



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 13, 2024
Contact: Noah Glaude, Executive Director, North Olympic Library System
360-417-8500 x7715; NGlaude@nols.org
Lexi Wagor, Community Relations Manager, North Olympic Land Trust
360-417-1815 x2; Lexi@northolympiclandtrust.org
Attached: *StoryWalk-Lindholm.jpg*
Re: Vandalism at Lyre Conservation Area ruins children's picture book experience

On Saturday, Nov. 9, staff from the North Olympic Land Trust (NOLT) discovered that a [StoryWalk®](#) experience at the Lyre Conservation Area had been vandalized. Nearly all of the 20 picture-book signs were removed from the trail and disposed of in the woods. Staff and volunteers were able to recover several signs after hours of searching. Some signs were hidden about 30 feet from the trail. Search efforts will continue in the hopes of reinstalling the signs this weekend with the help of a volunteer team.

"This vandalism is especially hurtful because StoryWalk is designed for young children," said Lexi Wagor, the Land Trust's Community Relations Manager. "Families are missing out due to someone's selfish behavior."

A nationwide program, StoryWalk promotes early literacy, physical activity and family time together in nature. The fun and educational activity is designed for families to enjoy successive pages from a children's story along a path.

"Unfortunately, this type of vandalism isn't new to us," said Noah Glaude, Executive Director of the North Olympic Library System. "Our annual springtime Poetry Walks in Olympic National

Park, a program that's received national accolades and an overwhelmingly positive response over the last decade, has also had signs pulled out of the ground and thrown into the forest. It's disruptive and wastes staff time. One person or a small group has acted inappropriately to take these engaging experiences away from other community members." Both Poetry Walks and StoryWalk are temporary installations along designated trails. StoryWalk was set to be displayed throughout November.

The sign removal happened right before National StoryWalk Week, Nov. 10-16, and during Native American Heritage Month. The picture book "We Are Water Protectors" was written and illustrated by Indigenous women Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade.

Signs are expected to be reinstalled by Nov. 18, after which visitors to the Lyre Conservation Area are asked to call the North Olympic Land Trust at 360-417-1815 or email info@northolympiclandtrust.org if they notice any issues.



North Olympic Land Trust Board member Erika Lindholm reads a page from "We Are Water Protectors" at StoryWalk before signs were vandalized. Staff and volunteers plan to reinstall signs.

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