

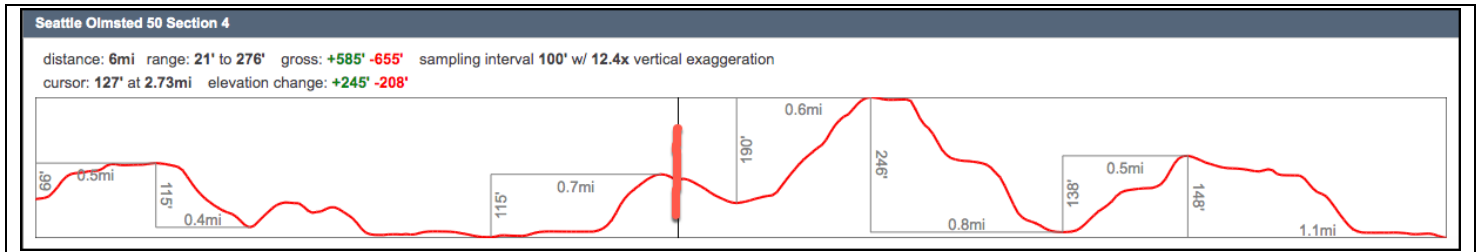
## Seattle Olmsted 50 Trail – Section 4

**S1** 9.4km, 159m | **S2** 10.2km,110m | **S3** 11.2km, 228m | **S4 9.7km,177m** | **S5** 10.1km,130m

### Washington Park Playfield (Arboretum) to Stan Sayres Memorial Park & Boat Launch

Walking distance: 9.7 km (6 miles)

Elevation gain: 177 m (585 ft)



**Section 4** of the Seattle Olmsted 50 trail begins at Washington Park Playfield (**Arboretum**<sup>4</sup>), served by Bus #11.

You can split Section 4 into two shorter walks. Section 4 North runs from the bathroom block at Washington Park Playfield to Leschi Village 3.6 km, (2.2 mi) and Section 4 South finishes at the Stan Sayres Memorial Park & Boat Launch near the east end of Genesee Park and Playfield 5.4 km, (3.4 mi).

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

### Section 4 North

Walking distance: 3.8 km (2.4 miles)  
Elevation gain: 43 m (141 ft)

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

- Take the stairs/path up to E Lake Washington Boulevard to reach E Madison Street.
- At the busy intersection -- pedestrian lights -- cross towards Pagliacci Pizza, then cross **E Lake Washington Boulevard**<sup>2</sup> to the other (east) side.
- Head east crossing 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue E to pick up the graveled path (bear left), avoiding the no-shoulder section.
- Just after the T-junction with E Republican Street, you'll find an optional, protected street crossing to explore **Bush School** lower campus.

- If you explore the many Bush sculptures, return the same way to E Lake Washington Blvd and continue past **Lakeview Park**<sup>2</sup> to the fine Lookout east at Hillsdale Drive E.
- Follow E Lake Washington Blvd south veering slight left to take the dirt path down to the McGilvra Boulevard E intersection.

**Strollers:** *Tough path with steps, a bit steep and slippery if wet. Test walkers agree: Passable if you carry your child. The paved Boulevard here is unforgiving.*

- Cross with care and continue down E Lake Washington Blvd using E Denny Blaine Place to loop through quiet **Denny Blaine Park**<sup>1</sup> with beach access. May find portable toilets.
- Continue passing **Viretta Park**<sup>1</sup> on your right where there is a Kurt Cobain tribute bench, but go left on E Howell Street, then Howell Place. Some may detour left to find quiet **Howell Park**<sup>1</sup> and beach—nude bathers?
- Back on Lake Washington Boulevard South, pick up a shore path at E Pine Street shoreline street end (stairs) or E Pike.
- The Goldmark Lookout at Madrona Drive and Lake Washington Boulevard offers Bus #2 service,
- Continue along the shore finding bathrooms at **Madrona Park**<sup>1</sup> before passing by Spectrum Dance Theatre at Madrona Beach (toilets).

- Your route continues past the Leschi Marina. Leschi village offers cafe and dining choices but find your way south to neighborhood favorite **Leschi Market** -- picnic tables for a break.

You have completed Section 4 North.

## Section 4 South

Walking distance: 5.3 km (3.3 miles)  
Elevation gain: 134 m (443 ft)

**Note:** The final Section elevation gain is greater as you head for Stan Sayres Memorial Park and boat launch. Section 4 South is **not stroller friendly** – stairs, sections of zero shoulder, short but narrow forest path.

- Follow the sidewalk south to a right-bearing path past Giant Sequoias up to the **Leschi Park<sup>1</sup>** public restrooms.
- A short path (with a few stairs) leads to a small park with swings.

Bear right to cross (unprotected) 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (it slopes downhill) back up to **Lake Washington Blvd S**.

*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.*

- Turn left (south) and stay on the left (no current shoulder) to the houses (and a shoulder) ahead. Most days bicycles outnumber cars on this route.
- At the S Jackson Street and S Frink Place intersection, turn right to stay on Lake Washington Blvd. The left side is protected by a narrow path.
- Cross the street at the ornate bridge and take the path on its right, to find a small waterfall and tiny **Frink Park Bridge**, in the heart of **Frink Park<sup>2</sup>**.
- Continue a short distance. Many paths lead higher but bear left down to Lake Washington Blvd S.
- At S Charles Street, turn right up to 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S.
- Turn left on 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S then right at S Judkins Street up to 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S.

- Turn left (south) onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S to find stairs up to continue left onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Upper Avenue S.
- At S Day Street turn right (west) up to busy 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue S. (*Test walkers promoted neighborhood streets to approach **Mount Baker Ridge**, formerly "Garlic Gulch" where early Italian immigrants settled.*)
- Left (south) down 31<sup>st</sup> Ave S and you'll pass **QED Coffee**. Safest crossing is after one block at S Atlantic Street – cross to **That's Amore Italian Cafe**, then right to the splendid **Mt Baker Ridge Viewpoints**. Terrific signage provides site lines to Seattle landmarks across the seasons. (*The park opened March 20, 2009, the vernal equinox.*) You're now walking well above the **Mount Baker Ridge Tunnel**.
- Cross east back over 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue S down S Atlantic Street to stairs at 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S to 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S.
- Left (north) back to S Day Street for a right (east) down to Lake Washington Blvd S.
- Left a half block to the **East Portal Viewpoint** over Interstate 90, Mercer Island, Bellevue and the Cascade Mountains beyond. Plaques (one for each span) honor both 1930s State Highway Superintendent Lacey V Murrow (east bound I-90) and Homer M Hadley (west bound I-90).

*Three Washington floating bridges have been replaced – two sank with high winds. Yes there are arguably 4 tunnels: E and W i-90, Light Rail and a separate pedestrian / cyclist tunnel.*

- Head south along Lake Washington Boulevard S passing the **Ellsworth Storey** historic cottages group into **Colman Park<sup>2</sup>** and turn left to a forest trail that takes you to a lower section of Lake Washington Blvd South. Before stepping back on the road, use the short trail on your right that takes you through a pedestrian tunnel (one of three) to **Colman Beach<sup>2</sup>**.

## Lake Washington Boulevard<sup>2</sup>

*Boulevards were a key component of Seattle's Olmsted park system. Lake Washington Boulevard links nine of the Olmsted Parks – Montlake Boulevard to Seward Park. The route winds through the steeply contoured Lakeview, Frink and Colman Parks – favorite cyclist sections.*

*The Lake Washington shoreline sections are favorites with walkers and there is good separation from traffic. Cyclists lack a dedicated paved way in the narrow roadways. Even planned renovations do not call for bicycle separation from motorists.*

*The Mount Baker neighborhood above the lake is filled with small parks, an Olmsted plan.*

*Boulevards are found in other sections of the city. Neither Boulevards, nor Parkways were designed to be longer distance walking routes.*

*The North Ballard, Kinnear, South Bourne, Sound Bluffs, Brighton Beach and other Parkways were unrealized<sup>5</sup>.*

- Onto the shore path again south to **Mt Baker Park<sup>2</sup> Beach**. Toilets.
- Cross Lake Washington Boulevard to walk south up the grassy west side of **Lake Park Drive<sup>2</sup> S (Mt Baker Park)**.
- At the top cross S McClellan St where walk-in **Mioposto Pizzeria** beckons.
- Cross Mt Baker Drive S to take the curvy, wooded walkway up to St Helens Place S.
- Turn left (south) until merging with Mt Rainier Drive S that becomes **Hunter Boulevard S<sup>2</sup>**.
- Walk down the grassy center until left on S Horton St, AKA **Landing Parkway<sup>2</sup>**.
- Continue across Cascadia Avenue S to take hidden stairs down to Sierra Dr S.
- Turn right to **Sierra Place<sup>2</sup>** and left down S Horton St.

- Bear right at the "Y" (cars behind?) to cautiously cross Lake Washington Boulevard S.
- Turn left (south) to rejoin the shore side trail south along Wetmore Slough to **Stan Sayres Memorial Park<sup>4</sup>** and Boat Launch. Sayres was a famous Seattle Unlimited Hydroplane racer and the park remains the annual **Seafair** race headquarters.

## Return to Washington Park Playfield

Sayres Park is no transportation hub (unless you're afloat.) Consider walking towards Columbia City through **Genesee Park<sup>4</sup>** / S Genesee St to Rainier Ave S (1 mile, 20+ minutes) for Bus #7 to Mt Baker Transit Center. Then Bus #8 to E Madison St. Consult bus options.

**Columbia City**, just south down Rainier Avenue S is a proper urban village. Served by light rail and bus, it boasts cafes, pubs, bakeries, jazz clubs, cinema ... A favorite is Columbia City Bakery. Third Place Books nearer Seward Park offers bagels, beer and literary browsing.

## Congratulations, you just completed Section 4 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:  
Seattle Urban Walk Committee  
The Mountaineers, Founded 1906  
Peter Hendrickson  
[p.hendrickson43@gmail.com](mailto:p.hendrickson43@gmail.com)

**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

*Bus service is available at several locations on Section 4 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>*

- **E Madison St & Lake Washington Blvd #11**
- **Madrona Dr & Lake Washington Blvd #2**
- **Leschi Village Lakeside Avenue > S Day St #27**
- **Mt Baker Ridge 31<sup>st</sup> Ave S & S Irving St #14**
- **S Genesee St & Cascadia Ave S #50**
- **Rainier Ave S & S Genesee St #7, #9**

## Suggested Bathroom Stops

*Free public bathroom access is very good on Section 4 during park and business hours.*

*Stops are listed in order of travel from Washington Park Playfield.*

- Washington Park Playfield, soccer fields
- Denny Blaine Park
- Howell Park
- Madrona Beach
- Spectrum Dance Theatre (locked?)
- Leschi Park
- QED Coffee (customers)
- Colman Beach
- Mount Baker Beach
- Stan Sayres Memorial Park

## Where to Buy Provisions

*Section 4 and nearby have a modest mix of residential, parks and local cafes, bakeries, ice cream parlors, and pubs.*

- *3 Restaurants near Washington Park Playfield*
- *Leschi Market, Cafes*
- *Seasonal Beach Snack bars*
- *Columbia City*

## Other Items of Interest

- **Stewards** for Section 4 are Shauna McDaniel and other(s) TBD.
- **Seattle Japanese Garden** Tues through Sunday (seasonal - fee)
- **Ellsworth Storey Cottages** (1910) at 1710 Lake Washington Boulevard S helped define Seattle architectural style – modest, open and local materials. Historic Register. ([theclio.com](http://theclio.com))
- **Mount Baker racial restrictions** were but one example of Seattle “redlining.” [https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants\\_MtBaker.htm](https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants_MtBaker.htm)
- **Joseph Kraus House** (1907, Historic Register) at 2812 Mt St Helens Place was the former German Consulate.
- **Stan Sayres** (1896 to 1956) broke the world water speed record in 1950 in Slo-mo-shun IV – 178.49mph. “Sayres Pits” is HQ for the annual Seafair Hydroplane Races. Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center hosts other activities.
- **Wetmore Slough** was homesteaded in 1870 by Seymour Wetmore. The lake was 9ft higher until 2016. Wetlands extended nearly to Rainier Avenue.
- **Neighborhoods** near or on this route are Stevens, Madison Park, Harrison Denny-Blaine, Madrona, Leschi and Mount Baker. For Olmsted Parks information, consult **Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks**, partners in Seattle Olmsted 50. An interactive map sorts out the varied history of related parks, paths and boulevards. <https://seattleolmsted.org/>. The national Olmsted Network is <https://olmsted.org/>
- **Seattle ranks** among the top 10 city park systems in the country <https://seattleolmsted.org/seattle-ranks-among-top-10-park-systems-in-the-country/>