oddfellows Rd. to stay on Pleasant Beach Drive and continue to Fort Ward State Park boat launch. To get to upper park entrance, veer left at “Y” intersection and follow Oddfellows Rd. to Blakely Ave. Turn right on Blakely Ave. Turn right on Country Club Rd. Turn right on Fort Ward Hill Rd. Park entrance is on right.

