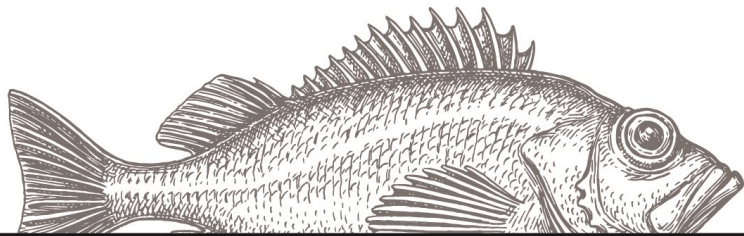




A guide to exploring local beaches



Dash Point State Park

Land acknowledgement: Puyallup, Umatilla, Walla Walla and Cayuse territories

About the beach:

This park is located just south of Seattle in Federal Way. This is a popular site to camp and take in views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. This park has many picnic tables and reservable shelters for daytime use. This park has well-maintained, paved pathways for easy beach access. The beach is characterized by soft sand, algae and rocks. There is a creek that runs through the middle of the beach. The beach is very slippery, so footwear with excellent traction is recommended.

Parking:

This park has a large parking lot with plenty of room for bus drop off. The parking lot is located next to a picnic area with reservable tables and covered shelters. The parking lot is a 5-minute walk to the bathrooms and the start of the beach. A Washington State Parks Discover Pass is required for entry to the park. You can purchase a day-use or a yearlong pass online. A day-use pass costs \$11.50 and a year pass is \$35. There is also a kiosk located in the parking lot. This grants you access to over 100 state parks. Note that some public-school buses have exempt license plates meaning that they can enter the park without a Discover Pass, but make sure to double check with your district's bus company before arriving.

Bathrooms:

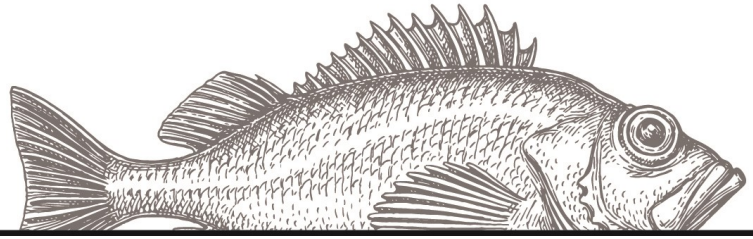
There are gendered restrooms close to the beach, each including a large stall with ramps. This restroom does not have changing tables available.

Accessibility:

This beach has paved, well-maintained pathways from the parking lot through the start of the beach. There is ramp access to picnic areas which are stationed on dirt and grass patches. The pathway near the start of the beach has a small lip where it becomes dirt instead of pavement. The start of the beach is obstructed by various rocks and logs. Facing the beach, go to the leftmost entry point (through the grassy area). There are two dirt pathways (one is 58 inches in width, the other is 28 inches at its narrowest point) that were less obstructed and would lead directly onto the sandy beach with minimal rocks. Using these pathways would mean you can only access the left side of the beach (when facing the water). There is a creek running through the middle of the beach that can be traversed. Navigating a long distance through slippery substrate is required to get to the water. A beach chair is recommended for those who would have trouble navigating this without a mobility device. For shade, there is tree cover near the high tide area of the beach in addition to several reservable shelters near the picnic area. There is a water spigot at the restrooms near the beach for drinking and rinsing.



A guide to exploring local beaches



Dash Point State Park

Best tide level:

This beach is especially great for super low tide days. Ideally, you would be visiting this beach when the tide is at a minimum of -2 feet. Fun can still be had at the beach even if the tide isn't super low by looking out for megafauna such as sea lions, harbor seals and harbor porpoises swimming by. We were able to see a few sand dollars when the tide level was at 2 feet.

Animals you might meet:

Sand dollars, moon snails, hermit crabs, sea anemones

Address:

5700 SW Dash Point Road
Federal Way, WA 98023

Park hours:

Mon-Sun 8am to dusk