

## Olympic Sculpture Park Plantings Fact Sheet

### Plantings Vision:

The new Olympic Sculpture Park transformed a major industrial site into a nine-acre park that is free and accessible to the public. Central to the award-winning design by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism is a 2,200-foot, Z-shaped path that integrates architecture, landscape design and urban infrastructure to unify three separate parcels of land and create topographically diverse settings for art.

From the project's beginning, a major goal was to integrate native plants and sculptured soils to create natural drainage on the site. To that end, dense native understory vegetation now helps retain rainfall above the soil surface. Native plants are the most visible part of the restoration effort and re-establish a landscape progression from upland to shoreline in four distinct precincts showcasing Northwest ecology: *Valley*, *Grove*, *Meadows* and *Shore*.

### The Valley

The *Valley* is an evergreen forest typically associated with our lowland coastal region. It features tall conifers such as western red cedar, Douglas fir and hemlock. An understory of shrubs, many that are food sources for native bird species, include western serviceberry, evergreen huckleberry and salal. Spring ephemerals reflect the Puget Sound region's seasonal periods of rain and drought, and "living fossils"—plants that were found in our region thousands of years ago—include the ginkgo and *metasequoia* (Dawn redwood).

### Valley Key Species

- *Thuja plicata*/ western red cedar
- *Pseudotsuga menziesii*/ Douglas fir
- *Tsuga heterophylla*/ western hemlock
- *Amelanchier alnifolia*/ western serviceberry
- *Vaccinium ovatum*/ evergreen huckleberry
- *Gaultheria shallon*/ salal
- *Ginkgo biloba*/ ginkgo
- *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*/ Dawn redwood

### The Barry Ackerley Family East Meadow and the Kreielsheimer North Meadow

The Olympic Sculpture Park's Barry Ackerley Family *East Meadow* and Kreielsheimer *North Meadow* of native grasses and wildflowers were designed as open, flexible environments that would accommodate a dynamic artistic program, as well as informal viewpoints from which to enjoy views across Puget Sound and the surrounding cityscape. The slow-growing and majestic garry oak is the dominant tree species in these areas. Featured wildflowers include the camas lily, columbine and pearly everlasting.

### Meadow Key Species

- *Quercus garryana*/ Garry oak
- *Camassia quamash*/ camas lily
- *Anaphalis margaritacea*/ pearly everlasting
- *Aquilegia Formosa*/ western columbine

### The Henry and William

The Henry and William Ketcham Families *Grove* is a deciduous forest of quaking

**Ketcham Families Grove**

aspen, well-known for their stark white bark in winter, and the distinct rustling sound of wind passing through their leaves in the other seasons. The *Grove's* informal walking path lets visitors experience wood rose, flowering currant and Oregon iris as the principal understory plantings. The aspen forest's openness and ability to rapidly self-propagate through its root system ensures a flexible environment for future art.

**Grove Key Species**

- *Populus tremuloides*/ quaking aspen
- *Ribes sanguineum*/ flowering currant
- *Rosa gymnocarpa*/ wood rose
- *Iris tenax*/ Oregon iris

**The Shore**

Plants selected for the waterfront *Shore* area are tolerant of high wind and saltwater, and are commonly associated with the Puget Sound basin's coastal environment. The creation of a new beach and offshore sub-tidal habitat at the Olympic Sculpture Park is important for the recovery of native fish species, particularly juvenile salmon that occupy more shallow zones. Plantings along the waterfront include shore pine, alder, dune grass, Nootka rose and beach strawberry.

**Shore Key Species**

- *Pinus contorta*/ shore pine
- *Alnus rubra*/ alder
- *Elymus mollis*/ dune grass
- *Rosa nutkana*/ Nootka rose
- *Fragaria virginiana*/ wild strawberry