

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

Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019

Title/Location: Point Defiance Park, 5400 Pearl St, Tacoma

Hike Leader: Cyndy Dillon Contact Information cpdillongh@comcast.net 253 225-9284

Departure Time: 1pm Estimated Return Time: 3pm

Departure location: Fort Nisqually parking lot Number of people: unlimited

Hike Description: We will walk a fraction of the Outside Loop Trail between Fort Nisqually and Bridges Viewpoint on the west side of the point in the 760 acre park. Native deciduous shrubs should be coming out after February snows and the evergreen Western red-cedars, Douglas-firs and Western hemlocks are always magnificent. Groundcovers, mosses and lichens are also major attractions. Hopefully, we can also observe the native wildlife, including bald eagles, mule deer, red foxes, pileated woodpeckers, Douglas squirrels, and raccoons.

Point Defiance Park began as a military reservation after the Wilkes Expedition visited Puget Sound in the 1840s to map the bays and estuaries. Wilkes is thought to have noted that with a fort positioned at the point, and at Gig Harbor across the narrows, one could "Defy" the world. The high cliffs and prominent location were never used for military operations. In 1888, President Grover Cleveland authorized its use as a public park.

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

Directions:

Going east on Route 16, take 6th Ave exit, then turn right onto Pearl St.

Going west on Route 16, take the 6th Ave exit, turn left onto 6th Ave at the light, then right onto Pearl St at the next light.

Follow Pearl St until it dead ends at Pt Defiance Park. Enter the main gate and follow signs to Fort Nisqually. Most of Five Mile Drive should be closed to cars on the weekend.