

BEST HIKING TRAIL

DISCOVERY TRAIL

LONG BEACH PENINSULA

Runner-up:

Fort to Sea Trail, Warrenton

Honorable mention:

Cape Disappointment State Park trails

By PATRICK WEBB

The Discovery Trail was voted the Best Hiking Trail.

"It's the nicest trail on the West Coast, if not the United States," said Andi Day, executive director of the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau.

The paved surface, suitable for walkers and cyclists, has several access points on its route parallel to the ocean more than eight miles from near 26th Street. Walkers may take a spur into Cape Disappointment State Park

or go through Ilwaco to the Port.

"The thing I like about our trail is that the paved path follows the contours of the dunes. It's much more fluid and harmonious with the environment," Day said. "It's a really fun ride on a bike."

It was created after the 2005 Lewis and Clark Bicentennial by Visitors Bureau leaders, Pacific County, the cities of Long Beach and Ilwaco, Washington State Parks and the U.S. National Park Service. It is mostly maintained by the cities.

Walkers enjoy the dunes, Sitka spruce and a conifer forest. Artwork includes a metal statue of Capt. William Clark and a sturgeon he described in November 1805, and a bronze sculp-



PATRICK WEBB PHOTO

The Discovery Trail on the Long Beach Peninsula is suitable for walkers of all ages. The 8-mile paved trail was created thanks to the cooperation of multiple agencies. This photo shows part of the wooden Long Beach Boardwalk on the right, which is not part of the trail but runs parallel to it between Bolstad Avenue and Sid Snyder Drive in Long Beach.

ture called "Clark's Tree." Storyboards describe black-tailed deer, shorebirds, tides and beach erosion. Next to a sculpture of whales is the skeleton of a gray whale that

washed up in 2000.

A Port of Seattle grant helps Day promote it with a video, along with the beach and Cape Disappointment. While she works to highlight

events, she likes the trail's year-round appeal. "It's not just for visitors. It makes the community a better place to live."

(Note: In this category,

readers voted Cape Disappointment State Park third. It includes the Coastal Forest Loop, Benson Beach, McKenzie Head and Bell's View trails.) **CW**

BEST GOLF COURSE

PENINSULA GOLF COURSE

LONG BEACH

Runner-up: Astoria Golf & Country Club, Warrenton
Honorable mention: Highlands Golf Club, Gearhart

By PATRICK WEBB

Readers selected Peninsula Golf as the top course. The 55-acre facility, located a couple of miles north of the center of Long Beach, has been a golf course since 1947. Jim and Sondra Eaton have run it as a jack- and jill-of-all-trades for 12 years.

"I think people like it because it is a golf course that's very user-friendly — and we are dog-friendly,"

said golf pro Jim Eaton, who gives single or group lessons to golfers of all ages, as well as maintaining the par-33 course and all the equipment.

The nine-hole course covers half of the site with the rest remaining in its natural state. Golfers choose four tee options based on their skill level. Using the back tees creates a 2,300-yard walk on the course. Carts and clubs are available to rent.

The Eatons had leased the facility from its former owners since they returned to their hometown after Eaton completed his training at a

Phoenix, Ariz., golf management school. They have just entered into a management contract with new owners, Doug and Angie Brown, of Redmond, Washington.

Readers voted the restaurant, The Cove, as the third-best lunch spot. Sondra Eaton will be moving away from running the kitchen to coordinate catering and marketing. The restaurant replaced a less sophisticated operation in an old red barn in 2011.

"We have coined the phrase, 'The friendliest course on the coast,'" said Sondra Eaton, who is especially proud to host numer-



PATRICK WEBB PHOTO

Jim and Sondra Eaton enjoy a rare quiet moment at Peninsula Golf Course with their 11-year-old Australian shepherd mix, Lacie. They have run the course for 12 years, returning to their hometown after Jim Eaton trained as a golf professional in Phoenix, Arizona.

ous charity tournaments. "We don't want people to feel like golf is a 'snoopy' sport. Golf is for everyone." **CW**



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