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

Douglas fir Pseudotsuga menziesii © 2005, Ben Legler

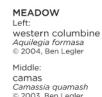
Middle: Eddies White Wonder dogwood Cornus "Eddies White Wonder" © 2003, Ben Legler

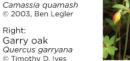
Bottom: Gaultheria shallon @ Bud Kovalchik

















GROVE dwarf rose Rosa gymnocarpa © 2004, Ben Legler

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

Right: Oregon iris © 2004, Ben Legler







SHORE shore pine Pinus contorta © 2003, Ben Legler Middle:

beach strawberry Fragaria chiloensis © 2003, Ben Legler

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







WESTERN AVENUE LEGEND Park Entrance Streets Walkways Bike Path VALLEY **PAVILION AMPHITHEATER** Vegetation Buildings Sited Artwork Infrastructure Artwork **EAST MEADOW** ELLIOTT AVENUE WEST MEADOW ALASKAN WAY

EAGLE STREET

PUGET SOUND







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