

## HIKE IT: Urban Trails



**Little Mountain Park's** trail network has grown considerably in recent years. Since 2009, the **Mount Vernon Trail Builders** have logged over 12,000 volunteer hours here, building shared-use trails for hikers, runners and mountain bikers. This is the place to go if you're looking to discover new trails in the Mount Vernon area.



### Little Mountain Park / MOUNT VERNON

Aptly named Little Mountain is easily accessible year-round. This 522-acre forested park—just a few miles from Mount Vernon's downtown area—feels much farther from the city. A narrow road leads to the sub-1,000-foot summit, where Skagit Valley views await. While driving to the top is pleasant, it is far more rewarding to hike.

For a short loop hike, park at the pullout signed "To trails." Head up the shared Bonnie and Clyde Trail, which begins with a moderate climb before easing to contour around the mountainside. Along the way you'll encounter an abandoned car—surely inspiration for this trail's name. Reach a junction at approximately 0.9 mile. To the left, the Sidewinder Trail switchbacks gently up the mountain and is popular with mountain bikers. Instead, turn right for the short, steep, hiker-only Ginny's Trail. At the road, stay right to reach the summit overlook.

From the top of Little Mountain, gaze over fertile fields and the Skagit River toward Fidalgo and Whidbey Islands. To complete the loop, head southeast and follow the signed Ridge Trail down.

**DISTANCE:** 1.5 miles // **MAP:** Mt. Vernon Trail Builders  
**ELEVATION GAIN:** 300 ft. // **ELEVATION PEAK:** 934 ft.  
**PERMIT:** None // **DOGS:** Leashed

**INFO:** [mountvernontrailbuilders.com](http://mountvernontrailbuilders.com)

**TRAILHEAD:** From I-5, take exit 225 onto Anderson Rd east for 1 mile. Turn right on E. Blackburn Rd, then right again on Little Mountain Rd to the park entrance.

**HIKE:** Rachel Wood // **PHOTO:** Brandon Fralic

### WINTER WARMUP

Cozy up near the fireplace at **Trumpeter Public House** in downtown Mount Vernon. With family-friendly dining, gluten-free options and a wide selection of beer, wine and spirits, it has something for everyone.



### Interurban Trail / BELLINGHAM

This trail can be short or long, depending on how much you want to hike and which trailhead you start from. Along the way, you will pass several quaint waterfalls and some spectacular views of the San Juan Islands and Chuckanut Bay.

For a longer option, hike from the north end of Fairhaven Park south to Arroyo Park. At about 1 mile, a 0.6-mile side loop breaks off eastward and crosses 24th St to Hoag's Pond. This little forested pond has a wooden bench to sit and makes a nice spot for relaxing. Continuing south, the Interurban Trail enters Arroyo Park, where there are several unmarked, unmapped side trails. Stay on the main trail through the forest for 0.75 mile to a set of switchbacks that climb steeply uphill for a short distance before easing to exit the park. The trail then continues another 4 miles through the forested Chuckanut Mountains to Larrabee State Park.

Along the trail are several blacktop roads leading to private homes. The trail itself, in certain sections, is actually part of private gravel roads but residents have authorized access to hike on the main trail.

**DISTANCE:** Up to 11.8 miles // **MAP:** Chuckanut Rec Area  
**ELEVATION GAIN:** 300 ft. // **ELEVATION PEAK:** 350 ft.  
**PERMIT:** Discovery Pass // **DOGS:** Leashed

**INFO:** [wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/interurban-trail](http://wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/interurban-trail)

**TRAILHEAD:** From Bellingham, drive south on Chuckanut Dr. There are trailheads at Arroyo Park, Fairhaven Park and Larrabee State Park.

**HIKE & PHOTO:** Mike Morrison