

**Washington Native Plant Society - South Sound Chapter  
Native Plant Hike**

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018

Title/Location: Illahee Forest Preserve, 3200 NE Riddell Rd, Bremerton

Hike Leader: Cyndy Dillon      Contact Information [cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net) 253 225-9284

Departure Time: 1pm      Estimated Return Time: 3pm

Departure location: parking lot      Number of people: unlimited

Hike Description: The Illahee Forest Preserve is a Kitsap County Heritage Park which includes 570 acres of preserve lands, approximately 5 miles of trails, wildlife including over 55 species of birds, portions of Illahee Creek, a fish-bearing stream with coho, chum, cutthroat and steelhead, and parts of an undeveloped watershed draining into Puget Sound. Native Americans called Illahee "a place to rest" and treasured the forest abundant with wildlife, Douglas fir, red alder, maple and western red-cedar. A 1732 fire opened the canopy allowing western white pine and western hemlock to sprout. The forest recovered but homesteads were established and timber companies clear cut most of the trees in the 1930's, although a few 275 year old Douglas fir and western white pine remain. A 25-year local campaign led to designation as park and preserve managed by the Illahee Preserve Stewardship Committee, Illahee Forest Preserve non-profit and Kitsap County Parks and Recreation.

Any special requirements: Wear good hiking shoes. Water and cookies will be provided at end of hike

Directions: From Tacoma, go west on WA-16, cross Tacoma Narrows Bridge and continue to Gorst where the highway merges with WA-3. Continue north and take WA-304E toward Bremerton shipyard, then turn east as WA-304 becomes Burwell St. Turn north on Warren Ave (WA-303) which becomes Wheaton Way and turn east on Riddell Rd, then north on Almira Drive to Illahee Forest Preserve parking lot.