



Photo by Edmund Lowe Photography

LUMMI ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

AISTON PRESERVE/REFLECTION WOODS

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Approved by the LIHT Board of Directors
May 22, 2023

Lummi Island Heritage Trust Mission and Acknowledgment

The mission of Lummi Island Heritage Trust (LIHT) is to create a legacy of abundant open space, native habitat, and natural resources on Lummi Island by inspiring people to protect and care for the island's farms, forests, wetlands and shorelines forever.

Lummi Island Heritage Trust is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization and belongs to the Washington Association of Land Trusts and the Land Trust Alliance. Since its inception in 1998, the Heritage Trust has partnered with island landowners and the island community to conserve 1,215 acres of Lummi Island's disappearing open spaces and natural areas, and created four beautiful nature preserves. The Otto Preserve, the Curry Preserve, the Aiston Preserve, and the Baker Preserve provide large contiguous protected habitats for birds and other wildlife, as well as places for people to experience nature. In addition to its preserves, the Heritage Trust has partnered with 16 private landowners to establish conservation easements on 707 acres of private land on Lummi Island.

In 2015, the Heritage Trust purchased a former rock quarry on Lummi Island, now renamed the Aiston Preserve. Restoration of the nearshore area and reclamation of the mine are complete and the property will open to the public on July 15, 2023.

In 2022, The Heritage Trust purchased 120 acres adjacent to the Aiston Preserve and named it Reflection Woods. This property will be managed as a part of the Aiston Preserve.

The Lhaq'temish, the Lummi People, are acknowledged as the original inhabitants of Washington's northernmost coast and southern British Columbia. Being the original fishers, hunters, gatherers, and harvesters of Lummi Island's abundance for thousands of years, they have worked, struggled, and celebrated life on the shores and waters of the Salish Sea. The Lummi People see their homeland as a place to enjoy an abundant, safe, and healthy life in mind, body, society, environment, space, time, and spirituality; where all are encouraged to succeed and none are left behind.

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I. Introduction

Lummi Island Heritage Trust (LIHT) purchased the Lummi Rock LLC property in September, 2015 (Whatcom County tax parcels: 370124 175195, 370124 065212 and 370124 191084). The property is located on Lummi Island adjacent to Hale Passage in Whatcom County, Washington, Township 37, Section 24, Range 1E and UTM Zone 10.

Named the Aiston Preserve, the property totals 105 acres and includes shoreline with local, countywide, and regional significance. The Preserve contains approximately 4,000 feet of saltwater shoreline, including a portion of Smugglers Cove, pocket beaches and critical near-shore habitat. The associated upland area includes about 85 acres of intact forestland with native plant and wildlife habitat, with about 20 acres having been disturbed by mining activities. Aiston Preserve management activities included reclamation and restoration of the upland and nearshore areas that were damaged by past mining activity. Following reclamation and restoration of the site, low impact saltwater access and upland access for public use has been created on portions of the property.

The Aiston Preserve project includes partnerships with the Northwest Straits Foundation, The Washington State Department of Natural Resources Aquatics and Mining Divisions, Whatcom County Parks Department, Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Funding partners include the Washington State Department of Ecology via the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (Marine Shoreline Protection Grant), The Whatcom County Conservation Futures Fund, The Rose Foundation, and numerous private donors.

Whatcom County holds a conservation easement on the 105 original acres of Aiston Preserve (AF# 2016-0303262). The conservation easement further protects the ecological functions, plant and wildlife habitat, and water quality of the Aiston Preserve, while allowing for low-impact recreational activities.

The addition of 120 acres adjacent to the original Preserve (Whatcom County tax parcels: 370124 064062 and 370125 194459), in July 2023, brings the total acreage of the Preserve to 225. This new addition, formally named Reflection Woods, consists of mature forest that has been minimally logged over the past 70 plus years.

The LIHT holds a water right to draw water from Aiston Creek for irrigation purposes.

II. Property History

A. Aiston

Previous to European settlement, this area was used by the Coast Salish People who fished, hunted and lived here for thousands of years.

In 1909, the Japanese American Fish Fertilizer Company owned a part of the property and Japanese men were smuggled in to work at the plant, hence the name “Smuggler’s Cove” now known as Smugglers Cove. In 1929, the property was sold to the Anacortes Ice Company.

In 1942, Homer and Marguerite (Peggy) Aiston purchased the land and homesteaded the property. They built a cabin on Abner Point and hauled supplies from Bellingham in their double-ended boat, *The Doxie*. Peggy researched and wrote a factual history of the island’s earliest days and contributed a column of historical vignettes to every issue of the *Lummi Island Newsletter* for fifteen years (1978-1993).

In 1958, the Aistons sold the property to Lloyd and Kay Niedhamer. In 1964, the Niedhamers built a house at the end of Beach Avenue, and they lived there until 1999 when Lummi Rock, LLC, purchased the property for rock and gravel mining. Lummi Island Heritage Trust purchased the property in 2015 as part of its mission to “create a legacy of abundant open space, native habitat, and natural resources on Lummi Island”. Following assessments of usefulness and structural condition, LIHT deconstructed the Niedhamer house in 2016 - 2017, re-using and/or recycling 95% of the materials. The garage associated with the house remains and serves as a secure storage building for the Aiston Preserve. Restoration of the deconstructed house area was achieved by adding local topsoil, woodchips, and native plants. Due to their condition, the small cabin, outhouse, and storage building located at Abner Point were removed as well.

Small-scale mining occurred first in 1933 for a few months when 50,000 tons of rock was mined for the breakwater at Squalicum Creek in Bellingham. No additional mining occurred between 1934 - 1964. Small scale rock and gravel mining occurred off and on between 1969 - 1978. Intensive mining started in 1999 when Lummi Rock purchased the land and greatly increased from 2005 until 2013 when Lummi Rock went into receivership. No mining activity has occurred since 2013.

Through the years, human use and mining has impacted about 20 acres of the property that includes the mined area and associated parking areas, roads, landings, pullouts, and structures. The majority of the land remains undisturbed as forestland containing native plant and wildlife habitats and rocky shoreline with beach and tideland habitats.

In the Fall of 2021, overwater structures and in-water pilings were removed from the quarry site. This was followed in the Fall and Winter of 2022-2023 with the restoration phase of the process. On site woody debris was mulched and mixed with soil to create a planting medium for reforestation. Rock berms were constructed to keep the public away from the quarry face and to line pathways for walkers.

In March of 2023, volunteers from the island and nearby communities planted over 800 trees and shrubs in the quarry area as a part of the restoration process.

B. Reflection Woods

In 2022, 120 acres, adjacent to the Aiston Preserve and owned by Sallie Curry, widow of Dale Granger, was purchased and named Reflection Woods. Platted in 1873 for European settlement, the land was purchased in 1946 from Whatcom County by Art Granger. Frank Granger purchased the property from his father in 1955 and Frank sold it to his son, Dale in 1976.

The original old-growth forest was logged in the late 1800s to early 1900s with some large old-growth cedar and fir stumps from that era remaining. The area was logged again in the 1940s and 1950s with the current forest dating from that period. Approximately two acres of the property was logged sometime over the past 15 years. Some large, living, old-growth Douglas fir remain scattered throughout the 120 acres.

An old logging road constructed in the late 1940s runs through a portion of Reflection Woods and continues to Inati Bay, which is located on the east side of the island below Abner Point. The road begins on LIHT property and continues into property owned by an adjacent landowner. The portion of the road on LIHT property has been renamed, Inati Trail and was opened to the public on January 1, 2023. A second trail, Deer Fern Way, which traverses both the original Aiston Preserve and Reflection Woods was opened on April 1, 2023.

III. Climate Change

Although uncertainty exists regarding the specific impacts of climate change in the Pacific Northwest and on Lummi Island, the LIHT recognizes that a changing climate due to anthropogenic causes could have significant impacts on Lummi Island and the Trust preserves in this century.

Between 1895 and 2014, the Puget Sound region warmed by about 1.3 degrees F. and climate modeling suggests that Western Washington will continue to warm throughout the 21st Century as greenhouse gas levels continue to rise.

Because rising temperatures result in greater water vapor content, which, in turn, causes greater energy release during phase transitions, more severe rainfall events can be expected in the future. This can lead to flooding and landslides particularly along shorelines. Rainfall records over the past 40 years for Lummi Island show wide variability with some years wetter and some dryer and is in keeping with regional rainfall trends. However, there is some indication that winter months may become wetter and summer months drier.

Sea level has risen in some areas of Puget Sound but rates of rise are affected by tectonic events such as earthquakes and by the continuing effect of continental glacial rebound.

However, regional sea levels are expected to rise over this century because of thermal expansion from a warming ocean and because of glacial melting.

Effects of a warming climate on Trust preserves could include more stress on trees better suited for cooler temperatures. Stressed trees are more susceptible to insect and fungal invasions.

Careful monitoring and stewardship of the Trust preserves will be necessary to identify and respond to problems associated with a changing climate.

IV. Management Goals

The Aiston Preserve Management Plan that includes the Reflection Woods property, is an adaptive document and it is anticipated that there will be a need for ongoing revision as restoration progresses and as environmental and social conditions change.

Lummi Island Heritage Trust's vision of the Aiston Preserve takes into consideration its overarching Strategic Priorities and Goals set forth in their Strategic Plan. The Trust is committed to managing its lands in perpetuity primarily for the benefit of native plants and wildlife, allowing low-impact public use where appropriate.

Lummi Island Heritage Trust has developed six goals for the Aiston Preserve taking into consideration the overarching strategies set forth in the Trust's mission and goals statement.

Goal 1: Mitigate, reclaim, and permanently protect the areas damaged by previous mining activity at the quarry site, including approximately 500 feet of Puget Sound/Salish Sea nearshore and approximately 20-acres of upland habitat.

Goal 2: Manage the Preserve in a manner that will 1) protect upland and nearshore habitats for the benefit of native plants and wildlife, 2) support wildfire prevention, 3) encourage long term restoration efforts that lead to clean storm-water runoff, healthy natural nearshore and old-growth forest ecosystems, 4) consider the effects of climate change, and 5) increase biodiversity.

Goal 3: Encourage scientific research opportunities that explore current and historical data, develop flora and fauna inventories, and provide accurate baselines for the Aiston Preserve, including Reflection Woods.

Goal 4: Encourage environmental education programs and events on the Preserve that inspire stewardship and protection of conservation values.

Goal 5: Provide community education through volunteer activities and educational guided tours to access and view the property while respecting neighboring landowners and avoiding biologically sensitive areas.

Goal 6: Provide for safe low impact public use.

V. Natural Resources

A. Geological Features

The rock previously quarried from the Aiston Preserve and commonly called greywacke is the sandstone, shale and mudstone of the Lummi Formation, which is found throughout the southern half of Lummi Island. The greywacke, which is about 145 - 150 million years old, is underlain by basalt and chert that is thought to be ancient sea floor.

At the Aiston Preserve, much of the bedding is tilted from the horizontal while some of the greywacke is more massive in texture.

In some former mining areas near the steep cliffs of the Preserve, layers are seen that indicate that the sediments were formed in an environment of underwater landslides called turbidity currents. These sediments show the characteristic fining upwards sequence with a single bed having light to dark layers with the coarser grains below the finer ones.

The white veins that are seen crossing the bedded layers are either quartz or calcite/aragonite; these were crystallized from dissolved minerals in very hot water flowing through cracks in the rocks during metamorphism.

These rocks have gone through intensive metamorphism and have been deformed in a subduction zone similar in character to the environment found off the coast of Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia today. Subsequent to this deformation, faults and fractures have developed.

Between 20,000 and 10,000 years ago glaciers covered most of the Salish Sea and Puget Sound lowlands. Since the glaciers retreated, the entire area has gone through uplift estimated at around 300 feet. Some areas of the Lummi Formation show the grooves and striations left by these glaciers.

Rock quarried here was barged out and went to local and regional ports, offloaded and used as roadbed material on marine breakwaters, and for riprap along shorelines.

Forested areas of the Preserve, including Reflection Woods, have a layer of glacial overburden from the last glacial period approximately 12,000 years before present. Sediment runoff from past logging practices has resulted in thinner layers on cliff areas.

Like the rest of the mountain, Reflection Woods, is composed of the sandstone, shale, and mudstone of the Lummi Formation. Numerous rocky balds and deep ravines characterize this area of the preserve. These ravines

are similar to those found on the Baker Preserve and nearby Washington Fish and Wildlife properties. The narrow deep ravines of Reflection Woods drain water to lower sections of the land ultimately forming wetlands or discharging to Hale Passage.

B. Flora and Fauna

The Aiston Preserve contains diverse habitats; terrestrial, marine, and nearshore ecosystems with high conservation value, such as mature Douglas fir forest with snag-rich areas, near-vertical cliffs, nesting habitat for several species of concern, kelp and eelgrass beds, and rocky shorelines with pocket beaches.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) data show the Aiston Preserve as a “Biodiversity Area and Corridor Priority Habitat”, and lists the following Priority Species at the site:

- Hard Shell Clam
- Pinto Abalone
- Dungeness Crab
- Golden Eagle Breeding Area

The Aiston Preserve’s plant communities, like the Baker Preserve, which is designated as a Natural Area Preserve by the Washington National Area Program, are relatively species rich for a Puget lowland forest type. The forested sections of the Preserve supports a vibrant forest community of diverse species and a fragile succession of flora along the rock outcrops defined as "balds" by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The uncommon and sensitive plant species on these fragile balds, such as the fairy-slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*) and delicate mosses can easily be destroyed by foot traffic and therefore management includes monitoring and protective actions as needed.

The forests on the Preserve were logged as part of the early use of natural resources on Lummi Island. Much of the land has been recovering and reforesting naturally with minimal disturbance for the past 70-80 years. Some privately owned parcels adjacent to the Preserve are presently actively logged. Reflection Woods contains a number of old growth Douglas fir and large snags providing extensive bird habitat for species such as the Pileated woodpecker.

In 2008, as part of the Baker Mountain Ranch conservation project, Lummi Island Heritage Trust partnered with The Wildlife Conservation Trust to create a “Wildlife Habitat of Lummi Mountain” report. This baseline assessment of vertebrate wildlife on Lummi Mountain will serve as the reference species list for the Aiston Preserve and Reflection Woods and is available at the Heritage Trust Resource Center. Ecological, biological, and botanical inventories will be expanded and updated as new information becomes available.

C. Wetland, Nearshore and Marine Habitats

The hydrology of the Aiston Preserve is characterized by intermittent surface water flows following rainfall events along various drainages above and to either side of the impacted mine area and a primary groundwater seep located on the floor of the mine. There is one seasonal “No Name” Creek that runs through the property along with various small pocket wetland areas. Water continuously seeps from fractures in the rock of the cliff face. During winter rainy periods, surface water flow is significant in the mined area but in the dry summer months, surface flow is minimal.

A storm-water management pond supports a small wetland area on the mine floor that supports wetland vegetation and contains water year around. Fresh water is critical for the preserve’s terrestrial wildlife and plant communities as well as for the integration of marine and backshore ecosystems.

A natural low area that had been enhanced to form a freshwater pond of approximately 75 by 75 feet is located in Reflection Woods near the boundary between the original Aiston purchase and the new acreage. A long piping system had been setup and water from the pond was used to fill a large tank and send water to the pit area for mining activity. Water from this tank will be used during dry months to irrigate trees and shrubs planted in the reclaimed quarry area. The pond supports a population of Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*).

The rocky shoreline contains pocket beaches, bedrock outcrops with eelgrass and kelp beds in the nearshore. Herring spawning has been documented within 1,000 feet to the north of the Preserve. Several of the pocket beaches may be ideal forage fish spawning habitat.

The unique conditions of an island environment create significant limitations for terrestrial, saltwater and freshwater populations. Disruption of specific habitats can eliminate an entire species from Lummi Island, therefore careful stewardship is especially important to safeguard the flora and fauna of the Aiston Preserve.

VI. Objectives and Stewardship for Natural Resources

Preservation, conservation and restoration of the Aiston Preserve’s ecological resources and priority habitats are the primary goals of our management and stewardship. Short-term tasks are targeted for completion in 1-3 years. On-going tasks require longer-term action.

Objectives for Natural Resources

1. Reclaim mined area and restore nearshore areas damaged by mining in a manner that will reconnect the upland and nearshore habitats.

2. Maintain intact nearshore, forests, wetlands, steams, balds, and native species in good ecological health; support long-term return to a mature native forest ecosystem.
3. Encourage native species diversity.
4. Restore and enhance ecological functions of human-altered habitats.
5. Encourage a greater understanding of the Preserve's natural habitats and biological systems through education and research.

Tasks

A. Protect Priority Habitats and Species.

The Preserve's habitats and species will be inventoried and management attention will be given to the priority habitat areas and species of concern.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Create or expand existing inventories for the Aiston Preserve habitats and species.
- Working with the Department of Natural Resources and Washington Fish and Wildlife on issues common to these agencies and the Trust.

Long-term:

- Voluntary no anchor zone to protect eelgrass beds.
- Ecological reclamation of damaged habitats that includes additional tree and shrub plantings.
- Review and update inventories on a regular schedule.

B. Protect Balds and Other Sensitive Areas

The thin, rocky soils, steep cliffs and balds present ecological and public safety challenges. Plant communities in these areas grow on thin dry soils vulnerable to trampling and compaction and the introduction of invasive noxious weeds.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Installing fencing, signage and creating clearly marked trails throughout Aiston Preserve to protect sensitive native plant communities and monitoring annually for damages.
- Installing interpretive signage to educate and enhance safety for visitors.

- Restrict public access to the Reflection Woods area west of the Inati Trail until flora and fauna surveys are complete and separate management goals are determined.

On-going:

- Monitoring and controlling invasive species, especially tansy ragwort (*Seneca jacobaea*) and Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).
- Planting native species in areas that have been damaged and where greater plant diversity is desired.

C. Protect Abner Point Sensitive Areas

Abner Point has particular challenges because of its extensive biologically sensitive areas, secluded shorelines with no clear trails, historical machinery, non-native plantings, and its remote, water access only location.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Restricting access to balds and other sensitive areas on Abner Point.
- Creating clearly marked trails. and strategically placing railings and fencing.
- Installing interpretive signage to educate and enhance safety for visitors.

On going:

- Monitoring annually for change or damage.

D. Protect Wetlands and Streams.

More scientific research is needed to investigate the wetland and riparian habitats and species on the Aiston Preserve including Reflection Woods. Maintaining clean water supplies is critical for healthy flora and fauna in the upland and nearshore, and to restore natural upland and nearshore ecosystem processes.

Tasks may include:

On-going:

- Researching and creating inventories of wetland species and amphibian populations.
- Monitoring and controlling invasive wetland species.
- Maintaining existing roads and monitoring erosion control.
- Monitoring for water quality and native vegetation damage.

E. Forest Management.

The Aiston Preserve contains open transitional forest, and moist mixed woodlands of Douglas fir, red alder, Western red cedar, bigleaf maple, hemlock, and madrone, with a rich understory of native shrubs, plants, ferns and mosses. Abner Point and Reflection Woods contain a number of legacy trees, those trees that were spared from early logging and are several hundred and more years old.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Monitoring and controlling invasive species, especially tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).
- Removal of diseased or hazardous trees.
- Conducting a baseline forest inventory.

On-going:

- Documentation of historical activities.
- Selective planting and tree removal to increase biodiversity, reduce disease and to enhance “old growth” characteristics.
- Monitoring and adapting to climate change.

F. Nearshore Restoration and Management.

Restoration activities identified by feasibility studies and included in design drawings involved the removal of over 500 feet of shoreline armoring; removal of 70 pilings and two over-water structures; restoration and creation of nearshore habitat; riparian planting to provide shading, structure, and stability to the nearshore; and upland re-vegetation. These actions are resulting in a fully connected watershed from the forested uplands to the nearshore, including the potential for expanded eelgrass and kelp beds due to the reduction of sediment input, removal of over water shading, and barge activity in the cove.

Tasks may include:

Ongoing:

- Monitor kelp, eelgrass beds, wrack accumulation, large woody debris, forage fish, and insect fallout. Survey for fish and shellfish presence.
- Ensure permanent protection of the nearshore and upland habitats.
- Continue to plant shrubs and trees in the nearshore and upland areas.

G. Control of Invasive Species

Non-native species and noxious weeds can invade natural areas and compete with native plants and animals. Noxious weeds can also be toxic to humans and animals. Invasive plants often form dense monocultures, thus reducing an area’s rich biodiversity. Control efforts on the Aiston Preserve will be focused in areas of greatest ecological priority and vulnerability.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Consultation with Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board to identify and inventory invasive species and noxious weeds.

On-going:

- Removal and control of priority noxious weed species carried out by stewards, staff, volunteers and contractors.
- Monitor and remove tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).
- Monitor and remove Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).

VII. Scientific Research

Scientific research and citizen science activities will be encouraged on the Aiston Preserve. A scientific database will be established and maintained that will be used to increase knowledge and to inform Aiston Preserve management practices, stewardship, and environmental education programs. Prior permission from Lummi Island Heritage Trust is required for all research activities that are conducted on the Preserve.

VIII. Education

LIHT will actively promote knowledge, stewardship, and enjoyment of the Aiston Preserve's ecological resources through cooperation with schools, youth clubs, environmental educators, nature organizations, and community groups. Educational events and programs on the property will be encouraged when and where appropriate. They will be conducted on a permission-only basis and may be limited in size and duration.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Encourage conservation and educational field trips.
- Offering guided tours

On-going:

- Disseminate public information via the LIHT website, newsletter, email, social media, and printed materials.

IX. Restrictions on Use

Restrictions are intended to protect the ecology of the Preserve and minimize management costs. This information will be posted on-site and in LIHT materials, as appropriate. LIHT generally uses signage and periodic contact with staff and volunteers to educate visitors about use restrictions.

A. Prohibited Activities:

- Fires, fireworks, firearms, hunting, shooting, and smoking.
- Bicycles, E-bikes, ATVs, other motorized vehicles.
- Commercial activities.
- Camping or overnight stays.
- Collection of botanical, zoological, geologic or other specimens except by permission for scientific or educational purposes.
- Use of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Drones or any Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) without explicit permission from LIHT.

B. Allowed Use. Dogs on leash are allowed on Deer Fern Way, the Inati Trail, and on trails within the quarry area. Owners must pick up after their dogs and keep them under control at all times.

C. Signage. Provide adequate signage including: boundary lines, property identification and miscellaneous signage including authorized and permitted uses. Other key access points will be signed as necessary.

D. Access Points. There are three ways to access the Aiston Preserve. The lower entrance into the quarry area is at the terminus of Beach Avenue where parking is available. The second access point is at the end of Island Drive at the top of Scenic Estates where a small parking area is located. The Inati Trail begins there and continues past the turnoff to Deer Fern Way. Signs are posted where the Inati Trail ends at the property line of the Preserve.

A third access is by water. Small boats such as kayaks, canoes, and skiffs can land on the beach in the quarry area. Future plans call for the installation of several mooring buoys just offshore and well out of the eelgrass beds in Smugglers Cove and away from any kelp beds.

E. Structures. The storage garage located at the entrance to the Preserve will remain locked; access will be by LIHT staff.

F. Property Boundaries. Key property boundaries will be marked and signed.

X. Enforcement of Preserve Restrictions

Communication and education are essential tools in the enforcement of Preserve restrictions. LIHT Board members, staff and volunteers will document and respond to violations of policies through personal contact and written communication. Criminal violations will be referred directly to the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department for enforcement.

XI. Public Access

The Heritage Trust's stewardship strategy to manage lands owned by the Heritage Trust primarily for the benefit of native plants and wildlife, allowing low-impact public use where appropriate, is the foundation for public access management decisions.

A. Aiston

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Maintain the current parking area and road access for public use.
- Keep signage to the minimum necessary to keep the public safe and protect biologically sensitive locations. Maintain signs at the entrances, along the waterways and at key boundary locations.

B. Reflection Woods

Short-term:

- Maintain the current parking area for access to Inati Trail.
- Restrict public access into Reflection Woods west of the Inati Trail until a forest inventory and other biological assessment is completed.

XII. Public Safety Commitment

The Heritage Trust desires to be a good neighbor and strives to be sensitive to the needs of the Lummi Island Community. It also takes the comments and safety concerns from Islanders into consideration when making management decisions on its Preserves. Islanders have long perceived the quarry area along the shoreline and its dock as a needed escape route in the case of an emergency. LIHT will retain emergency access by providing an area suitable for an emergency helicopter landing zone, as well as a beach area that will accommodate a large landing craft for emergency ingress and egress from or to the Island via the Aiston Preserve.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- Working with County, State and Federal permitting agencies to ensure shoreline and upland emergency landing zones are available.

On-going:

- Work with the Lummi Island Fire Department to maintain the road for fire trucks and emergency vehicles.
- Work with Lummi Island Fire Department and other emergency response entities to ensure funds are available for road and landing zone maintenance now and in the future.

XIII. Volunteer Stewardship and Community Outreach

Community volunteers will be an essential part of the stewardship, management, and maintenance of the restoration efforts of the Preserve, including Reflection Woods. Volunteers will help in wildlife and plant inventories and may also be involved in education, noxious species control, and other restoration and reclamation activities.

Tasks may include:

Short-term:

- LIHT will recruit interested neighbors, members, and citizens as volunteers to serve as guides, educators, and or monitors for the Preserve.
- Heritage Trust members, the Lummi Island community and the public will be encouraged to participate in educational tours, presentations, and other activities.

On-going:

- Heritage Trust welcomes public input and outreach to neighbors. The public will be encouraged to contact the Trust with questions, comments, or interests in volunteering.
- Disseminate public information via the LIHT website, newsletter, email, social media, and printed materials.

XIV. Maintenance

Routine monitoring and maintenance will be required for the Aiston Preserve. This will generally include maintaining the parking areas, road access, trails and signs, patrol for litter, removal of noxious and invasive plants, with additional tasks as needed. Volunteers and staff will perform most routine maintenance work.

XV. Stewardship Fund

The Aiston Preserve Stewardship Fund was intentionally funded as part of the original capital campaign that acquired the property. Additional monies were allocated for the fund when Reflection Woods was acquired. The income and capital appreciation from the Fund may be used for stewardship, maintenance, and enforcement expenses.

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Aiston Preserve Map

