

## Get Out |

### WEBSTER'S WOODS ART PARK

# In tune with art and nature in Port Angeles

BY KATHRYN TRUE  
Special to The Seattle Times

PORT ANGELES — Touching artwork is taboo in most museums. Curtly worded signs, uniformed guards, velvet ropes and thick Plexiglas keep patrons from rubbing elbows with the masterworks. Things couldn't be more opposite in Webster's Woods Art Park at the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center, where visitors are invited to indulge all of their senses in a five-acre forest alive with surprise.

Here, more than 100 sculptures beckon you to sit on, gong, climb over, pet, walk on, sniff and look through them.

Set atop a bluff overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca, in the shadow of the Olympic Mountains, a mixed second-growth forest full of bird song and spring growth is an unlikely and stimulating setting for a sculpture park.

"I see this as a jumping-off place to explore the Olympic Peninsula. Walking through here sensitizes people to take a closer look at the natural environment, to see the artistry of nature and how it's similar to the inventions of man," said Jake Seniuk, director of the art center and curator for the art

park.

Indeed, the center is located just five minutes from the main road through Port Angeles, so travelers heading to or from ocean beaches or mountain trails can make an easy side trip here. There are free public tours of Webster's Woods the first Saturday (including this weekend) and third Wednesday of every month, and the park is open daylight hours year-round.

#### Home as art gallery

Oregon-born artist Esther Barrow Webster lived more than 50 years in Port Angeles, leaving her estate to the city to establish a fine-arts center. Her

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JAKE SENIUK



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Top: Ingrid Lahti's "His-sel-sy Songs of an American Robin," made of aluminum, holds a sonogram pattern representing three seconds of a robin's song. Left: The vibrant hues of Carolyn Law's "Linger (Sight, Light)" Plexiglas shapes cast colored light on the landscape.



## If you go

### WHERE

Webster's Woods Art Park is in Port Angeles at 1203 E. Lauridsen Blvd., behind the Jones Street water-reservoir tank. Open daylight hours year-round. Admission is free.

### TOURS

Free tours are offered the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (including this weekend), and the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. In a 90-minute trail walk, director Jake Seniuk shares his curatorial perspective and the background stories to many of more than 100 artworks. Seniuk's commentary will help visitors become more aware of pieces that they might otherwise overlook.

The walk is mostly over dirt trails, may have muddy patches and has some steep sections. It

is not wheelchair accessible. Wear appropriate shoes and outerwear.

### MORE TO SEE

Currently showing through April 16 at the adjacent Port Angeles Fine Arts Center: Photographer Steve Wilson's exhibition featuring two extended photographic essays: "Time and the Passage of Trees" and "Symmetry: The Beginning of It All?"

### GETTING THERE

From Highway 101 (Front Street) in Port Angeles, turn south on Race Street. Go 1.5 miles to Lauridsen Boulevard. Turn left and drive three blocks to the parking lot on your left. City signs direct you to the Fine Arts Center from Front Street.

### MORE INFORMATION

360-457-3532 or [www.pafac.org](http://www.pafac.org)