

Olympic Sculpture Park Plants and Precincts

The Olympic Sculpture Park has four distinct landscapes or "precincts" that reflect native ecosystems of the Northwest. They provide a diversity of settings for art, and also introduce the array of plants and bird life found in the Puget Sound region. A surfaced central pathway, lined with ash trees, connects the landscapes.

VALLEY

Evergreen forests of the Pacific Northwest are noted for trees of extraordinary height and grandeur, such as the Douglas fir, western red cedar and western hemlock. In addition to these more common trees, the deciduous western larch, usually associated with higher elevations in the Cascades, and the ginkgo and metasequoia, "living fossils" once found in the Northwest, create a place of refuge and quiet contemplation. A canopy of dogwood, with an understory of snowberry, evergreen huckleberry and salal, leads visitors through a series of outdoor galleries, from the Valley floor to the park's central pathway.

MEADOWS

Three Meadows in the park were designed to provide a flexible environment for siting art, and to create open views of both the city and Puget Sound. The plants of the Meadows consist of grasses and native wildflowers, including the camas lily and the western columbine. The majestic and slow-growing Garry oak is the dominant tree species.

GROVE

A tall forest of quaking aspen and its understory of wood rose, flowering currant, and Oregon iris dramatically expresses the changing seasons. An informal pathway through the Grove connects a series of clearings that have been created for siting art. The aspen are noted for their distinctive white bark and the rustling sound of the wind as it passes through their leafy branches.

SHORE

The shoreline has one of the mildest climates of the Pacific Northwest, yet the effects of constant wind and salt-water spray result in a native plant community that is diverse and unique. The Shore landscape features some of the more common plants found in the coastal zone, including shore pine, beach grass and beach strawberry. These plants were specifically selected to support the creation of habitat for migratory salmon, including a pocket beach and sub-tidal zone dominated by kelp, algae and marine organisms.

VALLEY

Top:
Douglas fir
Pseudotsuga menziesii
© 2005, Ben Legler

Middle:
Eddies White
Wonder dogwood
Cornus "Eddies White Wonder"
© 2003, Ben Legler

Bottom:
salal
Gaultheria shallon
© Bud Kovalchik



MYRTLE EDWARDS PARK

SHORE

MEADOW

Left:
western columbine
Aquilegia formosa
© 2004, Ben Legler

Middle:
camas
Camassia quamash
© 2003, Ben Legler

Right:
Garry oak
Quercus garryana
© Timothy D. Ives



GROVE

Left:
dwarf rose
Rosa gymnocarpa
© 2004, Ben Legler

Middle:
quaking aspen
Populus tremulooides
© Br. Alfred Brousseau,
Saint Mary's College

Right:
Oregon iris
Iris tenax
© 2004, Ben Legler



SHORE

Left:
shore pine
Pinus contorta
© 2003, Ben Legler

Middle:
beach strawberry
Fragaria chiloensis
© 2003, Ben Legler

Right:
dune grass
Elymus mollis
Gladys Lucille Smith
© California Academy of Sciences



- LEGEND
- Park Entrance
 - Streets
 - Walkways
 - Bike Path
 - Vegetation
 - Buildings
 - Sited Artwork
 - Infrastructure Artwork

