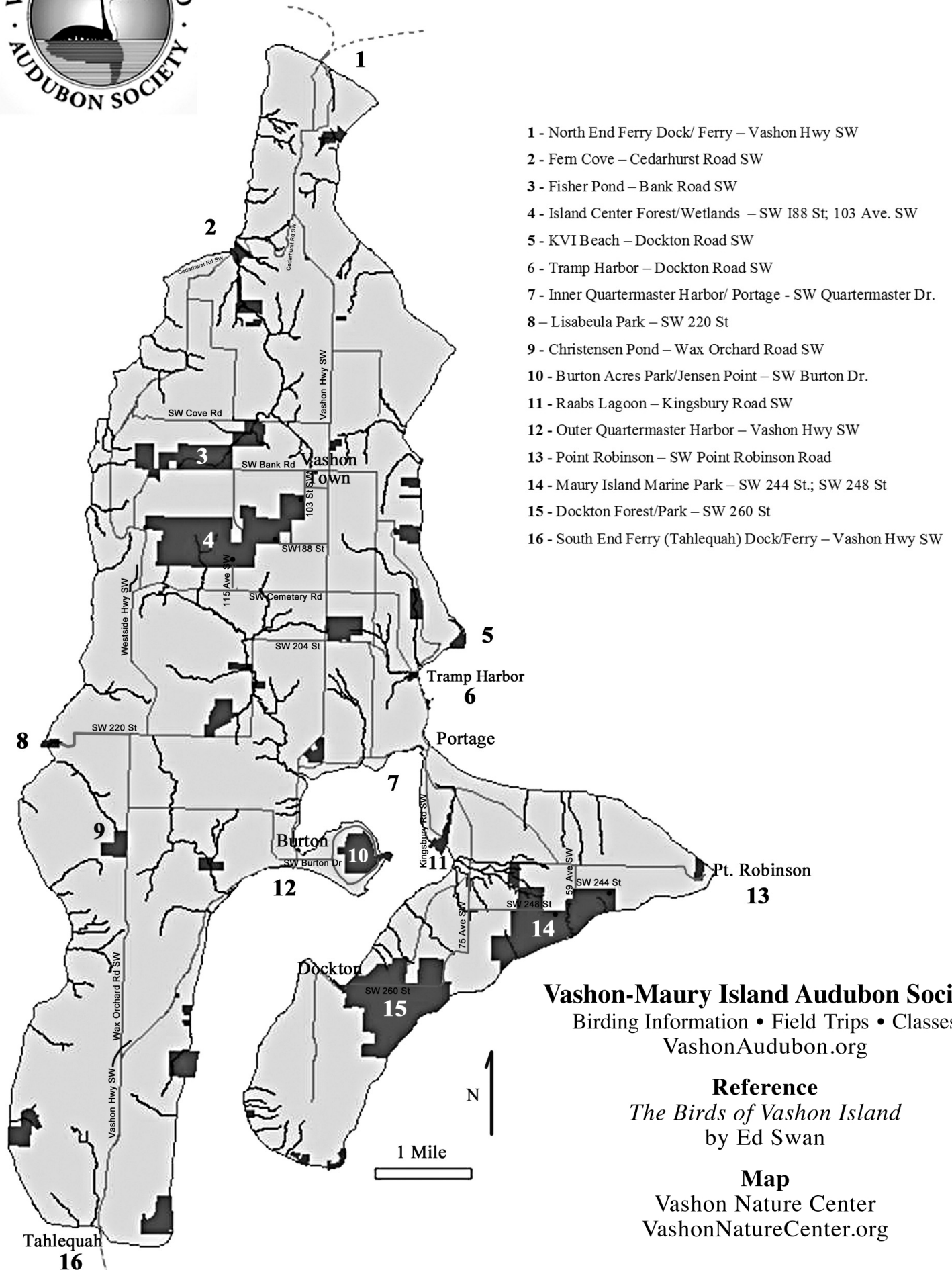




Vashon's Natural Areas



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1. **North End Ferry Dock** – While waiting for the ferry get out the binocs and check out the bird life. What kind of gulls are there and what is their maturity stage? What are those crows up to? How about those cormorants out on the piling. There is a very primitive boat ramp for access to the beach.
2. **Fern Cove & Shingle Mill Creek** – Park along Cedarhurst Road SW about 100 yards east or at Shingle Mill Creek. This is the delta for one of the few year-round creeks on the island. When the tide is out it is especially good for gulls and shorebirds.
3. **Fisher Pond** – Access to trails around lake from SW Bank Road and to northeast section from SW Cove Road at south end of airport. Observe waterfowl on one side and mixed forest on the other as you walk along this trail circling this beautiful pond. Foot traffic only; no dogs, bicycles or horses.
4. **Island Center Forest & Wetlands** – Several access points, (SW 188 Street; 103 Place SW; 115 Ave SW and north of the dump access road on the West side Highway) take you to over 400 acres of premier hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. There are a variety of upland habitats including Mukai Pond accessed from SW Cove Road and 115 Ave SW.
5. **KVI Beach** – Access from SW 204 Street to Chautauqua Beach Road. This is one of the few minimally disturbed saltwater estuaries in the area. Many sea birds can be viewed from its shores.
6. **Tramp Harbor** – Park in the parking area off Dockton Road SW and you see the birds without getting out of your car. Go out on the pier, about a quarter mile south, to see even more.
7. **Inner Quartermaster Harbor & Portage** – From this isthmus, which was formerly marshland before the roads, you can look on both sides to see two types of water habitats.
8. **Lisabeula Park** – Go west on SW 220 Street down to this historic beach for nice views of Colvos Passage.
9. **Christensen Pond** – The trail leaves Wax Orchard Road about 100 yards south of SW 236 Street. This is the hidden gem of Vashon. A half-mile trail will take you around this small pond, which is actually more like a wetland in the summer.
10. **Burton Acres Park & Jensen Point** – On the east tip of Burton Peninsula off SW Harbor Drive. A short beach with a boat ramp and access to Quartermaster Harbor. Check out VashonWaterSports.com for human powered watercraft rental. On the other side of the road, a quarter mile trail loops through Burton Forest.
11. **Raabs Lagoon** – At the end of Kingsbury Road SW you'll find a small park with the protected waters of man-made, Raabs Lagoon on one side and the more open water of Quartermaster Harbor on the other.
12. **Outer Quartermaster Harbor** – This area is best seen from Vashon Highway SW just south and west of the town of Burton. Along with the inner harbor this is a registered Important Birding Area (IBA) with a large flock of Western Grebes in addition to many other water birds wintering over. A real treat if you are able to see the area from watercraft.
13. **Point Robinson** – This park on the end of SW Point Robinson Road has a historic lighthouse sitting on about a half mile of beach. Look for Orca Whales October through March.
14. **Maury Island Marine Park** – Park at the end of SW 244 Street and walk or ride the half mile down to the beach. Another trail leaves SW 248 Street for a more primitive experience. At the bottom you'll find about a mile of beach with a saltmarsh on the north end.
15. **Dockton Forest & Park** – Park near the sign on SW 260 Street for access to the trails in Dockton Forest. Here you'll find 125 acres of premier hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Drop down to Dockton Road SW and find the park with a boat ramp, children's play area, about a quarter mile of beach and a fine view of Quartermaster Harbor.
16. **South End Tahlequah Dock & Ferry** – Check out what's sitting on the derelict dock next to the ferry landing. Various gulls and Double Crested, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants have been seen.