

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

Date: Sunday, November 26, 2017

Title/Location: Deschutes Falls County Park, 25005 Bald Hill Rd, WA.

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

Departure Time: 12pm

Estimated Return Time: 2pm

Departure location: Parking lot at Deschutes Falls Park Number of people: 10-15

Hike Description: This park is a hidden treasure in Thurston County. In its natural form, it is a paradise for adventurers and photographers. Here one can find natural rock monoliths, swirling pools of water, native plants and animals, deep canyons, and the falls. Thurston County has made minimal improvements to the site. There is a four-foot high fence at the edge of the river gorge to help ensure the safety of visitors. The 155-acre park earns the name Deschutes Falls for a 27-foot waterfall that spills into the Deschutes River. Water cascades into the river, where the banks rise to approximately 70 feet. The river then moves through a 400-foot gorge, and finally settles into a basin that is 300 by 150 feet. The portion of the Deschutes River that runs through the park has a series of small waterfalls visible to visitors.

Any special requirements: Trail to falls is new and broad with a moderate incline so good walking shoes are fine. We will have cookies and water.

Directions: The park is located near the end of Bald Hill Rd SE. (25005 Bald Hill Rd.) Follow brown signs.

From Tacoma (1 hour): From I-5 S take WA-512 exit, then take the Steele St exit. Take Spanaway Loop Rd S to WA-704 E (8 min, 4.7mi). Take WA-507 S to Vail Rd SE in Thurston County (20 min, 14.6 mi). Take Bald Hill Rd SE to the park (33 min, 16.4 mi).

From Olympia (1 hour): From I-5N take exit 109 for Martin Way, keep right at the fork and merge onto Martin Way E. Turn right onto Kinwood St SE (.7 mi). Turn left onto Pacific Ave SE (1.3 mi). At the traffic circle, continue straight onto WA-510 E(4.8 mi). At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit and stay on WA-510 E (.2 mi). At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto WA-510 E/Yelm Hwy SE (4.2 mi). Keep right to continue toward Yelm Hwy SE and merge onto Yelm Hwy SE (3.1 mi). Turn right onto Bald Hill Rd SE (5 mi). Turn left to stay on Bald Hill Rd SE to the park (9.3 mi).