

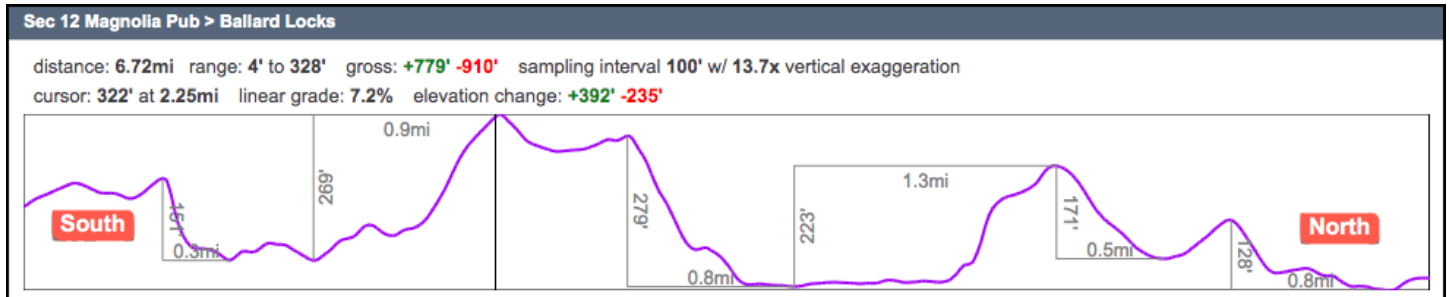
Seattle Olmsted 70 Trail – Section 12

S6 11.7km, 234m	S7 9.6km, 149m	S8 11.1km, 44m	S9 8.6km, 130m	S10 9.5km, 104m	S11 9.6km, 107m	S12 10.8km, 237m
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Magnolia Village Pub to Ballard Locks

Walking distance: 10.8 km (6.7 miles)

Elevation gain: 237m (779 ft)



Section 12 of the Seattle Olmsted 70 begins at Magnolia Village, ends at the Ballard Locks.

You can split Section 12 into two shorter walks. Section 12 South runs from Magnolia Village to a Discovery Park gate 3.7 km (2.3 mi) and Section 12 North finishes at Hiram M Chittenden Locks Center 7.1 km (4.4 mi). A Loop Option, Magnolia Village round trip is added 7.6 km (4.7 mi).

For public transit options, public bathrooms and treats see directions, last page.

Section 12 South

Walking distance: 3.6 km (2.3 miles)

Elevation gain: 119 m (392 ft).

Walkers are responsible for their own safety on Seattle Olmsted routes.

Note: *The route is not stroller friendly due to stairs down to Perkins Lane.*

- Starting at Magnolia Village Pub, walk west (left) on W McGraw Street turning left (south) onto Viewmont Way W.
- Right (west) on W Howe Street to cross **Magnolia Boulevard W³** at the top of Magnolia Bluff. Views!!
- Follow the bluff north (right) through a parking area where, towards the north end, you'll find a single streetlight (left)

marking the top of stairs leading down to Perkins Lane.

- Descend with care these uneven 154 Montavista "floating stairs" built on the slide-prone bluff. At the foot turn right (north) to follow Perkins Lane W. You'll likely note the bolted "toe wall" meant to discourage continued slippage.
- Look for the W McGraw Street end at 2400 Perkins Lane W (slammed by a 2022 landslide), which provides signed Public Shore access to the armored beach below in sight of **Four Mile Rock Light**.



Four Mile Rock Light – Photo P Hendrickson

Loop Option: *Continue north to ascend the second, newer stairway at W Glenmont Lane. See directions after Section 12 North.*

Perkins Lane performed as expected the winter of 1996-97 when a massive hunk of the bluff collapsed and wiped out four? houses below (no casualties). It was the perfect geologic recipe for slides: add winter rains to porous, glacial Vashon Till atop Esperance Sand atop Lawton Clay. Thanks to the glacial Puget Lobe ~15,000 years ago--and more recent, daring builders. (A.D Ong, 2016)

- In 1.2 miles at W Ruffner Street, turn sharp right (northeast) a block, then right (east) up W McClaren Street.
- At 5-way intersection take 43rd Avenue W (north) to W Emerson Street and a gated entrance to **Discovery Park**².

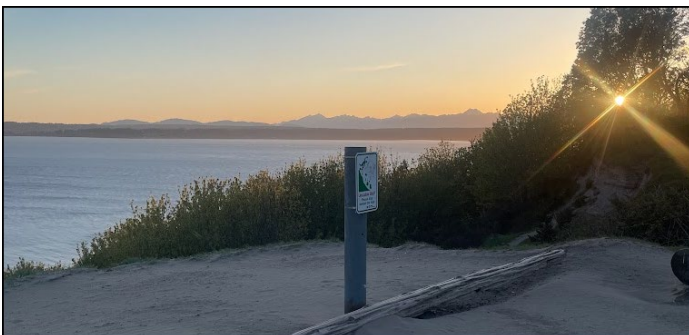
You have completed Section 12 South.
Nearby Bus #24 goes to Magnolia Village.

Section 12 North

Walking distance: 7.1 km (4.4 miles)
Elevation gain: 118 m (387 ft)

Note: The final Section 12 North explores Discovery Park and Ballard Locks. Also not stroller friendly to or from the beach. Some may wish to follow numbers on custom map: 43rd Avenue W to 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 33, 39, 17, 18 to Texas Way [Friends of Discovery Park Map](#)

- Enter Discovery Park north along paved Oregon Avenue. Many bathrooms in park.
- Immediate left onto signed Loop Trail, then left fork to bathrooms and onward along bluff to sand dunes high atop the bluff.



West from Discovery Park – Photo P Hendrickson

- Continue northwest on the Loop Trail into the forest. At the next spider web of intersecting trails (The Grand Point) head left (west) down the South Beach Trail until intercepting Discovery Park Boulevard. No, don't take casual trails down the dangerous bluff face.
- Turn left (west) to reach the shore and explore the service buildings and **West Point Lighthouse**.



West Point Lighthouse – Photo P Hendrickson

Discovery Park² (534 acres) bookends the 1903 Olmsted design for the park and boulevard system as "a continuous pleasure drive from the north end of Bailey Peninsula to Fort Lawton Reservation, about twenty miles long." With the 1973 military decommissioning, the land was returned to the city

Tip: At low tide you can walk around the lighthouse on the beach. At lower tides you could start at the Perkins Lane Beach and walk north at the foot of the bluffs. Exit beyond the lighthouse at North Beach on a short set of steps to North Beach Trail.

- Walk east where pavement ends on the North Beach Trail around the north side

of the massive West Point Treatment Plant.

- Turn back south at North Beach and regain altitude to find the Loop Trail heading left (northeast).
- Soon find paved Texas Way and head left (north) to pass by an entrance, or visit (see map), **United Indians of All Tribes Daybreak Star**.

*We are on the traditional land of the **Coast Salish** peoples who live here and steward these lands and waters as they have for time immemorial.*



Ballard Locks outbound – Photo P Hendrickson

- At the large meadow find bathrooms, and North Parking Lot. Bus #33 stop.
- One block left (north) 40th Avenue W.
- Right (east) onto W Commodore Way. Soon see Lk Washington Ship Canal.

Peak viewing times vary to see Salmon in the Fish Ladder or viewing windows. You may see Sockeye (Red) mid-June to mid-July, Chinook (King) August, and Coho (Silver) September. See [Salmon in Locks](#)

Locks. Did you find the Great Blue Heron Colony?

- Check out the Salmon Education Center to see salmon swim upstream.
- Make your way across the Ballard Locks, following the posted and broadcast directions from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers crew. Bathrooms, **Carl S English Jr Botanical Garden**, and a visitor center/museum are found on the north side.

Congratulations, you've finished the Seattle Olmsted 70 and arrived at the start of the Seattle Olmsted 50.

Back to Magnolia Village? Return to Commodore Park turning left (north) up 33rd Avenue W, merging to a commuter path over the railway to Gilman Avenue W. Turn left (east) to curl south onto 32nd Avenue W that merges onto W Government Way. Continue south to the 33rd Avenue W intersection to take the Metro #24 to Magnolia Village (not to downtown).

Section 12 Loop Finish Option

>>Total Loop Data Loop and Finish Section<<
Distance:7.6 km(4.7 miles) –5.8km(3.6miles)
Elevation Gain:234 m (772ft) – 214m (706 ft)

Note: The Loop Finish Option closely follows Seattle Stairway Walks #13 South Magnolia (Jaramillos, 2013).

- At the head of the Glenmont Stairs turn right (southeast) along Magnolia Boulevard W.
- Turn left (north) up Montavista Place W to a six-way intersection. Cross to stay on Montavista Place W.
- As the street swings left (before climbing), turn right (east) down a steep, unsigned lane to a four-way junction.
- Turn soft left (north) to 36th Avenue W.
- Turn right (east) to W Raye Street, then left (north) to the Magnolia Library (toilets) on 34 Avenue W.

Architect Paul Hayden Kirk's 1964 Pacific NW Modernism is wonderfully complemented by George Nakashima's library furniture design.

- After you pass under the approach to the Salmon Way Bascule Rail Bridge, cross left into **Commodore Park** near Ballard

- Continue a block north through Pleasant Valley to turn left (west) up W Barrett Street.
- Turn right (north) on 36th Avenue W to find the stairs left (west) up W Dravus Street.
- Continue two blocks to the Magnolia Water Towers, elevation 375 ft, at 3801 W Prosper Street. Soundtrack here: [YouTube Drone Water Tower](#)
- Exit north up 38th Avenue N to turn right (east) on W Bertona Street.
- Descend stairs to 32nd Avenue W—back in Pleasant Valley.



Ella Bailey Park overlook — Photo P Hendrickson



Green tunnel Magnolia stairs. Photo P Hendrickson

- Turn right (south) to find W Barrett Street again and turn left (east) to climb stairs up Magnolia's eastern ridge to 27th Avenue W. Great views into the city near here.
- Turn left (east) to W Armour Street, then right (south).
- Turn left (east) down a short flight of stairs to turn right (south) on lower 27th Avenue W.

- At Ella Bailey Park (toilets), take in more city views. From the south side head up W McGraw Street to 28th Avenue W where you turn left (west), then quick right (north) to resume W McGraw Street.

It's downhill from here back into Magnolia Village.

Note: *The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks map display gives five park categories. Our superscripts show: **1**)Pre-1903, **2**)1903-09, **3**)1909-13, **4**)Post 1913, and **5**)Unrealized*

Seattle Olmsted Circuit loops 120km (75 miles) via more easterly parks and boulevards (5 Sections, October 2023) connecting with the more westerly Seattle Olmsted 70 (7 Sections, June 2024).

Contact: Seattle Olmsted 50/70 lead:
Peter Hendrickson
p.hendrickson43@gmail.com
Seattle Urban Walk Committee
The Mountaineers, Founded 1906

(Rev6 12 Feb 2025/PH)

Navigation Tip: *Staple, then fold these sheets the long way. You can then easily hold them in one hand to follow the turn-by-turn. Some walkers keep their thumb on the bulleted text for their current position*

TRANSIT, TOILETS and TREATS

King County Metro Transit Service Points

Public transport is available at several locations on Section 12 but these points offer the most options.

Light Rail Schedule [Light Rail](#)

State Ferry Schedule [State Ferries](#)

Metro Water Taxi [Foot Ferry](#)

Bus Routes [Metro Bus Routes](#)

- **Magnolia Center Metro Bus # 24, 31, 33. D Line**
- **W Emerson Street #24**
- **Discovery Park Road & Texas Way #33**
- **Ballard Locks & NW 54th Street #44**
- **NW 54th Street & 32nd Avenue NW #17**
- **W Government Way at 33rd Ave W #24**

Suggested Bathroom Stops

Free public bathroom access is good on Section 12 during park and business hours. Stops are listed in order of travel from Magnolia Village.

- Magnolia Village Pub (if open)
- Starbucks
- Magnolia Village shops
- Magnolia Library
- Magnolia Playfield
- Discovery Park
- Ballard Locks

Where to Buy Provisions

Section 12 and nearby have a moderate mix of residential, parks and local cafes, bakeries, ice cream parlors, and pubs.

- Seasonal parks, playfields, bars
- Magnolia Village
- NW Market St, Ballard
- W Government Way
- NW 54th Street, Ballard
- NW Market Street, Ballard

Other Items of Interest

- **Stewards** for Section 12 are to be named.
- **Mondello Ristorante Italiano**, 2425 33rd Avenue NW, is an authentic Sicilian restaurant. Seafood! Lunch?
- **Neighborhoods** near or on this route are Interbay, Magnolia, Briarcliff, Fort Lawton, Lawtonwood, Ballard, Sunset Hill
- **Perkins Lane** eagles nest above the bluff in a protected area. See signs for updates.

- **Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center** is a land base and community center for Native Americans in the Seattle area (free, donation requested).
- **Fort Lawton**⁵ construction began in 1898, a minor, 703-acre Army post until WWII when it processed 793,000 embarkees, then 618,000 returnees. It was also a POW Camp for German and Italian internees. See History Link [Fort Lawton Justice](#) for a tale of justice restored. Some 391 acres were turned over to the City of Seattle for a park. Another 151 acres were deeded in 1975.
- **Four Mile Rock** (also Fourmile Rock, 4 nm from Yesler's Wharf) is a round granite erratic, approximately 20 feet (6.1 m) across, and 60 yards offshore.^[25] It has had a navigational light placed on it and appears on nautical charts.^[26] Native Americans called the rock LE'plEpL, also written La'pub, and also called it Tele'tla (meaning "rock").--Wikipedia
- **Trail following in parks** can be tough. Veteran Seattle Olmsted trail test walker Sandy Briggs noted, "Understanding where you want to go is more important than being on the exact right trail." Hear, hear!!
- **National Nordic Heritage Museum** "is the only institution of its size and scale in the U.S to present the history and culture of the entire Nordic region (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the regions of the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland, and the cultural region of Sápmi) and the legacy of Nordic immigrants to the United States." Five minute walk from Locks at NW Market Street and 28 Avenue NW—plus Troll!
- **Seattle Walks** (2025, 2nd Ed) by David Williams and **Seattle Stairways Walks** (2013, Jaramillos) are fine sources of historical, cultural and natural information.
- For more complete Olmsted Parks information, consult **Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks**, partners in development of this trail. Local link is [FSOP](#). The national Olmsted Network is [National](#)
- **Seattle ranks** among the top 10 park systems in the country [Top Ten](#)