

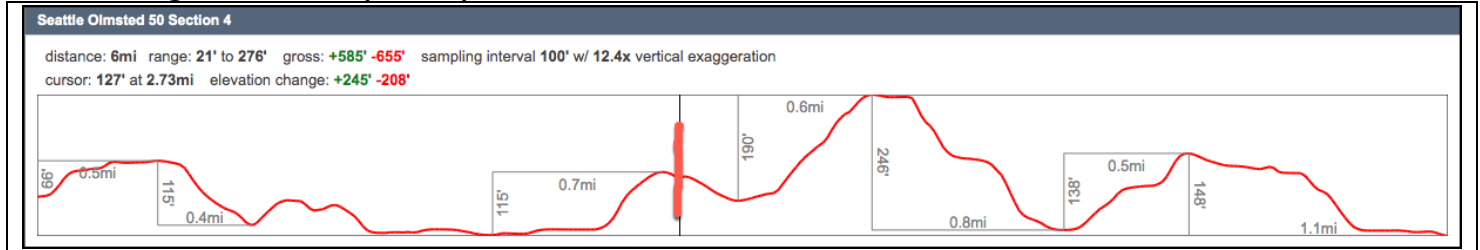
Seattle Olmsted 50 Trail – Section 4

S1 9.4km, 159m	S2 10.3km, 110m	S3 10.7km, 197m	S4 9.7km, 178m	S5 10.8km, 139m
-----------------------	---------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

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

Walking distance: 9.7 km (6 miles)

Elevation gain: 178 m (585 ft)



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

You can split Section 4 into two shorter walks. Section 4 North runs from the bathroom block Washington Park Playfield to Leschi Village 4.4 km, (2.7 mi) and Section 4 South finishes at Stan Sayres Memorial Park & Boat Launch/ Genesee Park and Playfield 5.3 km, (3.4 mi). A Loop Option to Madrona and return is also available (7.6 km, 4.7 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)

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

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 cross towards Pagliacci Pizza, then east across **E Lake Washington Boulevard**².
- Head east crossing 32nd Avenue E to pick up the graveled path (bear left), avoiding the no-shoulder section.
- Just after E Republican Street T-junction find an optional, protected crossing to **Bush School**.

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

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**¹ with beach access--nude bathers? Sani-cans?
- Continue past **Viretta Park**¹ on your right and the Kurt Cobain tribute bench, but go left on E Howell Street, then Howell Place. Optional detour left for **Howell Park**¹ and beach—nude bathers?
- Back on Lake Washington Boulevard S, pick up a shore path (stairs) at E Pine Street shoreline street end.
- The Goldmark Lookout at Madrona Drive and Lake Washington Boulevard offers Bus #2 service

Loop Option: Turn right (north) up Madrona Drive at the Goldmark Lookout to return to Washington Park Playfield. Directions after Section 4 South.

- Continue along the shore finding bathrooms at **Madrona Park**¹ before passing by Spectrum Dance Theatre at Madrona Beach (toilets?).

- Continue past Leschi Marina to Leschi village -- cafe and dining choices. But Find neighborhood favorite **Leschi Market** -- picnic tables for a break.

You have completed Section 4 North. Return to Arboretum via Bus #27 to E Yesler Way & MLK Jr Way S #8 to E Madison St.

Section 4 South

*Walking distance: 5.3 km (3.4 miles)
Elevation gain: 134 m (443 ft)*

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

- Follow the sidewalk south to a right-bearing path past Giant Sequoias (one dedicated to a gardener) up to the **Leschi Park¹** public restrooms.
- A short path (with few stairs) leads to a small park with swings.
- Bear right to cross (unprotected) 35th 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. Many 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 Park²**.
- Continue a short distance. Many paths lead higher but bear left down to Lake Washington Blvd S.
- At S Charles Street, right to 33rd Avenue S.
- Turn left on 33rd Avenue S then right at S Judkins Street up to 32nd Avenue S.

- Turn left (south) onto 32nd Avenue S to find stairs up to continue left onto 32nd Upper Avenue S.
- At S Day Street turn right (west) up to busy 31st Avenue S. (*This is **Mount Baker Ridge**, formerly "Garlic Gulch" where early Italian immigrants settled.*)



Frink Park -- Photo P Hendrickson

- Left (south) down 31st 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, vernal equinox.*) We're standing over **Mount Baker Ridge Tunnel**.
- Cross east back over 31st Avenue S down S Atlantic Street to stairs at 32nd Avenue S to 33rd Avenue S.
- Left (north) to S Day Street and right (east) down to Lake Washington Blvd S.



I-90 Floating Bridges Overlook – Photo P Hendrickson

- 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 & pedestrian / long cyclist and walker tunnel.

- Head south along Lake Washington Boulevard S passing the **Ellsworth Storey** historic cottages group into **Colman Park²** 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 Beach²**.

Lake Washington Boulevard²
Boulevards (parkways) 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 steeply contoured Lakeview, Frink and Colman Parks – cyclist prime territory.

The Lake Washington shoreline sections are favorites with walkers with good traffic separation. Cyclists lack a paved way.

The Mount Baker neighborhood above the lake is filled with small parks, an Olmsted plan. Neither Boulevards, nor Parkways were designed as longer walking routes.

The North Ballard, Kinnear, South Bourne, Sound Bluffs, Brighton Beach and other Parkways were unrealized⁵.

- Onto the shore path again south to **Mt Baker Park² Beach**. Toilets.
- Cross Lake Washington Boulevard to walk south up the grassy west side of **Lake Park Drive² 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, hidden walkway up to St Helens Place S.
- Turn right (south) until merging with Mt Rainier Drive S that becomes **Hunter Boulevard S²**.



Hunter Blvd (or is it Paris?) –Photo P Hendrickson

- Walk down the grassy center until left on S Horton St, AKA **Landing Parkway²**.
- Continue across Cascadia Avenue S to take hidden stairs down to Sierra Dr S.
- Turn right to **Sierra Place²** and left down S Horton St.
- Bear right at the "Y" (cars behind?) to cautiously cross Lake Washington Boulevard S.
- Turn right (south) to rejoin the shore side trail south along Wetmore Slough to **Stan Sayres Memorial Park⁴** and Boat Launch. Sayres was a famous Seattle Unlimited Hydroplane racer and the park is **Seafair** race headquarters.

Congratulations, you just completed Section 4 of the Seattle Olmsted 50!

Return to Washington Park Playfield through playfields and **Genesee Park⁴** / 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.

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 ... Columbia City Bakery, Third Place Books nearer Seward Park for bagels, beer and literary browsing.

Section 4 Loop Finish Option

>> Total Loop and Finish Section Data<<
Distance: 7. km (4.7 mi)—5.1 km (3.2 miles)
Elevation gain: 171m (564 ft)—110m (363 ft)

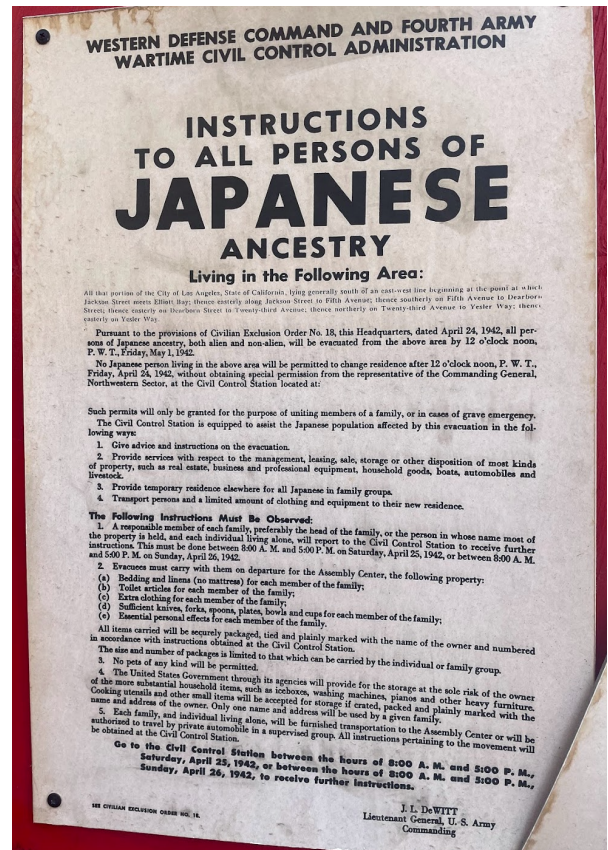
Note: *Loop Finish Option is stroller friendly.*

- At Goldmark Lookout turn right (north) up Madrona Drive to E Pine Street for a right (east) planked walk through the trees to Evergreen Place.
- Left (north) for a merge to 39th Avenue E, soon crossing Lake Washington Boulevard E until it merges with McGilvra Boulevard E yet above the lake.
- Turn right (east) at E Highland Dr, then left (north) on 42nd Avenue E to right (east) on E Lee Street for one block to rejoin 42nd Avenue E—left (north).
- Turn right (east) on E Garfield Street to 43rd Avenue E onward past Madison Park Beach to E Madison Street, the heart of Madison Park.

Madison Park. *Developed by Judge John McGilvra in the 1860's, he donated 24 acres for the park. Pioneer Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

- Turn left (west) up E Madison Street passing by several spots to dine or drink.
- Pass by Broadmore (golf course, homes) developed on land logged for 60 years by the Puget Mill Company. In 1920 the west 230 acres became Washington Park (Arboretum).
- Crest the hill outside Broadmore to soon turn right (north) on E Lake Washington Boulevard.
- Turn left (west) into the parking area for the Washington Park Playfield

Redlining Seattle. *Broadmore was initially racially (and religiously) segregated. Williams (2025) in his detailed Seattle Walks Madison Street description notes: The property could never be used or occupied by 'any Hebrew or by any person of the Ethiopian, Malay, or any Asiatic race.'*



Extreme racial profiling –Photo P Hendrickson

You've Finished Section 3 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) and Loop Finish Options (12 sections, January 2025).

Contact:

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

(Rev 24Jan2025/PH)

TRANSIT, TOILETS and TREATS

King County Metro Transit Service Points

Public transport is available at several locations on Section 4 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](#)

- **E Madison St & Lake Washington Blvd #11**
- **Madrona Dr & Lake Washington Blvd #2**
- **Leschi Village Lakeside Avenue > S Day St #27**
- **Mt Baker Ridge 31st 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 TBD.
- **Seattle Japanese Garden** Tues through Sunday (seasonal - fee)
- **"Valley of the Gnomes"** is found at 3906 E Pine St, a whimsical detour.
- **Ellsworth Storey Cottages** (1910) at 1710 Lake Washington Boulevard S helped define Seattle architectural style – modest, open and local materials. Historic Register. (theclio.com)
- **Mount Baker racial restrictions** were but one example of Seattle "redlining." [Seattle Redlining](#)
- **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 1916. Wetlands extended nearly to Rainier Avenue.
- Christmas Eve 1985 David L Rice murdered the entire **Goldmark family** at their Seattle house, believing father Charles Goldmark was a major Jewish Communist official plotting to surrender America to a World Communist government. – *Wikipedia*
- **Neighborhoods** near or on this route are Stevens, Madison Park, Harrison Denny-Blaine, Madrona, Leschi and Mount Baker.
- 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](#)