

Tolmie State Park Beach Etiquette

Late Spring and Summer low tides provide us with the opportunity explore the rich diversity of intertidal life. **Observe the following "beach etiquette" to best enjoy and protect intertidal life during low tides.**



- ◆ **Leave** all organisms in their native habitat, where you find them on the beach. This includes live and dead sand dollars, sea stars, barnacles, kelp and shore crabs, and moon snails.
- ◆ **Walk with care** to avoid injuring plants and seaweed. Plants and seaweed provide habitat and hiding places for intertidal organisms. They in turn provide food for many animals.
- ◆ **Step on bare spots** as much as possible, walking slowly and at a safe pace.
- ◆ **Overturn rocks with care**, if doing so. When finished looking, return them gently to their original position to avoid crushing anything that lives underneath.
- ◆ **Leave creatures attached to rocks**, rather than removing them for study, as their removal may kill them. Please observe them where they are attached.
- ◆ **Fill any holes** you may create if digging for clams. Piles of sand left on the beach can smother other organisms.



With our care and stewardship, intertidal life can flourish, and be enjoyed and studied by future generations!

Tolmie State Park Beach Etiquette

Explore the rich diversity of intertidal life during summer low tides!



To enjoy and protect intertidal life:

Tip # 1: Leave all organisms in their native habitat, where you find them on the beach. This includes live and dead sand dollars, sea stars, kelp and shore crabs and moon snails.

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To enjoy and protect intertidal life:

Tip # 2: Fill any holes you may create if digging for clams or oysters. Piles of sand left on the beach can smother other organisms. Oysters must be shucked on the beach, and shells left on same tidelands and tide height where taken.

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To enjoy and protect intertidal life:

Tip # 3: Overturn rocks with care, if doing so. When finished looking, gently return them to their original position to avoid crushing anything that lives underneath.

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To enjoy and protect intertidal life:

Tip #4: Enjoy anemones without prodding them. Anemones will often squirt water if poked, but this may kill them as this water is needed for survival until the next tide covers them.

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To enjoy and protect intertidal life:

Tip # 5: Leave creatures attached to rocks, rather than removing them for study, as their removal may kill them. Please observe them where they are attached.

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Protect intertidal life by:

Tip #6: Walk with care to avoid injuring plants and seaweed. Plants and seaweed provide habitat and hiding places for intertidal organisms. They in turn provide food for many animals.

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Credit: petgazette.biz

Protect intertidal life by:

Tip # 7: Don't Let Your Pooch Pollute! Leash and Clean Up after your dog. Dog waste is a threat to humans and wildlife, including shellfish. A single gram of dog poop, about the size of a pea, contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria! This is almost twice the amount in human waste. Prevent disease in our streams, drinking water, estuary and our children: SCOOP IT, BAG IT and PACK IT OUT!

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Protect intertidal life by:

Tip #8:

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