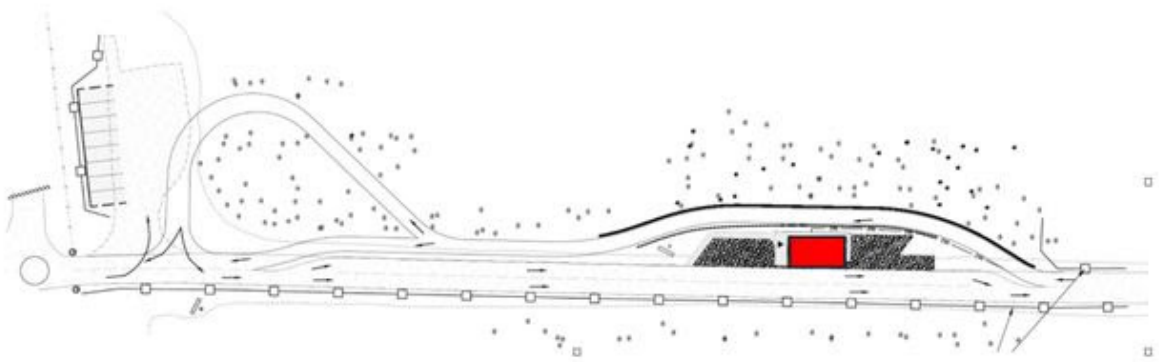




## New Welcome Center is on the way!

We will start to see a big change at the entrance to Fort Flagler State Park starting the first week in June. The Parks Department has hired a contractor (EvoDesign, the same firm that is doing the WWII theater renovation) to construct a new Welcome Center.

As shown in the plan below, the new building will be located in between the north and southbound lanes of the road heading into the park. Adjacent to the structure (shown in red) the road will have two lanes heading into the park so that vehicles that do not need to stop to purchase a pass or register for a campground space, or get advice about their park visit, can bypass the station. There will also be a return lane provided for RV's or vehicles, which is a standard for all WA parks.



The first thing we will see is the cutting of the necessary trees and a good deal of earthwork as the contractor executes the road expansion and building site preparation. The gravel parking area on the left-hand side of the road at the entrance will be temporarily closed during construction. As we have described before, the new facility will provide a visible and proper welcome to the

park, especially for new visitors to the park who often have a hard time orienting. **We hope to have FoFF volunteers helping to guide visitors during busy park times.** The area around the current welcome station, located on the road that heads to the campground area will be restored to a natural condition with demolition of that little structure and planting of native trees and shrubs.



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**Editors note:** *We have a lengthy spring newsletter, a result of catching up from all the early spring work at the Fort! Some email programs can clip newsletter content. Here is a link to a full PDF version of our May 2025 Newsletter. Enjoy!*

### May Newsletter 2025

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## Success in Olympia!

Once again, our 24th District Legislators came through for Fort Flagler in the capital budget! They were successful in including \$1.23 million in the budget bill passed on the last day of the legislative session. This will allow critical work to continue on the park's oldest buildings—those built prior to WWI.

**A special thank you to Representative Steve Tharinger and Senator Mike Chapman for their effort to get this item included! We are lucky to have them.**

In early February an intrepid group (Lee, Mark, Vigo and Paula) from FoFF made the annual trip to Olympia for meetings with our legislators. FoFF also advocated for money to repair the pier at Mystery Bay State Park. We stressed that this heavily used asset has already been out of action for two busy summer seasons. Fingers crossed that the funding will be there for the work to occur this summer.



Congratulations to Senator Chapman for being appointed chair of Natural Resources Committee!



Lee, Mark and Vigo with Representative Tharinger

## WWII Theater Construction Well Underway

EvoDesign Construction, based in Vancouver, WA began work on the WWII theater renovation project in early March and progress is impressive. The contractor has completed construction on all exterior walls, installed a new roof, and is placing the new siding on the building this week. Framing and rough-in plumbing for two ADA bathrooms inside is also complete.



Addressing the rot in the south wall





Reframed insulation going up

Once the contractor's team has completed their work, FoFF will take over on the interior, installing new lighting and a sound system, refinishing floors and getting the space ready for use. We were successful in advocating for funding the project in the State capital budget, selling the idea of a partnership between WSP and FoFF. First step: raising the money we'll need for our part of the bargain.

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## FoFF Volunteers at Work in Upper Campground



450 plants is a lot!



Bill putting the FoFF electric wheelbarrow to work moving rocks.



Deer don't stand a chance with these cages for the plants!

The Upper Campground opened on schedule **May 1st**, thanks to the incredible team of FoFF volunteers (32 of them!) who put in hundreds of hours with park staff to ready reconfigured campground. As previously described the new road cutting through the campground resulted in a major reconfiguration of campsites and a LOT of disturbed ground.

Enter the intrepid **FoFF volunteers!** We hosted 11 work parties over a three month period and planted **450 native shrubs, ferns and plants**. Dozens of yards of pit-run (**Thanks for the in-kind donation from Shold's!**), soil, compost, bark and mulch have been moved and spread.

Working with park staff has been great and we want to give a special shout out to **Panda**, who has been the person leading the planting effort. She's been a combination horticulturalist and cheerleader for our volunteers. Thanks to the help of FoFF volunteers and State Parks staff, we planted more than 400 native plants in the newly configured upper campground at Fort Flagler earlier this year.





Fearless leaders Panda and Jeanette



Hot drinks and snacks appreciated on this cold day in February

**Now we need to keep all the newly planted plants, watered through the coming months** so they have the best chance of survival. Please sign up for one or more watering sessions using the button below.

[Sign up for watering volunteer!](#)

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## Easter Egg Hunt at Fort Flagler State Park



The excitement started to build at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 19** when, under blue skies, a group of nine volunteers showed up to put on fuzzy bunny ears and go to work at the lower campground. First they cleared the egg hunt grounds of animal “residue” and then hid 350 recyclable eggs in two areas, one for ages 1 to 5 and a larger, more challenging area for children 6 to 14. Stations were set up on picnic tables for the egg, candy and stuffie exchange after the hunt. With timing growing short and children on their way, the bunny volunteers were ready.

Just before 10:00 a.m. about 75 children of all ages came and were hopping up and down in eagerness to get started. Armed with baskets and bags, the kids listened as event coordinator, Lee-Alison Sibley, gave the countdown and the hunt began. Little ones ran off followed shortly after by the older children. It may have looked chaotic to anyone passing by, but the bunnies were in control and no child left without candies and a stuffie. Three lucky children found eggs with prize messages inside and received large chocolate rabbits as a bonus.

An annual Friends of Fort Flagler event, the Easter Egg Hunt provided entertainment for the whole community and for the adults as well and all look forward to next year’s celebration.

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May 2025 Newsletter

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# Earth Day at Fort Flagler a Huge Success!



We're thrilled to share that our Earth Day celebration on **April 26th** was a tremendous success! Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of **14 incredible volunteers**, we logged **46 volunteer hours** improving the shoreline and habitat at Fort Flagler State Park. Our beach cleanup crew did an outstanding job removing debris and hauling away a significant amount of treated wood that had washed up along the shore.



Meanwhile, our invasive species team tackled the relentless beach grass—filling 20 large garbage bags with the stubborn invader. This kind of hands-on stewardship is what keeps our park beautiful, safe for wildlife, and enjoyable for visitors year-round. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who showed up and made a difference. Your hard work is truly appreciated! Let's keep the momentum going—stay tuned for upcoming volunteer opportunities and events!

MAY  
14



Native Bees of the Olympic Peninsula & Their Nesting Habitats  
Fort Flagler Hospital  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 1:00 PM PDT

JUN  
7



Native Bee Habitat Walk  
Lower Camp Area  
Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 11:00 AM PDT

JUN  
11



Update on the Avian Flu and it affects on the Caspian Terns  
Online event  
Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM PDT

JUN  
19



Update on the Avian Flu and it affects on the Caspian Terns  
Fort Flagler Hospital  
Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM PDT

JUN  
25



Write-Hike Retreat at Fort Flagler  
Lower Camp Area  
Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM PDT

## Join Us for FoFF Program Events!

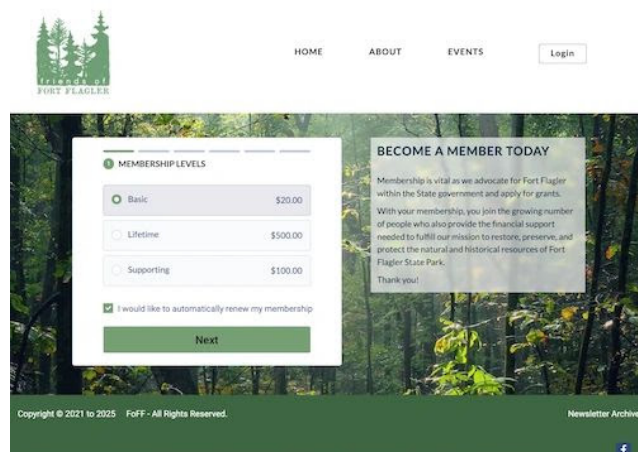
Events are available online for your review and pleasure. Sign up for any of our events at [2025 Events](#).



# Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a meaningful way to give back to the community and support Fort Flagler State Park?

- **Board Member** - Make a difference—join our team and help preserve the beauty and legacy of our beloved state park. This position offers the opportunity to contribute skills, time, and ideas to help maintain and enhance the visitor experience.
- **Museum Volunteers** - work in the museum and gift shop, greeting visitors, providing park information, and sharing its history. Natural History Administrator Support the Natural History Chair by coordinating with guest speakers. Help gather presentation descriptions and bios—all from the comfort of your home.
- **Eventbrite Volunteer** - Collaborate with the Natural History group to set up events throughout the year. This role is entirely remote and helps keep the community connected.
- **Adopt a Trail or Bunker** - If you frequently walk or hike at Fort Flagler, adopt your favorite trail or bunker! Help keep the area clean and report any major maintenance needs to the park ranger.
- **Trail Maintenance** - Join work parties to tackle projects like clearing winter debris, planting, removing invasive species, or spreading bark and rocks. Emails will be sent as projects arise—perfect for those who love hands-on work. Volunteering with the Friends of Fort Flagler is incredibly fulfilling. Not only do you contribute to preserving and improving the park we all love, but you also get to work with like-minded individuals who share a common goal. Ready to make a difference? Sign up online or email us at [fortflaglerfriends@gmail.com](mailto:fortflaglerfriends@gmail.com)



**COMING UP!** Friends of Fort Flagler is launching a new system to improve operations and member/volunteer experience through our website. Exciting updates are coming this spring!

**Friends of Fort Flagler needs YOU!**

2025 will be huge for Friends of Fort Flagler.

Be sure to re-up your membership for this year. We count on your support!  
Having a strong membership base boosts our advocacy efforts—and it is a key aspect of our  
financial support.

You can do this easily online at <https://friendsoffortflagler.org/membership> .

Or send your check to P.O. Box 74 Nordland, WA 98358

Membership levels begin now for 2025 and fees are:

\$20 Basic, family or individual

\$100 Supporting membership

\$500 Lifetime membership.

**Become A Member Today!**

Thanks in advance for your support!

Friends of Fort Flagler | PO Box 74, Nordland, WA 98358 [unsubscribe](#)