

**16. Western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*)**

Considered the tree of life by Coast Salish people, the redcedar provided everything from diapers and clothes, to canoes and shelter. Its flat, scale-like leaves and small cones are distinct, as is the smooth, fibrous bark. Red leaves on this redcedar may be drought damage.



**17. Burly tree**

Notice a bulge on this Douglas-fir? Most likely, wind once took the top off, and new limbs grew. One of the limbs became the new top. A "burl" was formed when scar tissue and bark grew over wounds left by the other limbs breaking off.

**18. Shade and moisture**

Under the trees the soil holds more moisture than in the clearing. This is because of reduced exposure to sunlight and wind. Here, ocean spray, salal, twinflower and moss grow in abundance.

**Step moss (*Hylocomium splendens*)**

An estimate of the age of this feathery moss can be attained by counting the distinctive stair-step fronds that are added yearly.



**Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)**

A fragrant, creeping vine peeking through the moss, twinflower has delicate, down turned blossoms rising from a slight, trailing stalk.



**Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)**

This leathery-leaved evergreen shrub thrives in the nutrient-poor soils of this coastal forest.



**Ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*)**

The seafoam-like flowers of ocean spray give this shrub its name. Also called ironwood, the wood has a high tensile strength and proved useful for bows, arrows, digging sticks and even nails.



**19. Ancient fir**

Fossils tell us that before the last ice age this forest was full of giant sequoias and redwoods. Now, Douglas-firs and hemlocks reign. This Douglas-fir is one of a few old-growth trees still found in the park and is more than 400 years old.

**20. Nurse stump**

Like the nurse log, this stump provides a place for plants to get a start. Organic debris collects on top and provides soil for mosses and seeds to start. Stumps also make good perches. Seeds are deposited through bird droppings left on top and come complete with fertilizer.

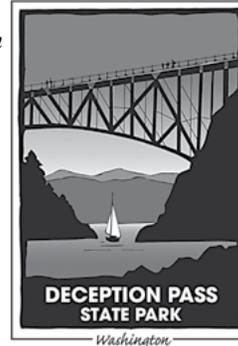
**DECEPTION PASS PARK FOUNDATION**

*This brochure was printed with the support of the Deception Pass Park Foundation. For more information about the foundation, please visit [www.deceptionpassfoundation.org](http://www.deceptionpassfoundation.org)*

We hope you enjoyed the trail. You may keep this guide or return it to the box for others to use.

**Deception Pass State Park**

41020 SR 20  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
(360) 675-2417  
[www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)



**Connect with us on social media**

twitter [www.twitter.com/WASatePks](http://www.twitter.com/WASatePks)  
facebook [www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks](http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks)  
YouTube [www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks](http://www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks)  
foursquare [www.foursquare.com/WASatePks](http://www.foursquare.com/WASatePks)

Share your stories and photos: [AdventureAwaits.com](http://AdventureAwaits.com)

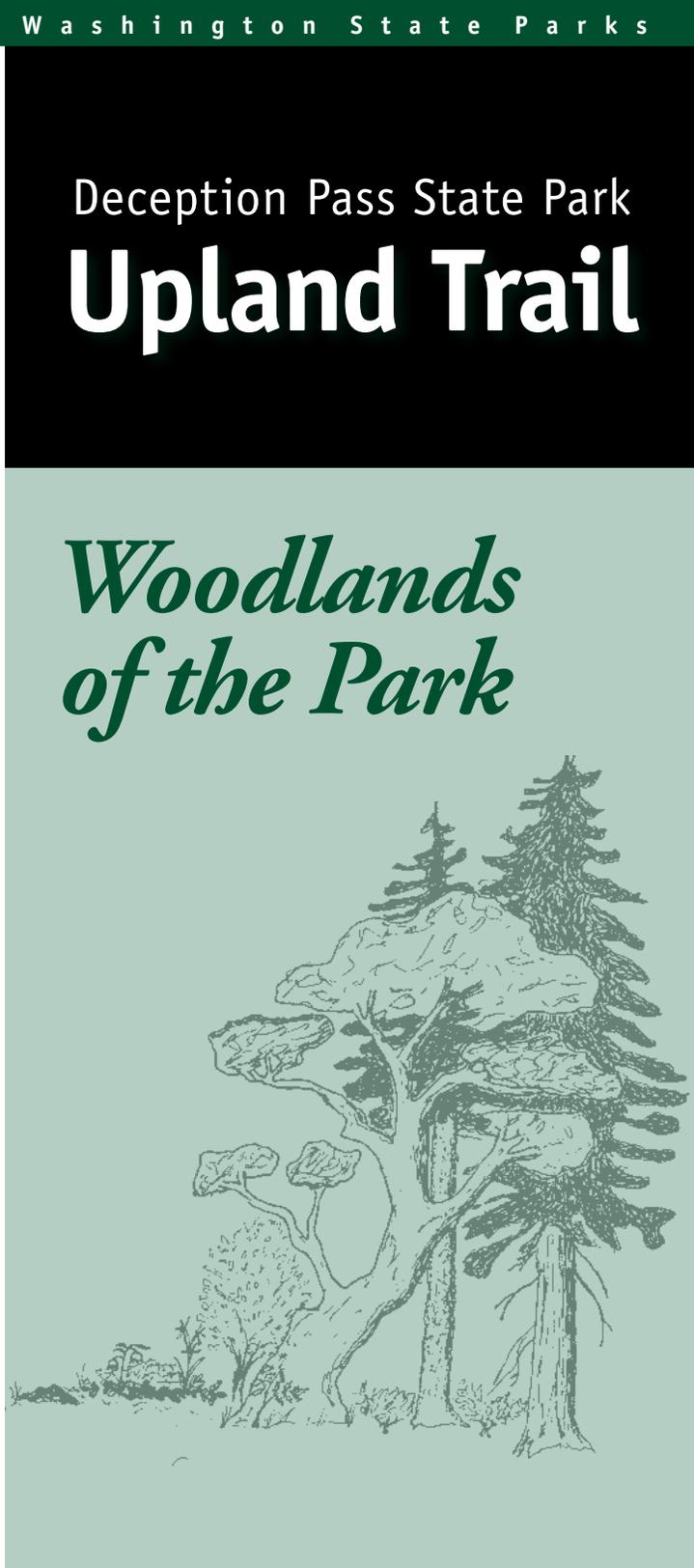
**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**

P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650  
(360) 902-8500  
[www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

Commission members:  
Ken Bounds Mark O. Brown  
Patricia T. Lantz Steve S. Milner  
Douglas Peters Rodger Schmitt  
Lucinda S. Whaley  
Agency director: Don Hoch

*All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.*

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. P&R 45-52500-2 (08/16)



Deception Pass State Park  
**Upland Trail**

*Woodlands of the Park*

**I**dentify native plants on an easy stroll through two kinds of forests. Begin in a dry coniferous forest, here gentle slopes and soil allow for dense growth. As the forest opens up and there is rock underfoot, discover flora of an open transitional forest.

**1. Douglas-fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

A suitable giant to welcome you to the dry coniferous forest. Even after fire blackened its bark and wind pushed it over, this tree lives on. Thick bark and strong wood keep Douglas-firs standing when many other species succumb to harsh elements.



**2. Nurse log**

Even in death, trees make way for life. As this fallen log decays, it returns nutrients to the soil, absorbs and holds moisture and gives new plants a boost toward the sun. Gradually, the log itself is becoming the soil.



**3. Snags**

See the dead tree to the left? Standing dead trees, called “snags,” are important to a forest as they provide a safe haven and food for many forest inhabitants. You may see an owl pecking out of a hole or a woodpecker searching for tasty bugs in these dead trees.



**4. Lightning rod hemlock**

Notice the spiral line on the large tree to the right? In 1990, lightning struck and blew the top off of this western hemlock. The line is the scar left from where the lightning wound its way to the ground.



**5. Pacific madrone** (*Arbutus menziesii*)

This broad-leaved evergreen with human-like limbs is a sign you are near the Salish Sea. The inner bark is green because it is photosynthetic, like the leaves, becoming reddish and peeling with age. This tree is young and may grow to 80 feet tall.



**6. Witch’s beard** (*Alectoria vancouverensis*)

The hanging moss-like lichen is a partnership between fungi and algae. While other fungi decompose organic materials for nutrients, the fungal portion of the lichen gains nutrients from the algal portion of their partnership. Each is dependent on the other. It appears to be an effective partnership as there are more than a thousand different types of lichens in the Northwest.



**7. Juniper** (*Juniperus scopulorum*)

You have briefly left the shelter of the dry coniferous forest and have entered the open transitional forest. This tree, as well as Garry oak and prickly pear cactus, are indications you are in a dry, rocky rainshadow forest created by the rain-blocking Olympic mountain range to the southwest.



**8. Kinnikinnick** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Behind the sign is a dark-green, evergreen groundcover that thrives in dry, rocky sites from low elevations to alpine meadows. Kinnikinnick may have come from the Algonquin language meaning “smoking mixture.” Leaves were dried and smoked by several Coast Salish peoples.



**9. Bald meadow** - a wildflower haven

In these clearings, exposed rock that has been scraped smooth hints at the region’s glacial history. Little soil has built up in this place since the glacier receded, preventing shrub and tree growth and making way for lilies, paintbrush, grasses and more. The growth of these plants will help build up the soil. Stay on the path in bald meadow areas as it is easy to dislodge these fragile plants.



**10. Oregon grape** (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

Prickly, holly-like leaves rise from the ground to the left of the sign. This is a native species, unrelated to the exotic holly. Fragrant, yellow flowers lead to dusky-blue, sour berries in summer. The Coast Salish people have prized the vibrant yellow bark for dye.



**11. Shore pine crossing** (*Pinus contorta*)

In this grove of shore pines is an animal crossroads. These paths were once well worn by animals going from forest to lakeside to drink. Look for other signs of animals, such as rubbing marks on trees or browsing on madrona and huckleberries.



The shore pine is a variety of lodgepole pine that lives on the coast, tolerating salty air and low-nutrient soils.

**12. Fresh space**

High winds toppled this tree in 1990, exposing soil for new plants to grow. Increased light and space in freshly disturbed areas give less shade-tolerant species a foothold in the forest.

**13. Shady shrub**

You are back in the shade of the dry coniferous forest, where the red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*) thrives. A relative of the blueberry, the red huckleberry is more common in lower to mid elevations, often taking root in stumps where the seeds have been deposited in bird droppings.



**14. Pacific yew** (*Taxus brevifolia*)

This is a unique evergreen tree. Instead of cones, seeds are produced in bright red berries. It is prized for its strong wood and a chemical in the bark that has been used in treating cancer.



**15. Glacial erratic**

Why is this mossy rock speckled and all the other rocks are dark? This rock is actually granite that was carried and dropped here by a glacier when it receded about 12,000 years ago. The glacier was more than a mile thick and hundreds of miles long.