

# Pt. Defiance Park

Romana 08-08-2020

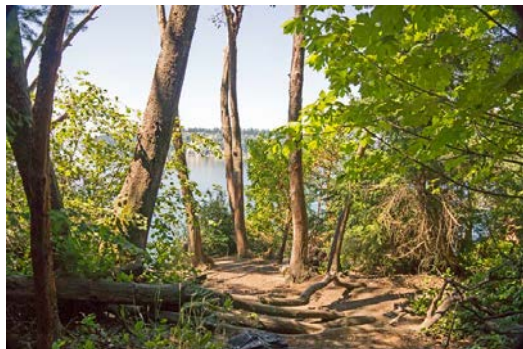


I have been visiting Pt. Defiance Park in Tacoma since at least 2011. I have ridden both my two-wheel bicycle and my three-wheel tricycle there. There are miles of hiking trails...many of which have an elevation gain for improved endurance. The total possible elevation is about 600 feet.



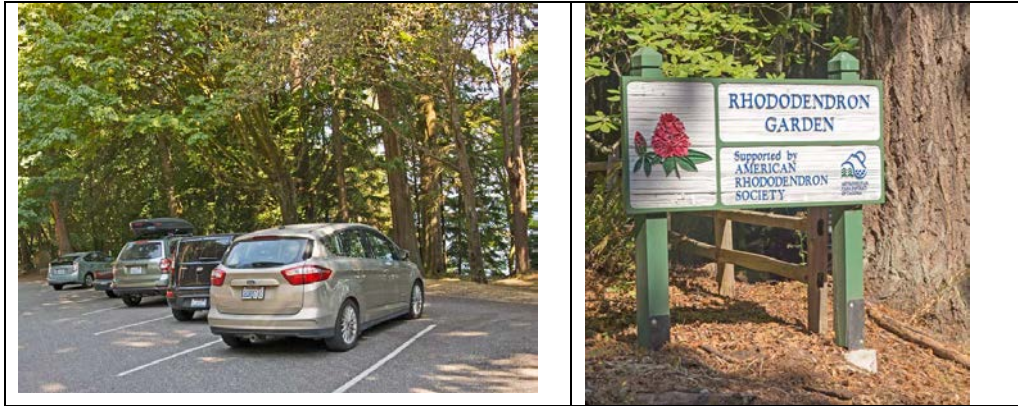
There are a lot of raccoons to the north in the park. This picture is from April 2011.

I have gotten to be out-of-shape. So I recently took two hikes. The first was on July 27<sup>th</sup>.



I hiked down a treacherous trail to reach this point. One misstep and I could have been in serious trouble. I was careful to avoid the steel cable too. I was alone.

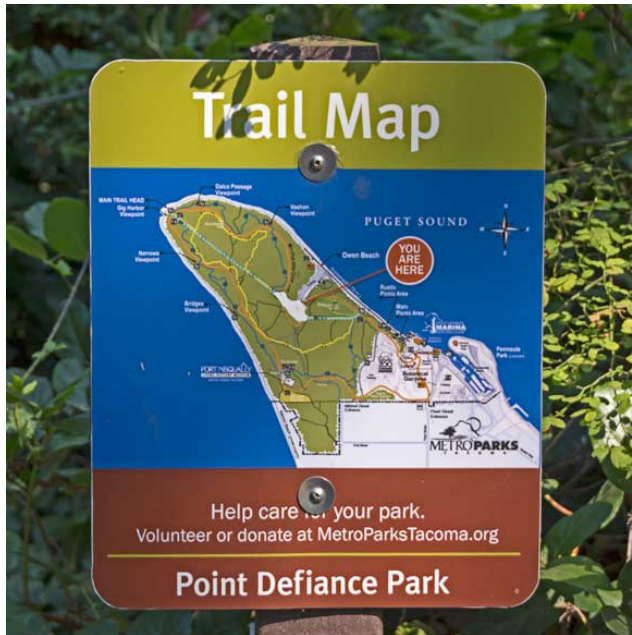
I decided to visit again on July 30<sup>th</sup>. I wanted more exercise and more extensive pictures.



I always like to park near the Rhododendron Garden for the start of my hike. Parking can be tight.

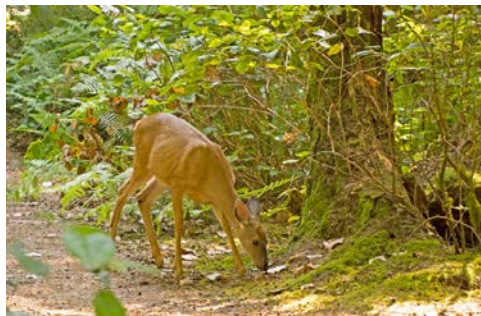


The trails are wide and shaded, but can be steep.



Helpful signs have been added. I've never found any logic to the layout, so I've just gone where the trails go. I make sure I have an idea how to get back to my car.

Right after taking this selfie, I moved off the path to let two women pass. Before I knew it, I was face-first on the ground after tripping on a minor root. It was shocking and embarrassing. I got banged up and there was blood. I am recovering, but I will take better bandages in the future.



I continued my hike. While I did see other deer, this was the only one close enough for a picture.

Various trails can go on for miles. While on a trail, visual indicators are often limited to the trail itself. It is easy to get lost, which is not a good idea after returning to my car after a long hike. I have developed a system of the reckoning that does not rely on much memorization. I use Fort Nisqually as my guide back.

Now is a really great time for a hike, since half the roads are closed to cars.