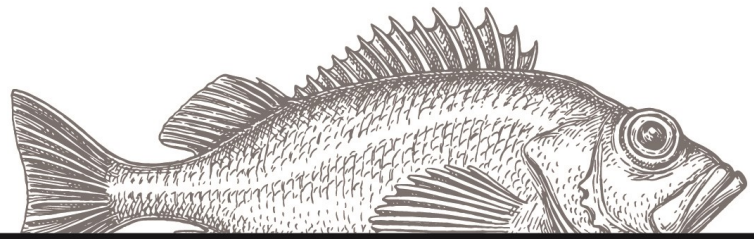




A guide to exploring local beaches



Constellation Park

Also known as Charles Richey Sr. Viewpoint

Land acknowledgement: Muckleshoot, Duwamish, Suquamish, Umatilla, Walla Walla and Cayuse territories

About the beach:

This beach lies on the southern side of Alki Point and offers beautiful views of the Puget Sound. Its main features are two large rock lines where you can find sea stars, anemones, barnacles, crabs and algae. There is no parking lot at this site; however, it offers easy access for bus drop offs. There is a well-maintained paved pathway that runs along the beach with a ramp and stairs leading down with beach access. The main pathway has an obstacle that would not be accessible by beach wheelchair. There is an easier entrance that is a 5-minute walk towards Alki Point with a ramp that has unobstructed access to the water. This is a great location to take any age group tide pooling because there is lots of room to explore the intertidal.

Parking:

There is no parking lot at this location. Free street parking is available in the neighborhood around the park, but please be mindful of people's driveways. It is difficult to get a bus in the parking area however, there is a pull out right at the park entrance where a bus can easily drop off and pick up.

Bathrooms:

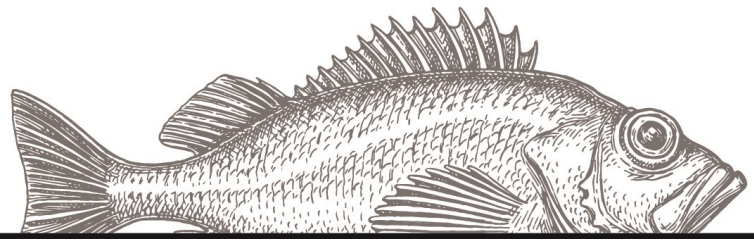
There are no public restrooms at this park. The closest bathrooms are located at Alki Beach, which is an approximately 7-minute car ride away. Bathrooms can be found on the main beach strip by Alki. However, the closest ones are located across the street from the Alki Beach location of the Cactus restaurant.

Accessibility:

There is no access to potable water or shelter from the sun and rain at this beach. The closest shelters are located at Alki Beach which is on the north-facing side of Alki Point. This beach is characterized by large cobble, which is often covered in slippery algae. There are large boulders where students might be tempted to climb and look for tide pool animals. Large eelgrass beds can be found in the sandy patches at low tide. Someone with limited mobility would likely need to use a beach wheelchair to traverse this park. There is a large log that blocks the main entrance to this park. However, there is a wheelchair-accessible ramp to the beach that is located approximately a 5-minute walk down the street. It sits to the right of the main entrance if you are facing the water. There are large logs and boulders for students to sit on at the beach as well as benches up on the pathway that runs parallel to the water.



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Best tide level:

This beach is best for tide pooling when the tide level is below 2 feet. The eelgrass beds are visible on tides less than 1 foot. On extremely low tide days, there is a long pipe on the beach that becomes visible and you can find octopuses hiding inside of it. There is a large pier on the left side of the beach that students can explore underneath and look at the creatures living on the pier pilings.

Animals you might meet:

Shore crabs, anemones, hermit crabs, ochre stars, gunnels, mussels, limpets, barnacles, many species of algae, great blue heron, sea lions, harbor seals, orcas, harbor porpoises, kelp crabs, red rock crabs, Dungeness crabs

Address:

3521 Beach Drive SW

Seattle, WA 98116

Park hours:

Mon-Sun 4am to 11:30pm