

*Where natural and human history  
are alive*

“At the end of the last glacial period, melt water from the glacier on the upper flanks of what became Vashon Island carved thru the soft glacial till seeking a clear path to the Sound. This was the birth of the steep walled, Nettle creek Canyon that in turn created Fern Cove where its fresh water mingled with salt for the first time.”

Duncan Berry, Founder, Friends of Fern Cove, 1994

In the thousands of years since nature created it, this elbow shaped cove has been a bustling nursery for life. Rich soils and moist weather patterns spawned dense stands of cedar, salmon crowded the mouth of the creek and the marine shoreline became home to thousands of shellfish, crustaceans, fish and migratory birds. Early peoples left stone tools and shell mounds at the edge of the salt marsh for the first white settlers to find. They, in turn, put up their own shelters. And, Dr. Belle Baldwin, the first female physician in Washington State, settled here with her family in the 1890's.

Today's Fern Cove holds all this history in its rich natural and structural forms, waiting for the eager visitor to discover anew. The Vashon Park District, Vashon Land Trust, King County and Friends of Fern Cove have protected its natural gifts since 1994, and recently restored the Belle Baldwin home as a pristine vacation and retreat rental.



[vashonparkdistrict.org](http://vashonparkdistrict.org)

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**A Unique Opportunity to Rent a  
Gorgeous Beach Home on  
Vashon Island**



*The Belle Baldwin House  
at Fern Cove*



# Fern Cove Park & the Belle Baldwin House

## Nature at Fern Cove

Fern Cove is the vital link between a 2,200 acre, undeveloped, upland watershed and a vital estuary and marine tideland. It includes 13.5 acres of 100-year-old second growth forest, a marine estuary providing critical habitat for salmon and other wildlife, two high quality streams and more than 750 feet of Puget Sound shoreline on the NW corner of Vashon Island. Two creeks, the Shinglemill and Baldwin, empty into Colvos Passage at Fern Cove creating the estuarine system and a fertile delta.

## Environmental Education

In the revitalized Fern Cove Carriage House *People For Puget Sound* is working to provide interpretive signage, display materials from area conservation organizations, and a gathering spot for field activities. Working with the Park District, Vashon Island School District, Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, Vashon Audubon, and other community groups they coordinate educational beach walks, tours and events on the beach.

## The House at Fern Cove

The Belle Baldwin House was the home of Edward Loomis Smith, a prominent physician practicing in the Washington Territory and the State of Washington from 1870 to his death in 1893. His daughter, Belle Baldwin, became the state's first female physician in 1912 and features prominently in the study of women in America.

Named a King County Historic Landmark, the Belle Baldwin house may be the only known intact example of the residential work of Harlan Thomas, a renowned architect whose buildings are distinguished Seattle landmarks. The Vashon Park District's 'green' restoration process has returned the house to its 1912 glory, creating a relaxing, natural environment that honors the park and the past.



## RATES effective Jan. 1, 2010

### Peak Season (June-August)

\$1580 per week

### Off-Season (September-May)

\$1200 per week

or

\$225 per night with a two night minimum stay

### Retreats (one day)

\$300 for one day (includes \$75 cleaning fee)

or

\$500 for one day and one night (11am checkout)

The Belle Baldwin house is a three-bedroom, one bath house that can accommodate up to six overnight guests

All rates include cleaning, fresh linens, towels, beach towels, and kitchen essentials.

Please ask for our List of Household Items.

All rates are subject to change. No smoking. No pets.

Please call with questions or for additional details.

15% Discount available for Vashon Island residents.

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Belle Baldwin's historic home has been completely renovated and restored, with a new kitchen and bath. The house is fully furnished for a relaxing, peaceful escape from it all.

