

# Exploring the Nature Trail



**Western Sword Fern** (*Polystichum munitum*)

Grows in thick clusters low to the ground  
Bright green triangular-shape fronds  
The most conspicuous fern on the trail



**Red Alder** (*Alnus rubra*)

Smooth gray bark encrusted with lichen  
Egg shaped leaves with deep grooves  
There's a large alder stand along the trail



**Salal** (*Gaultheria shallon*)

Evergreen shrub with leathery leaves  
Delicate urn-shaped blossoms on pink stems  
May be found growing on "nurse logs" on the trail



**Grand Fir** (*Abies grandis*)

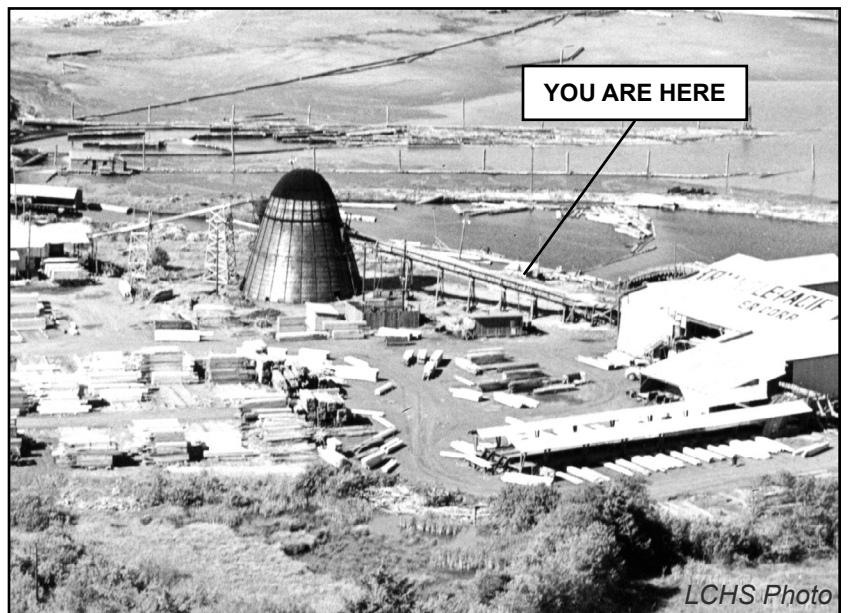
Grows in thick stands up to 100 feet tall  
Needles are dark green and look flattened out  
There is only one Grand fir on the trail

## What was here before the Aquarium?

Before the Aquarium's construction in the early 1990s, the southern end of the Yaquina Bay was occupied by a lumber mill. Through a process called "naturescaping," the Aquarium reclaimed the land and reintroduced native plants. This process was so successful the Aquarium qualified for certification as a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.



Use the QR code to  
to download a PDF  
version or go to  
[aquarium.org/  
exhibits/estuary-trail](http://aquarium.org/exhibits/estuary-trail)





# ANIMALS



**Brush Rabbit** (*Sylvilagus bachmani*)  
 "Cottontail" is gray rather than white  
 Feeds on herbs, bark, twigs and buds  
 More active during the morning hours



**American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*)  
 Both genders have brick-red chest and belly  
 A distinctive cheery song  
 Often congregate in large groups



**Douglas's Squirrel** (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*)  
 Mottled gray fur with orange-colored chest  
 Active during the day in underbrush and trees  
 May "chatter" a warning at you



**Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*)  
 Adults have gray backs, pink legs and feet  
 Bright red spot on lower half of beak  
 Check the estuary overlooks for this bird



**Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)  
 Adults: blackish feathers, white head and tail  
 One of the largest birds in the area  
 May perch in trees or soar over the estuary



**Rough-skinned Newt** (*Taricha granulosa*)  
 Rough dark red-orange skin and a flat tail  
 Found near ponds or along our pathways  
 Toxic skin - do not touch this animal!

## Learn more about the species of the Oregon Coast

The Aquarium has two great websites you can visit  
 to learn more about the natural history of the coast.



[aquarium.org](http://aquarium.org) and [oceanscape.aquarium.org](http://oceanscape.aquarium.org)