

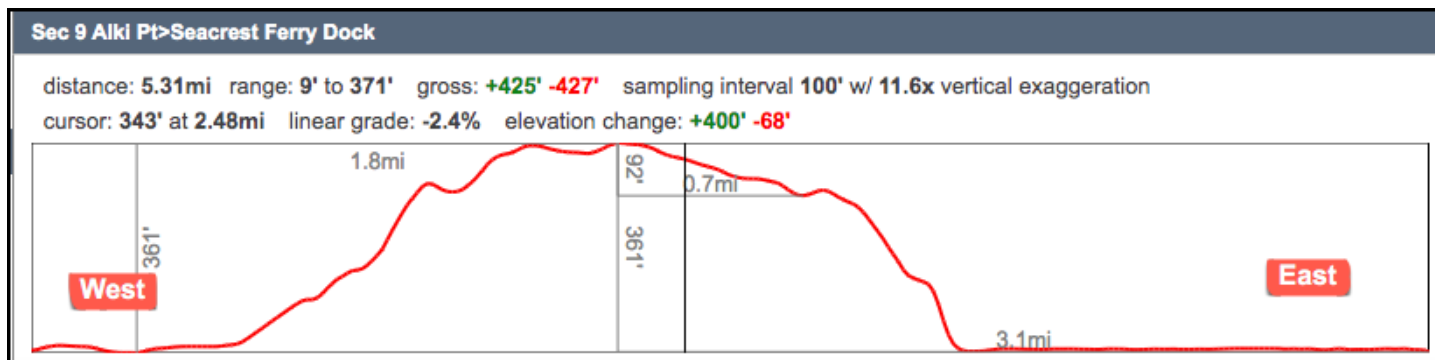
## Seattle Olmsted 70 Trail – Section 9

S6 11.7km, 234m	S7 9.6km, 149m	S8 11.1km, 44m	<b>S9 8.6km, 130m</b>	S10 9.5Km, 104m	S11 9.6km, 107m	S12 10.8km, 237m
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### Alki Point to Seacrest Foot Ferry Terminal

Walking distance: 8.6 km (5.3 miles)

Elevation gain: 130m (425 ft)



**Section 9** of the Seattle Olmsted 70 trail begins at Alki Point and finishes at the West Seattle Seacrest Foot Ferry Terminal.

You can split Section 9 into two shorter walks. Section 9 West, "SoCal north" AKA Alki Beach, runs from Alki Point Lighthouse to Hiawatha Park 4 km, (2.5 mi) and Section 9 East finishes at Seacrest Foot Ferry Terminal 4.6 km, (2.9 mi). A Loop Option, Lighthouse to Me-Kwa-Mooks and return, is added 7.1 km (4.4 mi).

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

### Section 9 West

Walking distance: 4 km (2.5 miles)

Elevation gain: 122 m (400 ft).

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

**Note:** The route is stroller friendly in places. See Stroller Option below.

- Starting at **Alki Point**, where you may be able to visit the Coast Guard lighthouse on Sundays, head east up Alki Avenue SW with peek-a-boo views to Puget Sound.
- Turn left (north) into **Alki Beach Park<sup>3</sup>** to stroll the beach or stay on the path.

Terrific views west to the Olympics, north to Mt Baker and east to city terminals. Bronze plaques provide a wealth of historical, natural and cultural information

- The miniature Statue of Liberty calls for a "selfie." And the bathroom block is handy.
- Cross the busy Alki Avenue SW at 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW.
- Turn left (south) to the corner of SW Stevens Street where you'll find the **Log House Museum**, home of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

**Southwest Seattle Historical Society** documents the "Birthplace of Seattle." The 22-member Denny Party landed nearby in the rain November 11, 1851. They sailed north from Portland on the Schooner Exact after a nine-month journey west from Illinois to the Willamette Valley. See [Log House Museum](#).

- Turn left (east) on SW Stevens Street to **Alki Playground<sup>3</sup>/Whale Tail Park** (bathrooms).
- Walk east through the playground adjacent to the Community Center to the SW Stevens Street corner.
- Bear left uphill past the "Dead End" sign on gated, car-free **Schmitz Boulevard<sup>2</sup>** into **Schmitz Preserve Park<sup>3</sup>**.

- Heading uphill, check out the Banksy style graffiti underneath the elegant Schmitz Park Bridge (SW Admiral Way).
- Only Schmitz, Dead Horse Canyon and Seward Parks offer old growth trees.



**Schmitz Park Bridge guy**-Photo P Hendrickson

- At first turning left, find shallow Schmitz Creek (hop stone to stone?)
- Go up opposite bank stairs and turn right (south) along a well-maintained trail to keep creek on right shoulder.
- At a 3-way intersection, bear right to continue along the creek.
- Hard left at the four-way intersection—do not cross the creek. Just ahead find a massive cedar tree on the left inviting closer inspection.
- Climb up out of the park on the often damp trail to a pump station. Exit park around a gatepost.

**Loop Option.** Before crossing SW 49<sup>th</sup> Street, return via the Loop Option to Lighthouse. Directions after Section 9 West.

- On SW 49<sup>th</sup> Street cross over intended **West Seattle Parkway<sup>5</sup>**, which would have terminated at Alki Point.
- Continue on SW Hinds Street east past Madison Middle School.

**Stroller Option.** From Alki's SW Stevens Street, right (south) on 59<sup>th</sup> Ave SW to left (northeast) on SW Admiral Way. Rejoin right (east) SW Stevens Street to left (north) on California Avenue SW.

- Turn left (north) on California Avenue SW for a feast of food and retail offerings on the way to West Seattle High School.
- Turn right (east) to go into the playfield/sports complex within **Hiawatha Playfield/Park<sup>3</sup>**, an Olmsted archetype for city parks and an historic landmark. In 1911 it was the largest public playfield in Seattle.

*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.*

- Head around the track if you wish towards the **Hiawatha Community Center<sup>3</sup>**, closed for major renovations, part of a citywide Community Center Stabilization program (2024). It is the oldest community center west of the Mississippi. Did you find Heritage big red oak tree near the wading pool?



**Olmsted Plan-South Wall Safeway** -Photo P Hendrickson

- Wander through the park northwesterly in back of the tennis courts and down 10 steps to cross SW Lander Street.

- Find, on the Safeway brick wall, three highly informative panels detailing the West Seattle Olmsted legacy
- The **Good Society Brewery and Public House** sits kitty-corner from Safeway across California Avenue SW. Don't miss the roof-high street mural.

**You have completed Section 9 South.**  
Return via Line 50 Bus to Alki Beach Park.

## Section 9 East

*Walking distance: 4.6 km (2.9 miles)*  
*Elevation gain: 8 m (25 ft)*

**Note:** The final Section is largely down hill or along the shore.

- Go west on SW Lander Street turning right (north) on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW.
- Cross (with caution) SW Admiral Way and immediately turn left (west) to SW Waite Street.
- At 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW turn right (north), then steeply downhill to a blind corner left (west) into College Street Ravine.
- Follow the narrow street curling right (north, no shoulder) to a sharp switchback left (south) onto Hughes Avenue SW.
- Don't turn right down College but keep going, staying on Hughes to find hidden 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW stairs at second Dead End sign.
- Turn right (north) to take the 175 steps (slippery?) straight down (not bearing left at Hobart Avenue SW).
- Cross busy Alki Avenue SW to walk right (east) along the footpath above Alki Beach to Duwamish Head.
- Pause to take in Pump Station 38's >22,000 tile mural **Tracing Alki** (2023, Moore) mural inspired by an 1894 West Seattle topographical map.



**Tracing Alki, Pump Station 38** – Photo P Hendrickson

- Enjoy the Sound and Harbor views from Alki Beach (Luna Park) Pier. A plaque commemorates a 1906 shipwreck. Some 42 lives were lost on the 130-ton steamboat Dix, the worst Seattle maritime disaster. High above on the cliff is **Hamilton Viewpoint Park**<sup>4</sup>
- Skyline views of downtown Seattle open on this northern most point of the Duwamish Peninsula (West Seattle).
- This is easy walking on the **Alki Trail**.
- Follow the sidewalk curving south past Don Arment Boat Ramp (bathrooms) to **Seacrest Park** and the King County Water Taxi Seacrest Dock.
- You arrived here via the intended **Duwamish Head Parkway**<sup>5</sup>. We're guessing your walk was easily the equal of motoring along Olmsted's network of "pleasure drives."

**Congratulations, you just completed Section 9 of the Seattle Olmsted 70!**

**Options:** Need taste of Downtown? An Orca Card speeds you onto the foot ferry for a view-terrific sail to Seattle Ferry Docks. Back to Alki Beach? Take the free 775 bus.

See Loop Finish Option Next Page ...



## Section 9 Loop Finish Option

>>Total Loop Data and Loop Finish Section<<  
*Distance: 7.1 km (4.4 m) — 4.6km(2.9mi)*  
*Elevation gain: 134m (442 ft) -- 41m (135 ft)*

**Note:** Only Loop Finish Option is stroller friendly. Gradual up, quick down, level finish.

- From SW Hinde Street turn right (south) up the alley to SW Spokane Street.
- Turn right (west) past Schmitz Elementary School and the south end of Schmitz Reserve Park to SW Charleston Street.
- Turn right (west) to the ridge crest bearing right onto SW Orleans Street in descent.
- At the "T" intersection with SW Spokane Street, turn left (west) for one block to 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW.
- Continue down to Carroll Street, site of the 1908 "Little Red Schoolhouse."
- As 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW merges into Chillberg Avenue SW. Follow either upper or lower Chillberg as they rejoin, curve right (west) and meet Beach Drive SW.
- Turn left (south) to find **Me-Kwa-Mooks<sup>2</sup>** Park in one block.

**Prairie Point.** (Ferdinand and Emma Schmitz built their home, Sans Souci, here on 40 acres. Perhaps you can see or imagine the gardens and fruit plus nut trees. Their children built two yet standing houses to the north.

- Cross with care to the sea-wall beach sidewalk. Turn right (north) towards Alki Point in the distance.
- Artist Lezlie Jane left her mark on three street end park spaces along your route. Pause to check out **Weather Watch Park**, Cormorant Cove and **Constellation Park**.
- Urban Night Walks on clear evenings reward street-side astronomers with star views informed by 27 inlaid bronze constellation displays.



**Night Sky Leader Alan Vogt delights Urban Walkers December 2024.** – Photo P Hendrickson

- Beach Drive Blvd bends right (north) at the Alki Lighthouse becoming Alki Avenue SW.

### You've Finished Section 9 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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Seattle Urban Walk Committee  
The Mountaineers, Founded 1906

(Rev4 21Feb2025 PH)

**Navigation Tip:** Staple, then fold these two 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 9 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](#)

- **Alki Beach Bus** # 50, 56, 775(free)
- **SW Hinds Street** #57
- **California Avenue SW** #50, 128
- SW Lander Street & 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW #50, 56, 57, 775(free)
- **Alki Way SW** #775(free)
- **West Seattle Water Taxi Pier** #73, 75 (free)

### Suggested Bathroom Stops

Free public bathroom access is good on Section 9 during park and business hours. Stops are listed in order of travel from Alki Point.

- Alki Beach Park
- Alki Park
- Hiawatha Playfield
- Alki Beach Pier
- Don Armeni Boat Ramp
- Seacrest Park Foot Ferry Terminal

### Where to Buy Provisions

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

- Seasonal parks, playfield bars
- Along Alki Beach
- California Avenue SW
- Seacrest Park Foot Ferry Dock

### Other Items of Interest

- **Stewards** for Section 9 are to be named.
- **Schmitz Preserve Park** (53.1 acres) remains "a densely wooded ravine." German immigrant Ferdinand Schultz donated a large chunk. Before it was preserved, some huge Cedar and Fir trees were harvested. Look for the springboard notches for evidence of logging.
- **Duwamish People** live along these shores and waterways. . See [Duwamish](#)
- **Earlier Euro-American Explorers.** Spaniards, Russians, Danes then British 1740s to 1790s. President Jefferson's men (and Sacajawea) 1805-06.
- **Neighborhoods** near or on this route are Alki Beach, North Admiral, West Seattle, Industrial Marine
- **Seattle Walks** (2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed) by David Williams and *Seattle Stairway Walks* (2013, Jaramillos) are excellent sources of walks, plus 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](#).