



Centennial Viewpoint Project Update: December 18, 2022

Viewpoint trail signs installed. Panels feature park history, culture and natural features at 4 trailside kiosks

Recent improvements to the Rotary Viewpoint Trail at Cap Sante Park take you easily from the water's edge to the Cap Sante summit in a short 1/2 mile walk. Now, seven new interpretive signs have been added to trail kiosks, telling local stories and making the path even more enjoyable for park visitors.

The signs, installed in the park Friday, are a cooperative effort of the Anacortes Rotary Club, the Samish Indian Nation and the City of Anacortes.



City crews and the Samish tribe celebrate the installation of interpretive panels on the Rotary Viewpoint Trail at Cap Sante. From left are Bret Lansford and Adam Farnsworth, Anacortes Museum staff; Brian Tottenham and Sky Guthrie, Anacortes Parks and Recreation staff. Far right is Tom Wooten' Samish Indian Nation Chairman.

Anacortes Rotary is providing the money for the park improvements from three sources, club charitable resources, a separate grant from the Rotary International regional district and a City of Anacortes Lodging Tax grant to the club. Rotary Volunteers built the kiosks earlier this year.

The 4-foot square panels are placed at four trailside locations in the park, where they give park users background on the history, culture and natural surroundings of Anacortes.

Team members responsible for the design and installation of the interpretive panels are Bret Lunsford and Adam Farnsworth, Anacortes History Museum; Jackie Ferry, Samish Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; Brain Tottenham, Sky Guthrie and Bob Vaux, Anacortes Parks and Recreation; and Jack Darnton, Anacortes Rotary.

Cap Sante offers one of the best panoramas on Fidalgo Island, with sweeping mountain, water, island, valley and forest views. The park is enjoyed by hikers, dog walkers, boat watchers and casual strollers, all drawn to the park's variety and its summit's splendid scenery.

“Cap Sante’s rock peak is more accessible than ever thanks to the newly enhanced trail that climbs from Rotary Park at the base to the top,” Tom Decker, chair of the Rotary Centennial project, said. “This improved walking route offers direct access from downtown, nearby marinas and adjacent neighborhoods on a moderate pathway..”

Looking toward the future with the City of Anacortes, Anacortes Rotary is examining design options for a new summit viewpoint looking east toward Mt. Baker. to improve the public experience at Cap Sante. Primary viewpoint goals include easy ADA access at parking lot level, seating, more interpretive signs and multiple view locations. Final design and engineering work will follow, guided by further community input and approvals from the city.

Insider Tip: Visitors have several ways to enjoy the park features and panoramas. You can drive up to these vistas, or better yet, take the half-mile trail from the base. Ample parking is available adjacent to the Anacortes yacht Club or in the public parking at the northwest corner of Cap Sante Marina.