

NATURE WALK

Students take a directed nature walk in Fautleroy Park.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- See how plants, animals, water, and soil work together to support and perpetuate life.
- Gain a basic understanding of how everything in a natural ecosystem is tied together.
- Employ sight, smell, sound, and touch to gain information.
- Cultivate an interest in learning more.

WHAT TO DO

Start at the north entrance to Fautleroy Park (where S.W. Henderson Street intersects S.W. Barton Street). At the “Y”, take the arterial trail to your left. Point out features along the way and encourage students to employ all their senses.

OPTIONS

- Use the *Self-Guided Nature Walk in Fautleroy Park* as is, stopping at every point of interest identified on the entire circle walk, OR make up your own route and choose points of interest corresponding to your unit (recycling, erosion, etc.).
- Arrange for a watershed volunteer or Seattle Parks naturalist from Camp Long to lead a walk tailored to your particular interests.
- Challenge students to apply math, language, or other skills as part of this activity.
- Use nature journaling or your own worksheet to prompt students to pay attention to particular components of the ecosystem (seeds, birds, etc.) or to reinforce what they're studying in class.
- Incorporate a stewardship component by collecting garbage and recyclables along the way.
- Use this activity to stimulate students to think about what they would like to learn more about or to introduce a service-learning or research project; see www.fautleroy.net/creek/projectideas.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- *Self-Guided Nature Walk in Fautleroy Park* at www.fautleroy.net/faunteroypark/naturewalk.
- A map of the park at www.fautleroy.net/faunteroypark/trailmap.
- Illustrations of plants common to stream, wetland, and forest habitats. Copy from "Link by Link" at www.fautleroy.net/creek/linkbylinkmaterials.
- "Tips and Tricks for Taking Kids Outside" at www.fautleroy.net/creek/tipsandtricks.

SPECIAL MENTION

The park is a highly stimulating environment where even the most disciplined students can have difficulty staying on task. Organize your field trip to include both structured and unstructured exploration and clearly define limits (i.e., always stay within sight of an adult).

The arterial trail is nearly flat as far as the first bridge over the creek. If you want to take students with physical limitations beyond that point, plan to visit the park ahead of time to select the least challenging route.

Ordinary Seattle rain should not require postponing this activity. In the event of a major rainstorm on your day, call early in the morning to strategize what to do.

THEMES

Biodiversity
Watershed
Recycling
Erosion
Bugs
Native Plants

GRADES

K - 8

TIME

Up to 45 minutes