

Washington Native Plant Society
South Sound Chapter
Native Plant Hike

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019

Title/Location: Sequalitchew Creek Trail **Hike Leader:** Bill Brookreson **Contact**

Information: b.brookreson@comcast.net
253-292-8570

Departure Time: 10:00 am **Estimated Return Time:** noon

Departure location: DuPont City Hall Parking Lot **Number of people:** unlimited

Hike Description: Sequalitchew Creek Trail. The paved trail leaves City Hall following a wide path through some new trees. It quickly starts to drop into the densely forested ravine and the creek appears below. The trail turns to good gravel but drops gently (1.5 miles down with a 10 foot drop) following an old rail line to Puget Sound. Two tunnels go through the railroad dike, one with the tracks still intact. You can follow the trail above the beach for a minute to the largest open beach for playing. Views are out to Anderson Island, McNeil Island, and the Olympics. We have a plant list of the plants on the trail for you. Beware of poison oak at the Puget Sound.

Just above Puget Sound a broad, shallow basin slows and widens the Creek. This basin shelters a small saltwater marsh. During low-flow periods, this area is mostly dry and stagnant, showing wide channels of bluish, algae-coated Creek bed. In the spring, the basin is thick with tall salt-tolerant grasses, including tufted hairgrass, bent grass, fat hen, western dock and Lyngbye's sedge. The higher areas are populated with Douglas aster, yarrow and marsh cinquefoil. The flow of the Creek forms small channels through the salt marsh, bound for the culvert through which it flows to Puget Sound. This half-acre salt marsh is all that is left where Sequalitchew creek once met Puget Sound as a rich tidal cove.

Directions: At Dupont, Take the Center Drive Exit off I-5 and follow Center Drive to Civic Lane. Turn left and park in front of City Hall. Walk up to the building looking for the trailhead interpretive signs at the woods edge.

Any special requirements: Sturdy walking shoes and sun screen are recommended.