



NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



Walk To The West Ridge

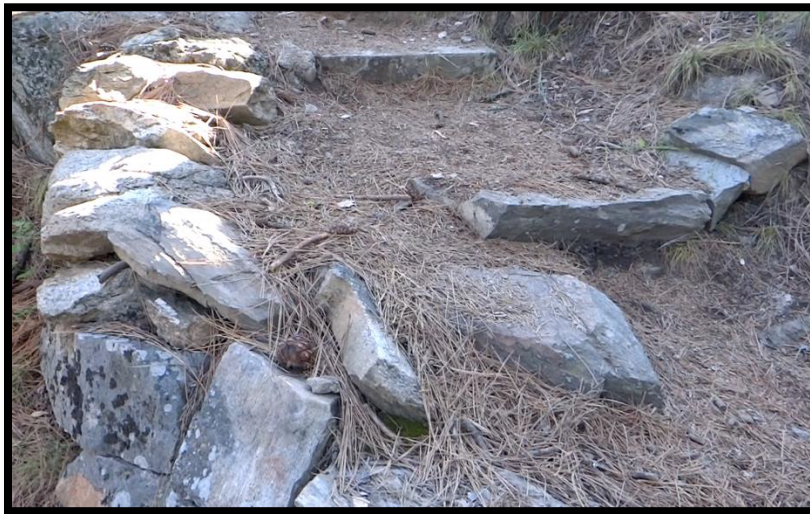
View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

We are starting our walk in the Dishman Hills at the Camp Caro community park. We walk east on the Deep Ravine trail. Soon we see service berry bushes and ponderosa pines among a group of rocks that represent the bedrock of Dishman Hills.

The ponderosa pines are so tall they form the **canopy**, where you can see the light shining directly on the pine needles. You will see a **forest floor** covered in pine needles. You will also notice that Douglas fir trees are beginning to appear.



Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours building and maintaining the trails we travel in the Dishman Hills. This stonework is one example of a trail enhancement provided by volunteer organizations.



This ridge runs north to south. To the east is the Deep Ravine, carved by the Ice Age Floods along an ancient fault that runs southeast to northwest. To the west is another ancient fault that exposes the 1.5 billion years bedrock Gneiss as the Caro Cliffs. The Enchanted Ravine is a remnant of that other fault.

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Where the trail splits, we turn right, south, and begin our climb up the **north aspect** of this trail. **Aspect** means what direction the landscape is facing. As we continue walking uphill, we travel over a forest floor that is often densely covered with flowering plants and shrubs. The Douglas fir take on a more dominant role in the forest canopy. Few ponderosa pine seedlings and saplings are to be found on the forest floor and in the understory.



North facing hill

This isn't a long trail, but it is spectacular to travel along. Once you crest out, you begin your walk along the south facing, or **south aspect** portion of the ridge. As you travel south on the ridge you will notice the variety of plant life has changed in type and number. As you move from shade to full sunlight the ridge becomes an open ponderosa pine forest. You will also notice there is more distance between the mature trees. Plants that share the same needs seems to gather in certain geographic areas.



South Facing Hill

The sun loving ponderosa pines are the most drought tolerant of the pine species which allow them to dominate the south facing aspect of the ridge.

If you are quiet for a few minutes you will hear nature talking to you. You might hear birds calling or see butterflies and insects on flowers. Stop, Look, Listen and take the time to check everything out.

Share your discoveries and question at Education@DishmanHills.org