

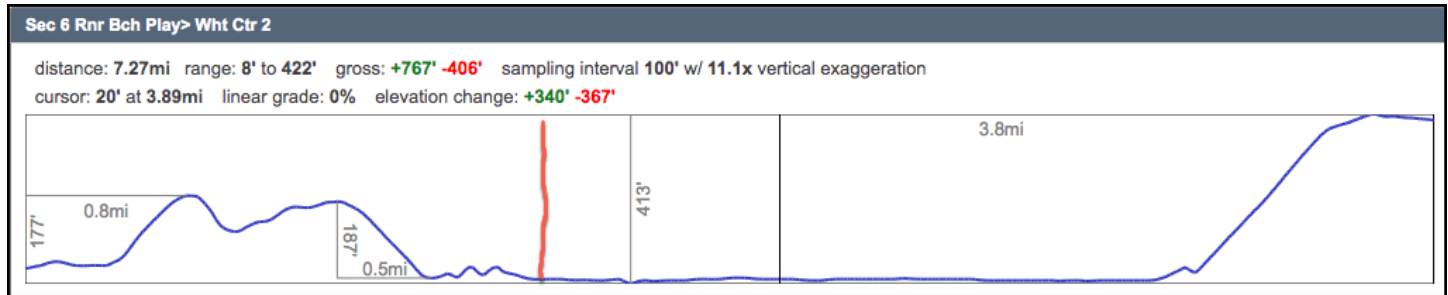
## Seattle Olmsted 70 Trail – Section 6

<b>S6 10.8km, 234m</b>	S7 9.6km, 149m	S8 11.1km, 44m	S9 8.6km 130m	S10 9.5Km 104m	S11 9.6km 107m	S12 10.8km 237m
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### Rainier Beach Community Center to Dubsea Coffee White Center

Walking distance: 10.8 km (6.7 miles--minus brief bus ride)

Elevation gain: 234m (767 ft—minus bus elevation gained)



**Section 6** of the Seattle Olmsted 70 trail begins at the Rainier Beach Community Center and finishes at Dubsea Coffee, White Center. Expect some **highway exposure** (3 unprotected off ramps and shoulders). Experienced urban leaders who have test walked the route advise small groups (<=8). A short bus ride bypasses SR 509 ramps.

You can split Section 6 into two shorter walks. Section 6 East runs from Rainier Beach Community Center to the Duwamish River 4.4 km (2.7 mi) and Section 6 West finishes at Dubsea Coffee 6.4 km (4 mi). A Loop Option, Rainier Beach Playfield and return, is also available 6.1km (3.8 mi).

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

### Section 6 East

Walking distance 4.4 km (2.7 miles)

Elevation gain: 104 m (340 ft/CalTopo).

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

**Note:** The route is not stroller friendly—highway exposure.

- Starting at Rainier Beach Community Center, the terminus for the Seattle Olmsted 50, walk west through **Rainier Beach Playfield<sup>4</sup>** to Dunlap Elementary and turn left (south) on 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (sidewalk) to S Henderson Street.

- Some might first detour right around Dunlap to a stunning Artists in Residence mural (2005, Toland & Srtocker).
- Turn right (west), then left (south) up Yukon Avenue S to **Chief Sealth Trail**.
- At S Barton Street turn left (east) to return to the power line right of way at the corner.

**Boeing's** imprint on this section is profound. Boeing Field was Seattle's primary airport from 1928 to the late 1940s. During WW2, a 26-acre, fake neighborhood (burlap, canvas and chicken wire) camouflaged the field. A fine way to end Section 6 East would be to visit the **Museum of Flight** in the SW corner of the field -- 9404 E. Marginal Way South



**Chief Sealth Trail, Mt Rainier?** –Photo P Hendrickson

- Cross S Fletcher Street with care and shortly join Marcus Avenue S turning left (south).
- Turn left (east) onto S Roxbury Street before turning right (south) on 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue S onto the Chief Seattle Trail.

*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.*

- Cross S Bond Street with caution to shortly join 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue S (Bus #107).
- At S Ryan Way turn right (west) as it sweeps down towards Boeing buildings.
- Just before Martin Luther King Junior Way S (proposed route for **Dunlap Canyon Parkway**<sup>5</sup>), see the former Raisbeck Engineering aerospace center near the major interchange.
- We're briefly in Tukwila until reaching South Park in Section 6 West.

**Loop Option:** *Before crossing MLK Jr Way, return via the Loop Option to Rainier Beach Playfield. Directions after Section 6 West.*

- Cross MLK Jr Way with care to the S Boeing Access Road. Stay right with caution over I-5 (esp. at the off ramp). At traffic light cross to left and continue west over rail lines (and two more on ramps) to major "T" intersection.
- Cross Tukwila International and see a Chevron Food Mart to the left (south). Our route goes right (north) changing names to E Marginal Way S. You're *just south of historic **Boeing Field***.

You have completed Section 6 East. To return to Rainier Beach, take Bus #124 south to Tukwila International Blvd Station. Ride the Light Rail north one stop to Rainier Beach Station at S Henderson Street.

## Section 6 West

*Walking distance: 6.4 km (4 miles)  
Elevation gain: 139 m (457 ft)*

**Note:** *Parts of Section 6 West roughly follow the unrealized **Dunlap Canyon Parkway**<sup>5</sup>.*

- Walk north along a sidewalk between the muddy Duwamish River and E Marginal Way S to S 104<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Bear left (north), ignoring road closed sign to reach a left (west) turn onto the highway badge across the Duwamish (a nearby Boeing foot bridge is not accessible).
- At the west side, turn right (north) to follow a pedestrian/cycle path around a huge Amazon parking lot (~500 drivers).

*The **Duwamish River** begins as the Green River in the Cascade Mountains and becomes the Duwamish at the former confluence with the Black (dried up in 1916 with lowering of Lake Washington) and White (changed course in 1906 to flow into the Puyallup) Rivers. The industrialized Lower Duwamish River estuary is a Superfund site.*

- At W Marginal Place S turn right (north) to border **Salmon Cove Park and Shoreline Habitat**. You've reached the great tidal turning basin for ships that plied the Duwamish. You could follow an extension of the Green River Trail to get closer to the riverbank (and see more birds).



**Duwamish Turning Basin#3**-Photo P Hendrickson

- Keep Highway 99 (West Marginal Way S) on your left shoulder as you pass through this industrial landscape to Hamm Creek Estuary after the electrical substation.
- FYI, Seattle's (private) **Duwamish Yacht Club** is off our route, found by turning right (east) down S 93<sup>rd</sup> Street.



- At the Des Moines West Marginal Way S interchange, merge right (north) to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue S several blocks to S Cloverdale Street.
- You're now in Seattle's **South Park**, one of the city's most industrial neighborhoods. Air quality is often low with the continuous stream of short haul trucks moving containers.
- Some take refuge in **Loretta's Southwesterner** or **Uncle Eddies South Park**.
- Turn left (west) on S Cloverdale Street to find South Park Library, and fresher air at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.



**IAM Union Hall sculpture (Ken Lonon)**  
- Photo P Hendrickson

- Two blocks north up 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue S brings you to **South Park Playground**<sup>3</sup>, further refuge for working folks. Threatened by 1950's freeway construction, it was saved through community efforts.
- Continue west on S Cloverdale Street to cross under Highway 99, to tiny **Cesar Chavez Park**.
- Catch frequent Bus #60 from S Cloverdale St to Olson/Myers Park & Ride to avoid the Highway 509 interchange.

*That's **three major highway** and one river crossings in 6 km (3.7 mi) – not for the faint of heart or inexperienced urban walk leader. That's why the bus is a good choice.*

- Did you spot the retirement center and Seattle Joint Fire Training Facility?
- Exit the bus facing the orange Public Storage and follow the sidewalk right (north), then left (west) at Olson Place SW through the West Duwamish Greenbelt.
- Turn right (west) onto SW Roxbury Street. South of Roxbury at SW 97<sup>th</sup> Place is White Center in unincorporated King County. When the Greenbridge mixed income community is completed, a neighborhood shortcut may be possible.
- At 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue S turn left (south) into Greenbridge neighborhood past combined Greenbridge Library, YWCA and a branch of Highline Community College.
- **Dubsea Coffee** is found at SW 99<sup>th</sup> Street. "Dubsea" brings **White Center** (WC) to mind—the older, nearby neighborhood.

**Congratulations, you just completed Section 6 of the Seattle Olmsted 70!**

**Return to Rainier Beach Community Center by Bus #128 to Tukwila International Blvd Light Rail Station. One stop north to Rainier Beach Station at MLK Jr Way S and S Henderson St. Short walk east to the Community Center.**

### **Section 7 Loop Finish Option**

>>Total Loop Data and Loop Finish Section<<  
Distance: 6.1 km (3.8 mi) – 2.7 km (1.7 mi)  
Elevation Gain: 94 m (310 ft) – 41m (135 ft)

- Note:** Loop Option is stroller friendly. Quick up followed by gradual down and gradual up.
- From corner of S Boeing Access Rd and MLK Jr Way, turn right (north) to follow the MLK Jr Way broad sidewalk north.



**Seattle PUD site mural** -- Photo P. Hendrickson

- Yes, this is a busy road but only a single, protected street crossing. Merton Way S on west side of MLK Jr Way was explored but is not advised.



**Rainier Beach 1 Line Station** – Photo Reddit Transit

- Continue across Henderson one block to turn right (east) on S Trenton Street.
- Turn left (north) up Renton Avenue S to S Cloverdale Street.
- Turn right (east) to find the driveway (turn right/south) along the Rainier Beach Playfield.
- Find Dunlap Elementary School (1924) and look on the west facing brick wall for a terrific mural.



**Dunlap Elementary Mural #2** – Photo P Hendrickson

- Back to the sidewalk to find the path heading west between playfields to the Rainier Beach Community Center

## You've Finished Section 6 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 more westerly Seattle Olmsted 70 (7 Sections, June 2024). Shorter Loop Options (January 2025).

**Contact:** Seattle Olmsted 50/70 lead:  
Peter Hendrickson  
[p.hendrickson43@gmail.com](mailto:p.hendrickson43@gmail.com)  
Seattle Urban Walk Committee  
The Mountaineers, Founded 1906

**(Rev4 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 6 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](#)

- **Rainier Beach Community Center Bus # 7, 9, 106, 107**
- **Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Rainier Beach Station**
- **East Marginal Way S Bus # 124**
- **S Cloverdale St Bus # 60, 132**
- **Olson Myers Way P&R Bus # 60, 113**
- **SW Roxbury St Bus #60, 113**
- **Dubsea Coffee Bus # 128**

### Suggested Bathroom Stops

Free public bathroom access is scant on Section 6 during park and business hours. Stops are listed in order of travel Rainier Beach Community Center.

- Rainier Beach Community Center and Playfield
- Chevron Station Tukwila International Blvd
- South Park Library
- Greenbridge Community Center
- Dubsea Coffee (patrons)

### Where to Buy Provisions

Section 6 and nearby have a modest mix of residential, parks and local cafes, bakeries, ice cream parlors, and pubs.

- Seasonal parks, playfields, bars
- Rite Aid, Safeway near South Shore PreK-8
- South Park
- Olson/Myers Park and Ride village
- Greenbridge Neighborhood

### Other Items of Interest

- **Stewards** for Section 6 are to be named.
- **Duwamish People** live along these shores and waterways. See [Duwamish](#)
- **Neighborhoods** near or on this route are Rainier Beach, Duwamish, South Park, Georgetown, Highland Park, Greenbridge, Boulevard Park, White Center
- **Olmsted Parks** on and near route Beer Sheva, Rainier Beach Playfield, Dunlap Canyon Parkway (unrealized), South Park Playground, Westcrest Park
- **Dunlap Canyon.** The first homesteader in the area was Joseph Dunlap (d.1893) who built a cabin at S Henderson Street and 50th Avenue S. Dunlap brought his family from Iowa by wagon (reportedly drawn by one white horse and one mule) over the Oregon Trail in September 1869. On Beacon Hill, he instructed his son, George, to climb a tree and report what he saw. George described a flat valley with several creeks flowing into a large lake. Another account has Dunlap finding the canyon between the Duwamish River valley and Lake Washington while deer hunting. (History Link)
- **Transit Oriented Development (TOD)** is claimed (Reddit Transit Group) to be lowest in city at the Rainier Beach Station.
- **Seattle Walks** (2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed) by David Williams and Seattle Stairways Walks (2013, Jaramillos) are fine 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](#)