

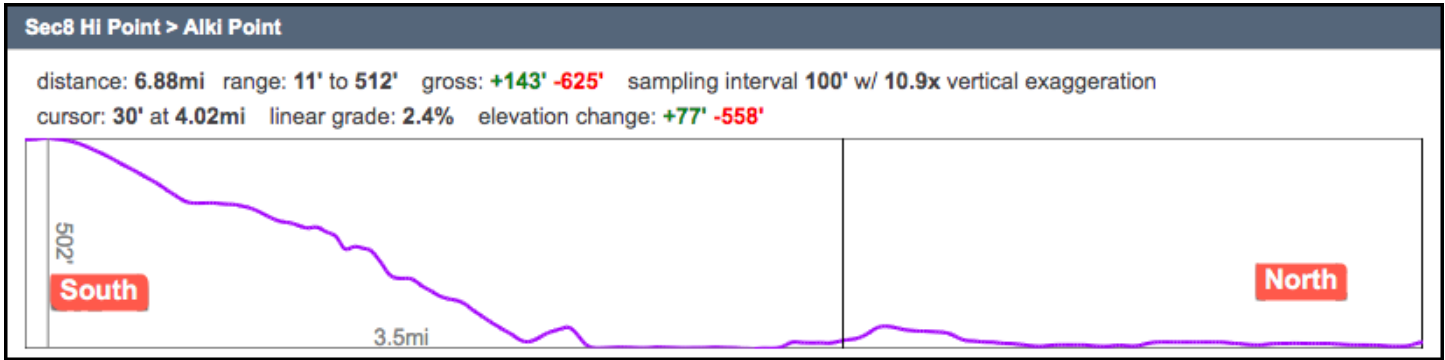
Seattle Olmsted 70 Trail – Section 8

S6 11.7km, 234m	S7 9.6km, 149m	S8 11.1km, 44 m	S9 8.6km, 130m	S10 9.5km 104m	S11 9.6km, 107m	S12 10.8km, 237m
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Seattle High Point to Alki Point

Walking distance: 11.1 km (6.9 miles)

Elevation gain: 44 m (143 ft)



Section 8 of the Seattle Olmsted 70 trail begins at Seattle's High Point, corner SW Myrtle Street and 35th Avenue SW

You can split Section 8 into two shorter walks. Section 8 South loses altitude to sea level from Seattle High Point to Lowman Beach Park 6.4 km, (4 mi) and Section 8 North finishes at Alki Point (4.7 km, 2.9 mi). A Loop Option, High Point to High Point, is added (8.3km,5.1mi).

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

Section 8 South

Walking distance: 6.4 km (4 miles)

Elevation gain: 23 m (77 ft).

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

Note: The route is stroller friendly with a detour for Fauntleroy Park trails.

- Starting at Seattle's High Point (520ft) walk south down 35th Avenue SW. Realfine Coffee beckons at SW Kenyon Street. Don't miss the **Love Letters to West Seattle** mural (The Birdhouse take out) at SW Henderson Street.
- Turn right (west) at SW Barton Street for one block to turn left (south) at 36th Avenue SW.



Love Letters to West Seattle – Photo P Hendrickson

- In a block, right (west) onto SW Cambridge Street leading you into **Fauntleroy Park**. Strollers may wish to stay on Henderson Street.
- Trails are braided. Bear right at intersections and cross Fauntleroy Creek's 6ft wide bridge. Bear left avoiding exits to the park until you pop out past houses to cross California Avenue SW towards the Fauntleroy Children's Center.
- Take the sidewalk downhill past **Kilbourne Park** (a deep ravine) to the triangle intersection. Bear right onto SW Wildwood Place. Endolyne Joe's for dining.
- Continue past Wildwood Market (coffee, beer, sandwiches ...) to Fauntleroy Way SW.
- Captain's Park**, where salmon return brings Salmon Drumming is across from

Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal (toilets)-- for Southworth and Vashon Island.

Private Shorelines? Washington law stiff-arms public beach access. Where most states define the boundary of lands available for private ownership at the high tideline, Washington enshrines private shore ownership to the extreme low water mark. See [Beach Walk Criminal?](#)

- Continue north up Fauntleroy Way (since you're not in Oregon and can't walk the beach, no matter the tide).
- Turn left (west) into Lincoln Park to follow the shoreline with a fine collection of bathrooms, picnic shelters and views across the Salish Sea to Blake, Vashon and Bainbridge Islands.

*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.*

- You're on the "Whale Trail" so please don't disturb resting seal pups. Stay by the water to pass Point Williams and saltwater Coleman Pool. Keep your eyes peeled for the **Bruun Idun** (2023) wooden troll.



Bruun Idun Troll – Photo Peter Hendrickson

- Yes, political statements have been made on "Love Rock" since 2016 by local artists.

Loop Option: Before exiting Lincoln Park, head right (east) up the last path (many stairs await) for the Loop Option to High Point. See directions after Section 8 North.

- Beachside Trail #1 merges all too quickly with Beach Drive SW. Pause for a moment to check Ken Kalberg's fence and home art for sale outside his garage. See [Fine Art America](#). Hint: Slickered sailor on the same block is not a Mountaineer.



Old men gather here – Photo P Hendrickson

Tour de Troll. Some Mountaineers long to visit all six freely accessible Thomas Dambo troll sculptures—NWTrolls: Way of the Bird King. The Danish artist "celebrates the human experience of art by amplifying the connections of cultural heritage between Coast Salish Tribal communities and Scandinavian traditions." Vashon, Ballard and Bainbridge are most accessible from the Seattle Olmsted Circuit. See [Trolls](#)

- Continue north past more private beaches to welcoming (and public) **Lowman Beach Park**. No finer collection of beach logs (for sitting) is found on the Seattle Olmsted Circuit

You have completed Section 8 South. Return from this public transportation wilderness (closure of a shore side Bus Route during the pandemic.) Walk up SW

Frontenac St to a Bus #22 or C Line stop up Fauntleroy Way SW and SW Myrtle St.

Section 8 North

*Walking distance: 4.7 km (2.9 miles)
Elevation gain: 20 m (66 ft)*

Note: The final Section 8 North is easy walking but sparse on toilets.

- Continue north along Beach Drive SW past the fine homes along Lowman Cove to reach the **Emma Schmitz Memorial Overlook** with beach access. She donated the land to the city in 1945.

*Ferdinand and Emma Schmitz built a home (Sans Souci) across the street on 40 acres they owned. Now **Me-Kwa-Mooks Park**², or "Prairie Point" translated from Whulshootseed. Remnants of their orchard are found abutting the picnic area to the north.*

- The route takes you below the intended **Sound Bluffs Parkway**⁵.
- Continue north along the sidewalk or the beach walk. Blake and Vashon Islands lie across the water.
- Vest pocket beach parks dot your way north towards Alki Point. Some are street ends, clearly public access.
- SW Orleans Street is developed as **Cormorant Cove Park**.



Astronomy Ambush Constellation Park --Photo P Hendrickson

- Bear left to continue along Beach Drive SW which follows Constellation Park

towards the longest sweep of beach and the Charles Richey Senior Viewpoint.

- You could take 63rd Avenue SW north to regain bus service # 775 and downtown Alki Beach but continue towards Alki Point on Beach Drive SW.

Constellation Park beach is best explored during a low tide (3 or so hours), but minus tide (0 feet or less) is a real treat. See [Constellation Park](#) on the sidewalk above to count off the 27 clusters of stars (Hercules, Fall to Canis Minor, Spring). See [Avenue of Stars](#)

- You're briefly along the northern section of the **West Seattle Parkway**⁴.
- Beach Drive SW by day invites tide pool exploration and at night you may see the constellations outlined in brass along the sidewalk.
- Just a block off your route between SW Admiral Way and SW Hinds St is **Bar-S Playground**⁴, another Olmsted recreation area with two ball fields and toilets.
- At Alki Point you may wish to visit the Coast Guard's Alki Point Lighthouse (1913) for a Sunday afternoon tour (suspended in 2020). See [Lighthouse Friends](#)

Congratulations, you just completed Section 8 of the Seattle Olmsted 70!

Return to High Point? Bus #50 to #21 (exit at 36th Avenue SW stop)

Section 8 Loop Finish Option

>>Total Loop Data and Loop Finish Section<<
*Distance: 8.3 km (5.1mi) -- 2.2 km (1.4 mi)
Elevation gain: 250m (825 ft)-164 m(540 ft)*

Note: The Loop Finish Option is steady uphill to gain over 500 ft on sidewalks and trails.

- Take Lincoln Park's last uphill trail switch backing to the upper park.
- Exit east via any trail to Fauntleroy Avenue SW.
- Cross near the gas station at the traffic lights towards the tennis courts north of SW Webster Street.

- Pass east by a drinking fountain to a large P-Patch up a path up to Solstice Park.



Nancy and Stuart sighting west towards slabs.



Nancy and Stuart standing on granite slabs.

--P Hendrickson photos

Solstice Park astrolabe calculates star positions using three hefty earthwork channels and granite slabs in a semi-circular berm. See Seattle Stairways Walk #17 (Jaramillos, 2013).

- Walking east over a short bridge to take (47) Ida Stairs to 44th Avenue SW.
- Turn left (north) along the armored retaining wall (rails from old streetcar lines) down to intersect SW Othello St.
- Right (east) to California Avenue SW.
- Left (north) down one block and right (east) up SW Orchard Street. Stay right up the hill to 38th Avenue SW.
- Turn left (north) into the gravel cul-de-sac to find a Seattle Park welcome to "Orchard Street Ravine". Settlers described the Orchard Canyon trail as "deep and thickly wooded" with fallen logs and wild Oregon Grape "where deer paused daintily to drink."

*"The site is in a bowl-shaped area with steep slopes around the rim and gentle to moderate slopes below ... Very dense Vashon till caps the top of the site ... Hard and very hard Lawton clay is present below and downslope from the site. The Esperance sand sandwiched between till and Lawton clay creates what is known as a **contact zone** at the sand clay interface ... Once a slide has developed the material is deposited in a complex jumble in the runout zone."* (Seattle Parks Vegetation Management Plan, July 2006).

- Bear right to find a kiosk just inside the park, then bear left up a broad trail providing ~30 stairs.
- Exit beside a house driveway to 38th Avenue SW Street end. After one block turn right (east) up SW Myrtle Street with two massive water towers in view.
- Curl right on 37th Avenue SW then left back on SW Myrtle Street to complete the Loop Option.

You Have Finished Section 8 Loop Option

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). Loop Options (January 2025)

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The Mountaineers, Founded 1906

(Rev6 11Feb2025/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 8, 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](#)

- **35th Ave SW & Barton** #21, C Line
- **35th Ave SW & High Point** #21
- **Fauntleroy Ferry** C Line
- **Lowman Beach Park** C Line
- **Alki Ave SW & 63rd Ave NW** #50, 56, 775 (free)

Suggested Bathroom Stops

Free public bathroom access is good on Section 8 during park and business hours. Stops are listed in order of travel from Colman Docks

- 35th Ave SW shops
- SW Wildwood Place Triangle -- dining
- Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal
- Lincoln and Lowman Beach Parks
- Café Ladro, 7011 California Avenue SW
- Mae-Kwa-Mooks Park (maybe SaniCan)
- Bar-S Playground
- Alki Beach

Where to Buy Provisions

Section 9 and nearby have a modest mix of residential, parks and local cafes, bakeries, ice cream parlors, and pubs.

- Seasonal parks, playfield bars
- Along 35th Ave SW
- Triangle shops SW Wildwood Pl & 45th Ave SW
- Alki Village

Other Items of Interest

- **Stewards** for Section 11 are to be named.
- **Kenyon Hall** (1916) first the Olympic Heights Social Hall, hosts community events (dancing, performances, community theater). The Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ (1929) complements the performance venue including organ-accompanied silent film shows. Next door: RealFine Coffee and Local Kitchen & Bar. Note the Swedish flag motif on the Swedish Automotive shop across the street.
- **Fauntleroy Cove** where Fauntleroy Creek flows into Puget Sound was a Native American clamming and fishing site. A 1907 streetcar line connected the remote settler village to downtown. See [Fauntleroy History](#).
- **Duwamish People** live along these shores and waterways. See [Duwamish](#)
- **Neighborhoods** near or on this route are Westwood, High Point, Arbor Heights, Fauntleroy, Lincoln Park, Gatewood, Seaview, Alki, West Seattle
- **Seattle Walks** (2025, 2nd Ed, Williams) and *Seattle Stairways Walks* (2013, Jaramillos) are excellent 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](#)