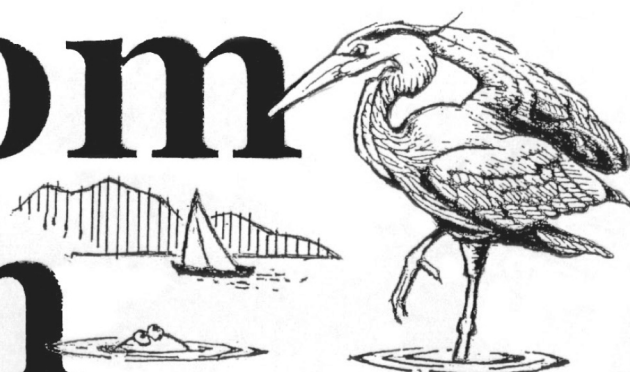


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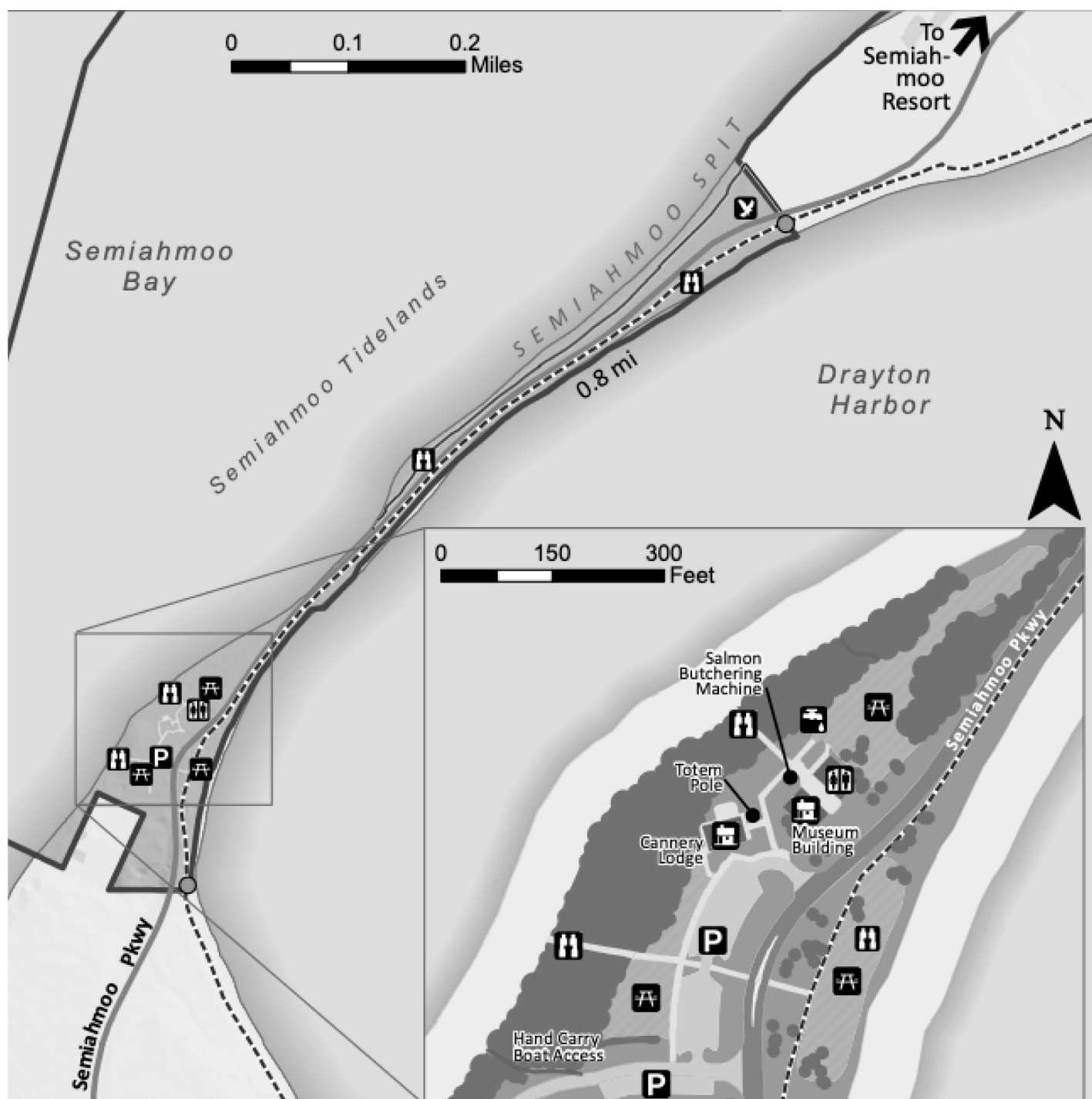


Diagram of Semiahmoo Spit.

courtesy: Whatcom County

Why Regenerate, Whatcom?

by David MacLeod

The future can't be predicted, but it can be envisioned and lovingly brought into being.
– Donella Meadows, “Thinking in Systems, A Primer”

If we can't save the places where we live, how are we ever going to save the whales?
– Peter Berg, co-ordinator of the term “bioregionalism”

For the July 2009 edition of *Whatcom Watch*, Rick Dubrow and I began a two-part series called “Why Transition, Whatcom?”. We were promoting a new grassroots organization called Transition Whatcom. In the intro, I shared a little bit of the history of my engagement with local environmental organizations, which began in the early 2000s with a small group called Eco-Bell, before eventually becoming a nonprofit under the name Sustainable Bellingham.

I'm back today to introduce a new organization that we are calling (for now) Regenerate Whatcom, (1) which is part of a larger project called Regenerate Cascadia, (2) which partners with the global effort of the Design School for Regenerating Earth. (3)

Regenerate Cascadia is holding this fractal within the Cascadia Bioregion as part of North America (more on this later), while the Design School is helping to grow and develop similar templates and patterns around the world, holding the vision for a Bioregional Earth. (4)

The Design School is a project of complexity researcher and change strategist Joe Brewer and his partner Penny Heiple. In 2019, Transition Whatcom hosted Joe, along with “post-doom” author and public speaker Michael Dowd for a variety

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David MacLeod is a lifetime resident of Bellingham, and is a “social permaculturalist” seeking to integrate energy, ecology, and economics. David serves on the board for Sustainable Bellingham, is editor for the Transition Whatcom newsletter, and sometimes writes on Substack: <https://david-dmacleod.substack.com/>.

Walking the Semiahmoo Spit

by Margaret Wild

Semiahmoo is a “go to” place. It's a mile long sandspit in the northwest corner of Washington state in the northwest corner of the country otherwise known as the “fourth

Margaret Wild has been a lifelong fan of nature and is known as an advocate for health care reform. The Pacific Northwest has been her home for most of her life.

corner” of the United States.

The name Semiahmoo means “half-moon” in the Coast Salish language of the earliest people who settled there 20,000-plus years ago. It refers to the spit itself and the more recently developed resort area.

Birds love to gather there. Some make it their home. Many more are just passing by. They are a major attraction for me and many others who come from afar.

Start at Far End, Near Resort

I usually park at the far end of the spit near the resort and marina, then walk back to the opposite end, a mile away. Depending on the tide, I go straight to the beach facing north and comb the beach for special shells, stones, or pieces of driftwood with my head down, moving ever so slowly.

Along the way, I will stop to take in the 360-degree views. North to Canada. West to the islands. South to Mount Baker. East

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