

# FRIENDS OF FORT TOWNSEND

## *“FTSP--Wilderness at Your Doorstep”*

Established in 2001 as a Friends Group with Washington State Parks, our mission is 4-fold:

- **assisting in maintenance of trails and protection of the FTSP's natural forest area**  
From January through October on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 9 am to 11 am, volunteers perform trail maintenance on the 6.5 miles of trails in the park. A group of chainsaw-certified volunteers clears downed trees off trails to maintain access.
- **supporting special events and projects that promote use of the park and campground.**  
In the past, FOFT has had a booth at the Jefferson County Fair. Currently, we periodically have a booth at the Port Townsend Farmers' Market.
- **educating visitors about the plant and animal life, and the geology of the park.**  
FOFT has several brochures that are available throughout the park: Trail Map; Geology of Fort Townsend; Cemetery Site information; Plants of Fort Townsend. FOFT commissioned a mural by Larry Eifert which shows the Natural Forest Area ecosystem. A recent addition to educating park visitors is the Botany Walk with photos and descriptions of the more commonly found plants in the park. Each quarter, FOFT posts a “Plant of the Month” on park trailhead signs to further identify plant life.
- **enabling visitors to envision the people, events and structures that were the reality of 19<sup>th</sup> century Fort Townsend.** FOFT is working with WA State Parks to build an interpretive display showing the military life at Fort Townsend (1856-1898). The History Walk also depicts in photos and narrative the buildings that existed during the active life of the Fort.

FOFT splits, bundles and sells firewood during the camping season, May through September. Campers appreciate this amenity, and the sales help finance improvements in the park. Volunteers are always needed for this firewood project.

Our Annual Meeting is held in April each year. Speakers' topics have ranged from birds, insects, trees, mushrooms and plants to Fort Townsend military history and trail hiking.

Suggested Membership levels: \$15, \$25, \$100, \$250, and the proverbial “Other.”  
Our motto is: Find what interests you, happily do it, and tell a friend.  
Tax Status: FOFT is a 501(c)3 Charitable Corporation (incorporated 2003)

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