

# Priest Point Park Flora Vista Beach Trail

☐ Your Mission: As you follow the shoreline your mission is to be on the lookout for washed up sea jellies (jellyfish) or other marine creatures and send end it tous!

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**BEWARE! Dead yellow/orange jellies can still sting you! We have several species of jellies in Puget Sound. The three most common are the moon jelly, fried egg jelly and lions mane jelly.**

☐ Nearshore... The shoreline and beach your are walking is referred to as the nearshore. This is an important habitat for spawning forage fish.

**Can you locate a sandy gravel part of the upper beach? This is the habitat forage fish prefer.**

☐ Forage fish: These are small schooling fish that are a key food source for the entire ocean! They spawn in Priest Point Park.

**What animals do you think would depend on these small fish for survival? (Marine birds, seals, fish and especially salmon!)**

☐ Geology of Puget Sound: How do you think Puget Sound was formed? Did you know that a huge glacier was once located here over 15,000 years ago! When the ice sheets melted it formed the large body of water we know as Puget Sound. **Notice the different layers of soil zones in the cliff banks. These were all deposited by the glacier. How many layers do you find?**

☐ Coastal marshes: Can you locate a fresh water source seeping onto the beach? Where is it coming from? A freshwater marsh! **Coastal wetlands provide valuable habitat for many wildlife species. What animals do you think live here?**

☐ giant chain fern: Can you spy a very large fern on the steep, moist beach slopes with chain like rows of blades on its fronds? **The giant chains fern grows throughout the coastal cliffs of Puget Sound and is far larger than our common sword fern, which likes the drier upland forest. How many can you find along the way!**

☐ Coastal feeder bluffs: Why are they called feeder bluffs? They "feed" sand and gravel to the beach. Without them we would have no beaches! Please **DO NOT CLIMB** on the cliffs its causes erosion and loss of habitat. **Can you think of what two main elements form the shape of a beach? Wind and wave action! Can you find evidence of this?**

☐ What grows tall on the cliff, has smooth peeling red bark, blooms fragrant in the spring and grows red berries in summer? **Pacific madrone tree!**

**Can you find any? Who do you think would eat their berries?**

☐ Bald eagles: Not long ago bald eagles neared extinction. Through the protection of critical habitat and outlawing of pesticides such as DDT, eagles and other large birds of prey populations have made a comeback. **Did you spy any bald eagles flying or perched on tall trees? Have you heard their high pitched call?**

☐ Remember to send us a photo of sea jellies or other marine critters on the beach.

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