



## AN ADVANCE PEEK FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY

An all-new edition of the guidebook  
Islanders reach for to explore our  
40 miles of trails and scenic backroads  
is coming soon!

The Third Edition of Walks on Bainbridge  
is truly bigger and better than ever.  
It will be available later this summer  
from Eagle Harbor Book Company, the  
Land Trust office, and other Island shops  
for \$14.95

All proceeds from the book's sale  
support the Bainbridge Island Land Trust

Authors Dave and Alice Shorett,  
and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust  
hope you mask up and enjoy the Fourth  
of July weekend on our beautiful island

PRINT TWO-SIDED AND FOLD HERE FOR A POCKET-FRIENDLY VERSION

THIRD EDITION

# THIRTY WALKS ON BAINBRIDGE

BY DAVE AND ALICE SHORETT

THE ISLAND'S FAVORITE  
WALKING GUIDE  
30 WALKS WITH MAPS  
FROM 1 TO 10 MILES —  
THE GRAND FOREST  
GAZZAM LAKE  
BLAKELY HARBOR  
FORT WARD





Bainbridge Island Land Trust guided tours of land acquisitions that are in the works encourage the public to value and support acquisitions of wonderful new protected lands. Photo: Paul Brians

## 20 GAZZAM LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

OVER 7 MILES OF TRAILS TO WALK IN WILD, MOSSY FOREST WITH A LAKE AND ACCESS TO BEACHES. BASIC LOOP OF 2.6 MILES WITH MANY EXTENSIONS.

Park at lots on Marshall Rd on the north side or on Deerpath Lane on the south side.

### BASIC ROUTE AND EXTENTION TRAILS TO EXPLORE

Distances are one-way unless unless indicated otherwise.

**Basic Gazzam internal loop:** Entrance to entrance and return, 2.6 miles

**Westwood Shore Trail:** Adds 1.6 miles, out and back

**Knudsen Trail to Crystal Springs Dr:** .6 mile

**Gazzam to Veterane Trail:** .7 mile

**Veterane Trail from Baker Hill Rd to Crystal Springs Dr:** .2 mile

**Opal Ridge Trail:** .4 mile

**Peters Trail:** .7 mile

**Springridge Trail:** .3 mile

**Marshall Rd entrance to**

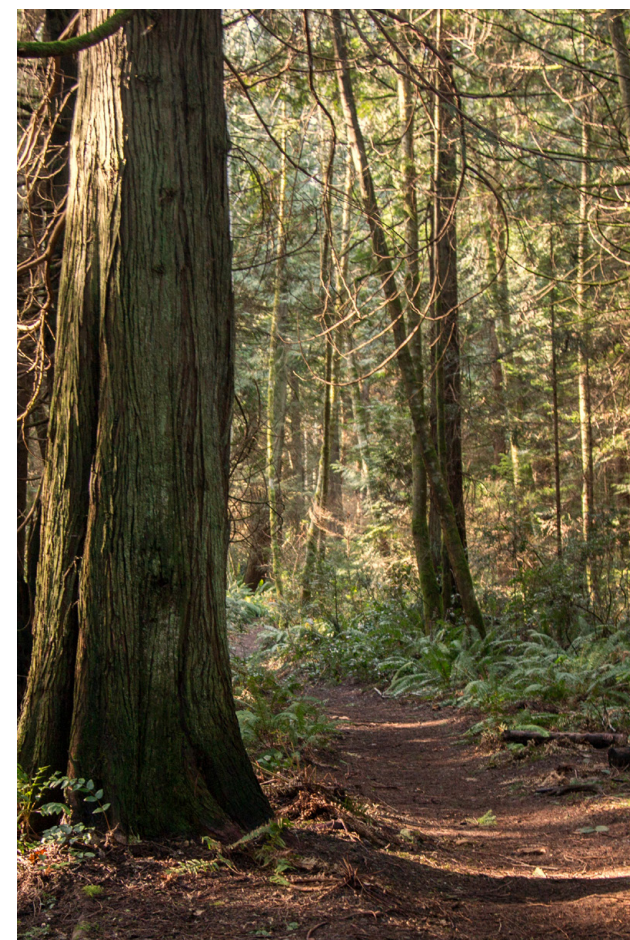
**Schel-Chelb Estuary**

on Rich Passage: 3 miles

### Overview and History

540-acre Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve is situated on the southwest quadrant of the island. The initial footprint of the Preserve contained 318 acres of forests and wetlands with Gazzam Lake as the focal point —13.5 acres of pond and marsh. In 1995 the park was purchased through a publicly voted bond combined with grants. It carries a conservation easement on the forest land, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and watershed. The park is a wildlife sanctuary, and there is no swimming or fishing in the lake.

Gazzam's many trails make detours rewarding. Photo: Paul Brians















The Schel Chelb public beach at the south end of Bainbridge is near Lynwood Center. Photo: Paul Brians

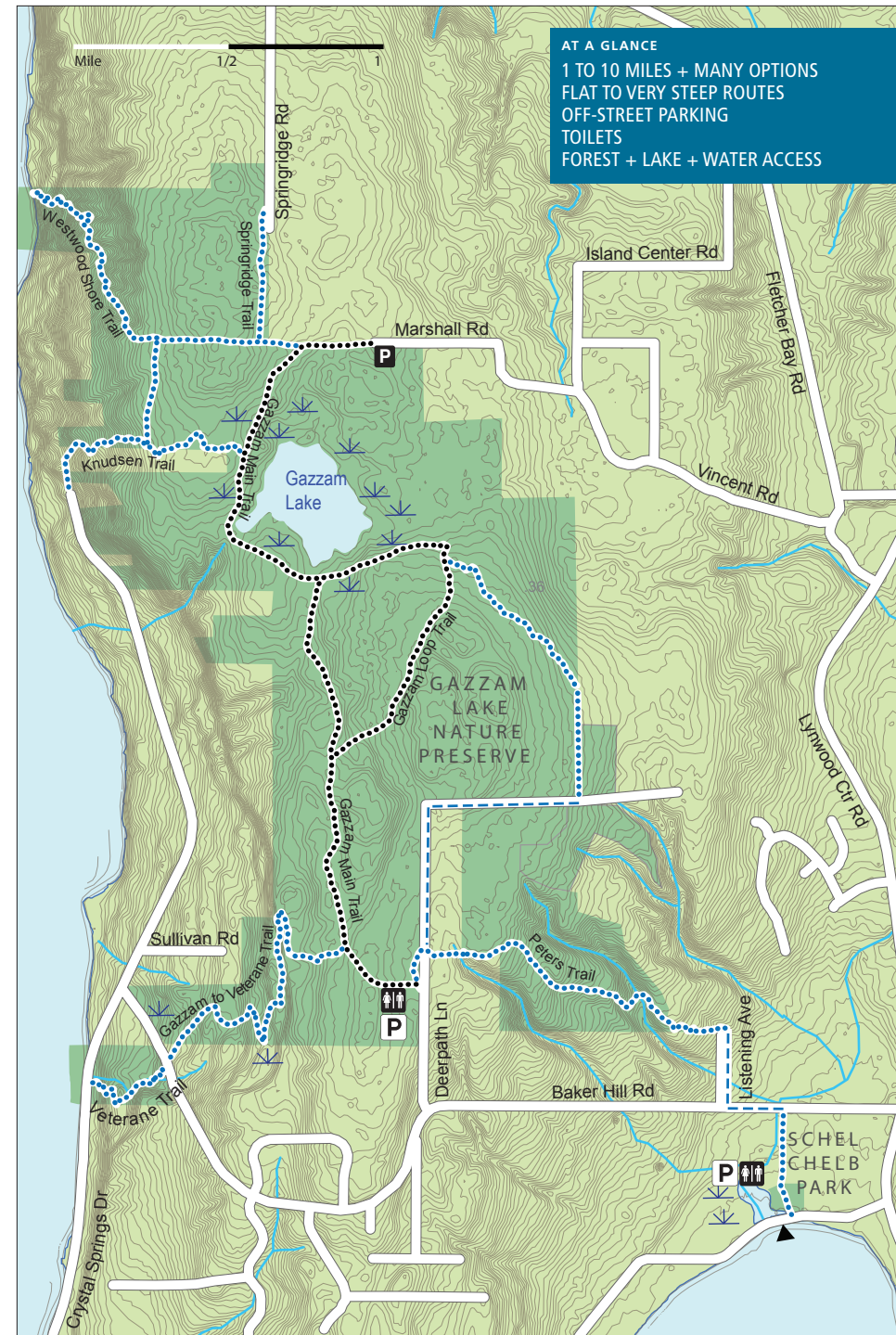
In 2011, the Park District reached an agreement with several owners of property adjoining the west boundary of the Preserve to purchase their land, extinguishing the possibility of the owners constructing a road to their properties from Springridge Rd. This agreement added 38 acres to the western edge of the park and will forever protect it from the intrusion of a road, which would have carried significant traffic and construction of homes within viewing and shouting distance of Gazzam trails and the lake. New trails with saltwater and Olympic mountains views have been constructed on this new acquisition. The Knudsen Trail allows a long-sought trail connection to Crystal Springs Rd, and a connection to the walk described in the Point White/Crystal Springs walk.

Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve has mature second growth conifer forests, with stands of Douglas fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar. You can also see western white pine, madrona, big-leaf maple, and Pacific yew. Snags within the forest are home to birds such as northern pygmy owls, great-horned owls, brown creepers, and various woodpeckers. On a good day, one may spot pileated woodpeckers in snags, Chinese pheasants in bushes next to the trail, and waterfowl on the lake and shore.

Gazzam Lake may have been formed by a glacier that left a large ice chunk within a depression. There is an ancient topographic outlet to the southwest. The shallow lake obtains its water from precipitation and surface water from the adjoining area. In summer the lake is classified as a palustrine or freshwater wetland, a shallow open-water pond that becomes vegetated with yellow pond lily. The pond lily dies back in winter, exposing the open water. Islanders were able to ice skate on the lake in the cold winters of the 1930s and 40s. A variety of waterfowl frequent the lake, including some exotic ducks.

Access to the lakeshore offers two places to sit and watch birds. By design there are no trails around the north and east sides of the lake. This portion of the park is protected from human intrusion, leaving the resident wildlife a place completely their own.

-  Trail walking on basic route
-  Road walking on basic route
-  Optional trail walking route(s)
-  Optional road walking route(s)
-  Suggested parking
-  Additional parking options
-  Restrooms or portable toilets
-  Road end or shore access





The lake is named after Colonel W. L. Gazzam, an early settler and landowner in this part of the island. The Gazzam House, constructed in 1915, is built of stone with a great rock fireplace and still stands on the shore of Puget Sound at Crystal Springs to the west of the park. The lake and land around it were a playground for Gazzam's guests.

Both Marshall and Deerpath entrances lead to the Main Trail, which allows a nice loop in the southern half and a heavily wooded trail curving around about half of Gazzam Lake in the northwest section.

**The Westwood Shore Trail:** A .8-mile extension within the Preserve. In 2005, Open Space Bond funds, in partnership with Bainbridge Island Land Trust fundraising and grants, facilitated the purchase of a 64-acre addition to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. Locals call this the Close Property. To walk this addition, take the Marshall Rd entrance to a fork, and travel straight ahead. The old road bed/trail heads over a ridge and steadily downhill about .5 mile, leading to a sign directing walkers to the right for the Westwood Shore Trail. From this point, the trail switchbacks steeply through deep forest all the way down to 550 feet of beach accessible only by this trail or boat. Boundaries of the publicly-owned shoreline are marked and visitors are asked to stay on the public beach.

The total length of the Westwood Shore Trail is approximately .8 mile, allowing visitors to the Preserve to visit both the lake and the western waterfront of Bainbridge in the same trip.

**The Peters Trail:** A .7-mile extension within the Preserve. The Peters Tree Farm is a 49-acre addition to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve, lying south and east. Through the cooperation of the Peters sisters, Open Space Bond funds were utilized to purchase this land. Like the Close addition, it is in essentially pristine condition. Soon after purchase, the Park District, with volunteer assistance, constructed a trail which takes walkers downhill approximately .7 mile to a small pond in a very quiet and lovely spot. Bicycle and horse travel on this trail are prohibited. The trail skirts the pond on the east side, eventually exiting the Peters addition, where it intersects a small public road, Listening Lane, leading south to Baker Hill Rd. At the north end of the pond, a trail will eventually be built, heading up through a ravine, one of the finest forest



There are giant moss-covered big-leaf maple trees within the Preserve. Photo: Paul Brians

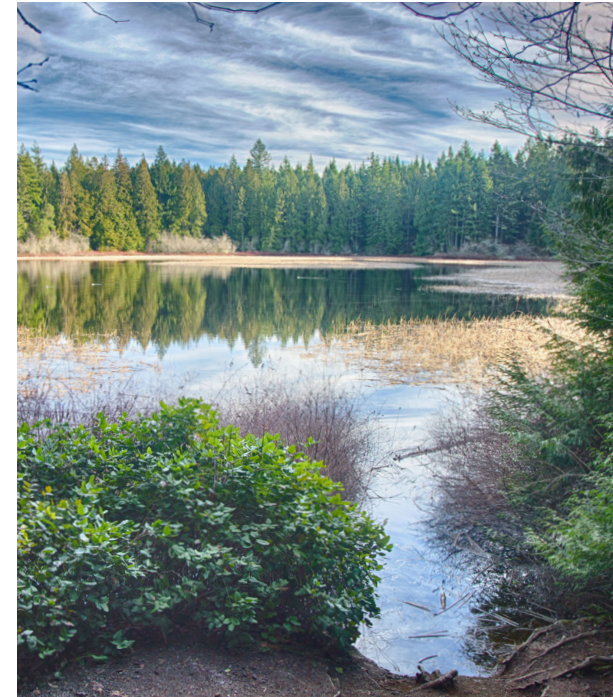


Please observe signs and stay on trails to keep Gazzam wild. Photo: Paul Brians

settings on Bainbridge, to connect back with the existing side of the loop. The ravine trail will have extraordinary environmental restrictions on its use—walkers only, no horses or bicycles, no cell phones, to name a few—to maintain the relatively undisturbed ecology of the land in the ravine. The addition of the Westwood Trail and Peters Tree Farm to the Preserve allows a long walk almost entirely in the forest, crossing just one lightly-traveled road.

**From Gazzam to Schel-Chelb on the Peters Trail:** 3 miles one way from Marshall Rd entrance. With Open Space funds, the City of Bainbridge also acquired a parcel and trail easement on the Schel-Chelb estuary, and 300 feet of public beach along Point White Dr. This acquisition enables walkers and others to visit the west shore of the island from the Westwood Trail, walk through the Main Trail of Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve, down through the Peters Tree Farm, out Listening Lane to Baker Hill Rd, to Schel-Chelb Creek, and south on the Schel-Chelb public land to the Schel-Chelb estuary on Rich Passage. This trip can be taken one way or as a loop by leaving a vehicle at either entrance. The grade is downhill most of the way from the Marshall Rd entrance. The distance one way from Marshall Rd is approximately 3 miles.

**The Veterane Trail to Crystal Springs Dr:** The southern edge of Gazzam Lake Park is connected by a trail leading downhill on an old route that meets up at Baker Hill Rd with the Veterane Trail, which originates on Crystal Springs Dr. ■



Gazzam Lake has a lot more open water in winter, when the shallow lake's pond lilies die back. Photo: Paul Brians