

Campaign for the Beaverton Valley Preserve

Case Statement

The Opportunity

On the northwestern outskirts of Friday Harbor lies Beaverton Valley, a scenic valley and ridge that includes the largest freshwater wetlands complex in San Juan County. For years, the San Juan Preservation Trust and the San Juan County Land Bank have each owned preserves at opposite ends of the wetland. These existing preserves were separated by a large property at the heart of Beaverton Valley.

Last year, this 325-acre property was listed for sale, creating a one-time opportunity to complete a single, integrated Beaverton Valley Preserve. The new 500-acre combined preserve will not only protect an ecologically rich habitat for abundant wildlife; it will also provide an extraordinary nature preserve within walking distance of the town of Friday Harbor, schools, and densely-populated residential areas.

The Preservation Trust and the Land Bank have partnered to protect this property in perpetuity. The Land Bank, with the help of a private benefactor, recently secured the purchase of the property. However, the Land Bank's purchase was predicated on the Preservation Trust's future purchase of a conservation easement over the entire property.

The Preservation Trust is now working to raise \$1.2 million from private philanthropic sources to ensure the permanent protection of this property. With a **\$500,000 challenge grant** pledged from an anonymous donor, and leadership gifts totaling \$400,000, we now seek major gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000. Once we have secured gifts and pledges totaling at least \$1.1 million, we will turn to the San Juan Island community to help us complete this campaign.

Our island community now has a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Let's protect the Beaverton Valley wetland and adjacent forest ecosystem.

Forever.

What We're Protecting

The 325-acre property just northeast of Friday Harbor (*see map on page 5*) hosts a natural view long enjoyed by generations of islanders traveling along Roche Harbor and Beaverton Valley roads. The property abuts the San Juan County Land Bank's existing 135-acre Beaverton Marsh Preserve to the northeast. This Land Bank preserve includes an historic island homestead with agricultural significance and open pastureland, as well as portions of Beaverton Marsh, the largest freshwater wetlands complex in San Juan County. On the western boundary of the property lies the 40-acre Beaverton Marsh West Preserve, which the Preservation Trust acquired in 2011.

With the addition of the new parcel, the total conserved area of Beaverton Valley now reaches across 500 acres and protects scenic open space, surrounding forested ridges and knolls, and valuable wetlands.

Natural values of the property are many:

- **Class I high functioning wetlands system:** Freshwater wetlands serve many vital functions. They provide year-round and seasonal wildlife habitat; water purification, storage, and aquifer recharge. They also store as much (or more) carbon than forests. The San Juan County Watershed Management Action Plan has identified preservation and restoration of these wetlands as the highest priority action for the health of the Friday Harbor watershed.
- **Diverse wildlife, particularly waterfowl:** Rare Eurasian widgeons and the more common American widgeon are spotted feeding here. Trumpeter swans, hooded mergansers, mallards, Northern pintails*, green-winged teals, gadwalls, Northern shovelers and bufflehead ducks also visit the wetland in winter. Nesting songbirds observed on the property include common yellowthroats, marsh wrens, song sparrows, and red-winged blackbirds.
- **Upland forest:** The upland area contains mixed forests of conifer and deciduous trees, interspersed with rocky bald outcroppings that provide vantage points for viewing wildlife.

This high-priority land conservation project accomplishes the permanent protection of the marsh expanse and surrounding buffer areas, as well as upland forested acreage. The project also permanently extinguishes all 38 residential development rights on the property.

*We've adopted the image of the Northern pintail duck for the ***Campaign for the Beaverton Valley Preserve***.

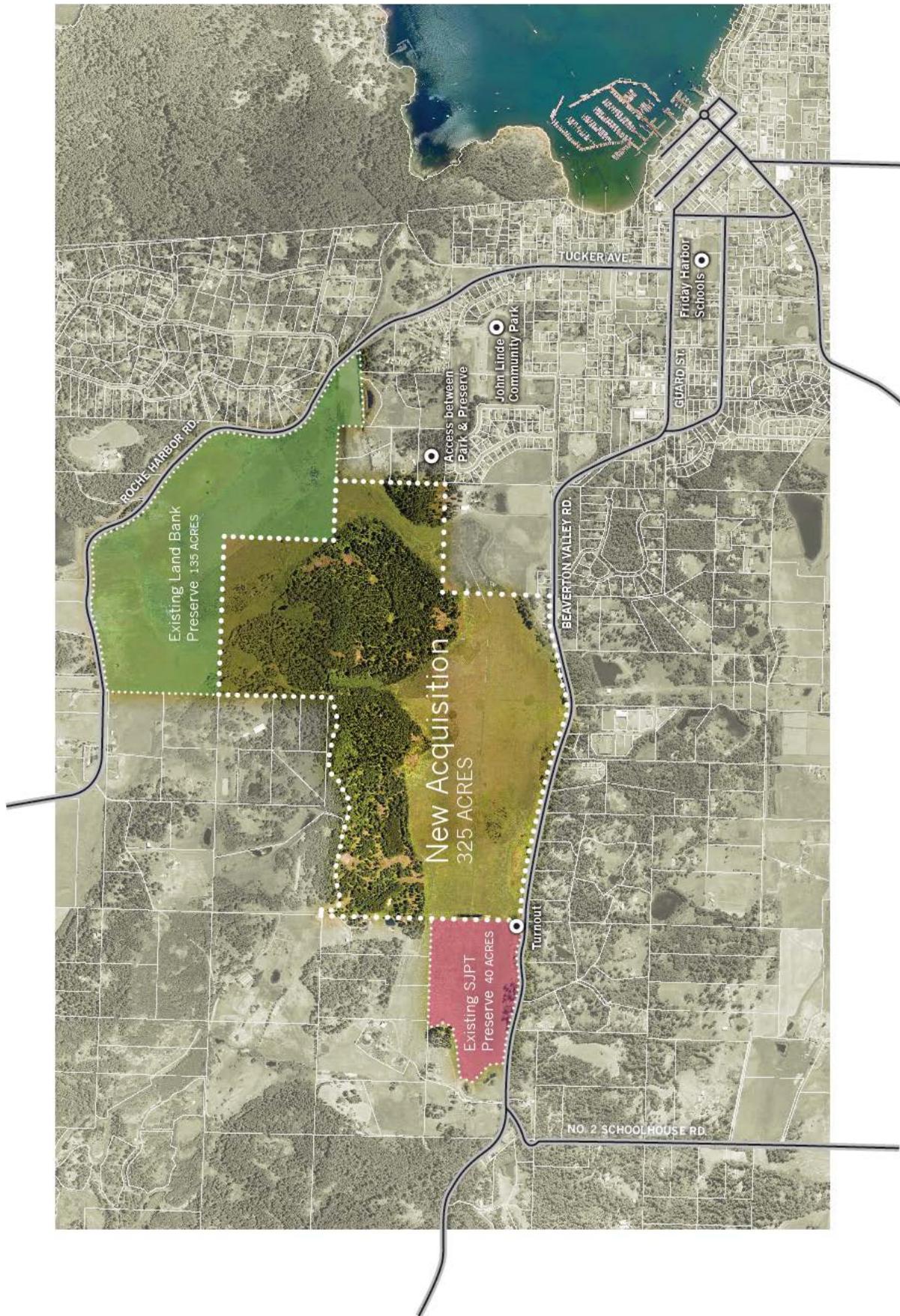
What's in It for YOU

The benefits to you, your family, friends and neighbors, and for generations to come, are significant:

- **Healthy time in nature:** As research grows about the benefits of spending time in nature for physical and mental health, the value of this project to community members cannot be overstated. A pedestrian path will connect the Beaverton Valley Preserve with the John O. Linde Community Park. This new recreational trail will provide an unprecedented opportunity for town (and other island) residents, students, and visitors to enjoy long walks right from town to a unique ecosystem.
- **Wildlife viewing:** The vision for Beaverton Valley Preserve includes creating blinds or platforms for observing birds and other wildlife, year-round.
- **Protected views:** The uninterrupted natural views along both Beaverton Valley and Roche Harbor Roads will be permanently protected, thus preserving a pastoral aspect of island life enjoyed by past, current, and future generations of residents and visitors.
- **Wetland Enhancement:** Ownership of the marsh in its near entirety will allow for expanded flexibility in managing and restoring the habitat to provide the best benefit for wildlife.

The expanded “Beaverton Valley Preserve” will be owned and managed by the Land Bank, with the Preservation Trust holding the conservation easement on it. This shared conservation model provides dual layers of land protection and has been used on previous conservation projects, including Mount Grant Preserve and Zylstra Lake on San Juan Island and Turtleback Mountain Preserve on Orcas Island.

A stewardship fund for long-term management of the expanded Preserve will be seeded by this campaign.



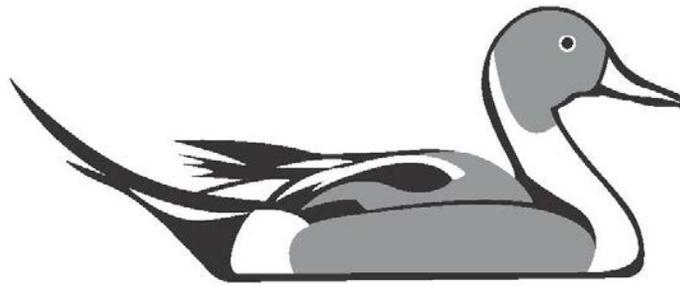
How do you learn more?

- **Visit the property.** Drive Beaverton Valley Road approximately 2 miles from Friday Harbor. Pull over at the turnout on the right with a small SJPT preserve marker. (If you reach Scheffer Drive, you've gone too far.) Walk the short distance to a viewing area of the expanded preserve.
- **Visit the property virtually.** Watch our campaign video at:
<https://sjpt.org/beaverton>
- **Talk to us.** Please contact us with your questions.
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About the San Juan Preservation Trust

Founded in 1979, the San Juan Preservation Trust (www.sjpt.org) is a nationally accredited private, nonprofit land trust dedicated to helping people and communities conserve land in the San Juan Islands of Washington State. Together with its landowner partners and 3,000 member/donors, the Preservation Trust has permanently protected more than 300 properties, 45 miles of shoreline, 27 miles of trails and 18,000 acres on 20 islands, including land now managed as public parks, nature preserves, wildlife habitat, and working farms and forests.





Campaign for the Beaverton Valley Preserve
PLEDGE FORM AND SCHEDULE

SUPPORTER INFORMATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____ M I _____
(Spouse/Partner) First Name: _____ Last Name _____ M I _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Contact Phone: (_____) _____ [Home / Work / Mobile]
Email _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION

I (we) pledge a gift of \$ _____ to the *Campaign for the Beaverton Valley Preserve*.
I (we) will fulfill our pledge over [one / two] year(s), to be paid in _____
[month] of each year.
I have enclosed \$ _____ towards my pledge.
Please charge my credit card: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard in the amount of \$ _____
Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Authorized Credit Card Signature: _____

SUPPORTER RECOGNITION

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:

_____ I (we) wish to be anonymous. Please do not list my name in campaign materials.
Supporters will be recognized in campaign materials unless anonymity is requested.)

SUPPORTER SIGNATURE(S)

Date: _____

Please return to:
The San Juan Preservation Trust
Box 759
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Questions? Please contact:
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360-376-2431 or barbara@sjpt.org

THANK YOU!