

# #11 THE PADILLA BAY LETTERBOX TRAIL



## Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Letterboxing is an exciting opportunity for kids of all ages to explore our local watersheds and have fun while doing so! There are seven letterbox trail stations located at Padilla Bay. Each station has a poster with information about a certain topic and 1-3 activities to do at each station. Follow the clues to find each letterbox stations along the trail. When you find a Letterbox Station, draw something you see. For extra fun, bring your smart phone to scan QR codes. [Earn 1 Point for each letterbox station that you completed for a Total of 7 Points]



**Address: 10441 Bayview Edison Rd, Mt Vernon, WA 98273**

**About Padilla Bay:** *The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (PBNERR) is nestled just north of the quiet community of Bay View, WA. Here in the heart of the Salish Sea, they study and protect a massive eelgrass meadow. At more than 8,000 acres, it's the second largest North America's Pacific Coast. Padilla Bay is one of 29 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve system established to protect coastal areas for long-term research, monitoring and education, and stewardship.*

- STATION #1 - Great Blue Herons:** Walk through the parking lot away from the reserve, stop at the arch and begin to observe. Before the archway the first station you will see, now head on up the trail like a buzzy bee.
- STATION #2 - Estuaries:** Along the trail the path will curve then come to a "Y", find the bench and next to it the next station you will spy.
- STATION #3 - Climate Change:** Along the grassy trail head back to the reserve, finding the next station you surely deserve. Down the path you will find a bench with a view of the bay, the next station you seek is this way.
- STATION #4 - Orcas:** Go left of the bench where it turns to gravel, a ways up you will travel. At the top of the trail the trees will clear, near the smooth bench the next station will be near.
- STATION #5 - Cedar and Coast Salish Traditional Territories:** Go into the trees, careful there is uneven ground, don't leave the woods until the station is found. Find it next to the covered spot, we hope you are enjoying the trail a lot!
- STATION #6 - Water Cycle:** Go back to the reserve, and through the parking lot you will find, a path towards the water the trail will wind. To the left the next spot you will see, you have gone too far if you can see the sea.
- STATION #7 - Eelgrass:** When you see the tunnel and water gleam, to the right of the ramp you will find the last station theme. When found keep going to take in the view, it was our pleasure to share this trail with you!

For information about other Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trails check out the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance website: <https://skagitcleanwater.org/events/>