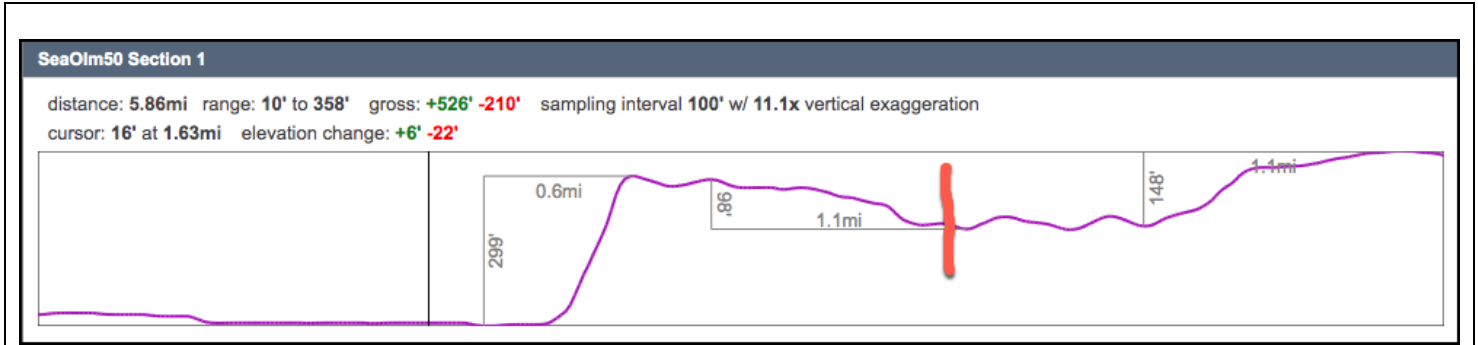


Seattle Olmsted 50 Trail – Section 1

S1 9.4km, 159m	S2 9.4km, 110m	S3 11.2km, 228m	S4 9km, 158m	S5 10.1km, 130m
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Ballard Locks to Woodland Park Zoo

Walking distance: 9.4 km (5.9 mi)
Elevation gain: 159m (526ft)



Section 1 of the Seattle Olmsted 50 trail begins at the Ballard (Hiram M Chittenden) Locks served by several Metro Bus routes.

You can split Section 1 into two shorter walks. Section 1 West runs from the Locks to Loyal Heights Playfield 6.1 km, 3.8 mi and Section 1 East finishes at the Woodland Park Zoo west entrance 3.3 km, 2 mi.

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

Section 1 West

Walking distance: 6.1 km (3.8 miles)
Elevation gain: 99 m (326 ft)

Note: Stroller friendly options for the standard route are offered along the way.

- From the entrance to the Ballard Locks, walk west along NW 54th Street. You're now walking along the Burke Gilman Trail, a classic rails to trails conversion. Walkers stay right.

*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 soon encounter a vest pocket park, **A Salish Welcome**, with platform

views to salt water entrance to the 8-mile Lake Washington Ship Canal, opened July 25, 1916. You're now seamlessly walking along Seaview Ave NW.

- Continue through the Burlington Northern underpass where the Salmon Bay single-leaf bascule railway bridge connects Magnolia / Interbay to Ballard. Water may be available at a public fountain.
- **Seaview Picnic Park** offers more canal views with boats queuing to enter the Locks. Wider vistas await at NW 60th Street Viewpoint – several benches.

Option: Stroller rollers could turn north to NW 61st Street and walk to the spectacular **Sunset Hill Park²**, elev 91m (300ft) , at 34th Avenue NW and NW 75th Street. Avoids 290 Golden Garden stairs.

- **Ray's Boathouse** is a longtime Seattle favorite for shore side, fine dining, and a well-concealed public beach.
- The Seaview Boatyard West signals the start of the massive Port of Seattle **Shilshole Bay Marina**. Turn left (west) into marina parking to admire the over 1,400 monthly and live aboard craft, one of the largest boating communities on the West Coast (<https://www.portseattle.org/maritime/shilshole-bay-marina>).
- Say, "Hallo" to **Leif Erickson** (statue) who never sailed west to Seattle but is

an icon to the many Norsk immigrants who fished and fish these waters. The **National Norsk Museum** is a mile or so east of the Locks.

- Ignore the many toilet, laundry and mail service buildings – they're card entry only for marina residents. Find public toilets at commercial center and the north end behind locals' favorite, **Little Coney** (soft serve, fries, fish...).
- Turn left again to continue on the paved shore path. The Burke Gilman Trail terminates nearby on the other side of Seaview Ave NW.
- A Golden Gardens sandy swimmers' beach lays ahead, a favorite with kids who love to dam the tiny creek while parents sit on shaded park benches.
- Continue on the paved path to the historic **Golden Gardens⁴ Bathhouse** where you'll find public bathrooms, a snack bar and wedding venue.
- While not on the SeaOlm50 route, many may wander north up the beach and find the beaver pond near the end of the park. Circle back south on Golden Gardens Park Road along the play area.
- The main route continues east through a pedestrian tunnel beneath the tracks. Bear right up on the paving stones to the hairpin turn of Golden Gardens Drive NW.
- Follow the sidewalk up the hill passing a small retention basin, one of the many Works Progress Administration 1930's remnants of trail construction on the steep hill. Caution on this stretch as the hillside weeps year-round leaving a frozen pathway some winter days.
- A well maintained set of stairs appears on your left. Some 18 landings carry you up the first 135 steps. That small stream is canalized right and left of the stairway.
- Another bathroom block greets you at an upper parking and Off Leash Area. Bear left towards 18 steps leading to a protected road crossing.
- Deep breath and tackle another 55 steps (no landings) and follow the sandy path south to a switchback.

- Continue up to find the final 82 steps leading to the 34th Avenue NW (Bus #17) and NW 85th Street (Bus #45) junction.
- **Cafe Fiore** (elevation 92m/305ft) across the street survived arson and remains a North Seattle favorite (organic coffee, wraps, pastries, kids' play corner) with indoor and street-side seating.
- Stroller friendly Loyal Way NW heads SE on the south side to intercept NW 80th Street in about 7 blocks.
- Cross with care this five-way intersection to head east on NW 80th Street to 25th Avenue NW where you again cross with caution -- use the flags.
- **Larsen's (Danish) Bakery** anchors the corner with all manner of Scandinavian and other goods.
- Continue east down NW 80th Street six blocks to 22nd Avenue NW.
- Turn right to walk on to NW 77th Street.
- Cross into the **Loyal Heights Playground** where you'll find public bathrooms in the Loyal Heights Community Center (M, W, F 9 to 9 and Tu, Th 9 to 7:30) and outside facing the Loyal Heights Playfield. Bus #18, #40 at nearby 24th Avenue NW and NW 77th Street.

You have completed Section 1 West.

Section 1 East

Walking distance: 3.3 km (2.0 miles) Elevation gain: 61 m (200 ft)

Note: While there is more elevation gain in Section 1 East, the grade is gentler. No multiple flights of stairs to ascend!

- Exit Loyal Heights Playfield to the east to 20th Avenue NW.
- Turn south (right) on 20th Avenue NW and walk two blocks to enter the Olmsted 2.8-acre **Salmon Bay Park¹**, 2001 NW Canoe Pl. Donated to the city of Ballard in 1890, with annexation it became a Seattle City park and was called out by the Olmsted Brothers in

the 1908 city map. Toilets, Zip line!, playground, picnic tables.

- Exit Salmon Bay Park to the east onto NW 70th Street.
- Cross the busy 15th Avenue NW (traffic light) passing Koo Hoo Thai Street (left side) or **Rosellini's Bakery** (right side).
- Caution again to cross 8th Avenue NW (flags) east towards neighborhood favorite **The Barking Dog Alehouse** (craft beers, food, big screens/sports). Check out the sidewalk art along the outdoor seating.
- Flags again support crossing 3rd Ave NW as you gradually gain altitude towards Phinney Ridge.
- Turn right onto Greenwood Ave N where treats abound heading south towards prize-winning **Red Mill Burgers**. Marvel that they share picnic tables with next-door **Ridgewood Bottle & Tap** – live drafts.
- Cross Phinney Avenue North (yes, street name changed at the "S" curve) and check out the action at the **Phinney Center**, home of the well staffed Phinney Neighborhood Association – events calendar (<https://www.phinneycenter.org/>). Toilets, myriad arts plus social and business services to North Seattle.
- Continue south on Phinney Avenue N where eateries abound to **West Woodland Park¹ Playground** at N 59th Street.
- If not continuing to Section 2, exit the playground to the **Woodland Park Zoo** entry path (no fee) to find the public

restrooms (no fee) and West Entrance into the Zoo (fee).

Return to Ballard Locks Options

- Cross Phinney Ave North and walk west down North 55th Street (right side) to catch Bus #44 at the Market Street North stop, foot of the hill.
- As above down the hill, but continue your walk back through downtown Ballard to the Ballard Locks on Market Street North.

Congratulations, you just completed Section 1 of the Seattle Olmsted 50!

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

Contact:

Seattle Olmsted 50 lead:

Peter Hendrickson

p.hendrickson43@gmail.com

Seattle Urban Walk Committee
The Mountaineers, Founded 1906

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 move their thumb along the bulleted text for their current position.*

(Rev 17Oct2023/ph)

TRANSIT, TOILETS and TREATS

King County Metro Transit Service Points

Bus service is available at several locations on Section 1 but these points offer the most options. Bus route numbers are also found on the printable map PDF. See

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/metro/travel-options/bus>

- Ballard Locks (32th Ave NW & NW Market St) Route #17 & (NW 54th St at Locks) #29, #44
- Sunset Hill (32 Ave NW and NW 85th St) Routes #17, #44
- Salmon Bay (24th Ave NW and 77th St) Routes #18, #40
- Woodland Park Zoo (Phinney Ave North and North 59th St) Routes #5, #16

Suggested Bathroom Stops

Free public bathroom access is very good on Section 1 during park and business hours, among the best of all sections. Stops are listed in order of travel from Ballard Locks.

- Ballard Locks Visitor Center and nearby businesses
- Mid & North end Shilshole Bay Marina (behind Little Coney snack bar)
- Golden Gardens Bathhouse
- Golden Gardens Off Leash Area
- Cafe Fiore near top of Golden Gate stairs (customers)
- Larsen's Bakery (customers)
- Loyal Heights Community Center and Playfield
- Salmon Bay Park
- The Barking Dog Ale House (customers)
- Phinney Center
- Woodland Park Zoo West Entrance

Where to Buy Provisions

Section 1 has a rich mix of residential, parks and local cafes, bakeries, ice cream parlors, and pubs. You'll find Take 5 Urban Market on 70th Street North, just before The Barking Dog Ale House. There are no larger markets along this route.

Other Items of Interest

- **Stewards** for Section 1 are Seattle Urban Walk Committee officers Linda and Steve Pugmire. They are veteran Volksmarch and Mountaineers hikers and urban walkers.
- The **Ballard Locks** attract visitors from all over the world. Summer 2023 was a particularly good season for viewing King (Chinook) Salmon at the locks.
- **Golden Gardens** brings picnickers, volleyball players, bonfire builders, minus tide explorers, beaver naturalists, bird watchers and boaters year round.
- The **Phinney Neighborhood Association** is the preeminent arts, social services, local business supporter and activities host in North Seattle. They operate a senior center, tool library, bingo, karaoke and myriad classes. Year round events provide a meeting place for neighbors. Perhaps you'll walk on a Farmers Market day or during an Art Walk.
- **The Woodland Park Zoo**, founded in 1899 and designed by the Olmsted Brothers, started landscape immersion exhibits in 1975 – first with gorillas. They are now an international standard for naturalistic exhibits. The Zoo ranks second after the Bronx Zoo for U.S. awards received.
- **Neighborhoods near or on this route**, are Ballard, Sunset Hill, Loyal Heights, Whittier Heights, Greenwood, Phinney Ridge. For more complete Olmsted Parks information, consult **Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks**, partners in development of this trail. Local link is <https://seattleolmsted.org/>. The national Olmsted Network is <https://olmsted.org/>
- **Seattle ranks** among the top 10 park systems in the country <https://seattleolmsted.org/seattle-ranks-among-top-10-park-systems-in-the-country/>