

**WHATCOM COUNTY
Parks & Recreation**
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Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (September 21, 2011)

LILY POINT MARINE PARK CONSTRUCTION

Whatcom County Parks & Recreation will begin construction on Lily Point Marine Park, located in Point Roberts during the week of September 26th, 2011.

This 239 acre park property is comprised of 109 acres of uplands and 130 acres of tidelands with 1.4 miles of shoreline. The property contains forested uplands, a rich tidal and beach environment and important feeder bluffs for the Boundary Bay ecosystem. The site has a rich cultural history dating to prehistoric times where Coast Salish tribes used the site for seasonal fishing and gathering of shellfish. The property is also the site of the Alaska Packers Cannery and ruins and remnants are still visible in the lower portion of the park

Whatcom County acquired the property over the course of several years beginning in 2008 through a partnership with the Whatcom Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. Funding for the acquisition was provided through various state and federal grants, donations and County Conservation Futures Fund.

The construction contract was awarded to HB Hansen Construction Inc. of Lynden, WA. Construction activities will begin on September 28, 2011, and are scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2011. The construction project will include an improved parking area, restroom, information kiosk and bicycle parking. Future improvements will include improved trails, scenic overlooks, and interpretive signage describing the rich natural and cultural heritage of the area.

During construction park access from A.P.A. Road will be closed as will be the park area within the construction zone. Walk-in Park access at Cedar Point Lane will remain open during construction.

Question or comments may be directed to Whatcom County Parks & Recreation (360) 733-2900.

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