

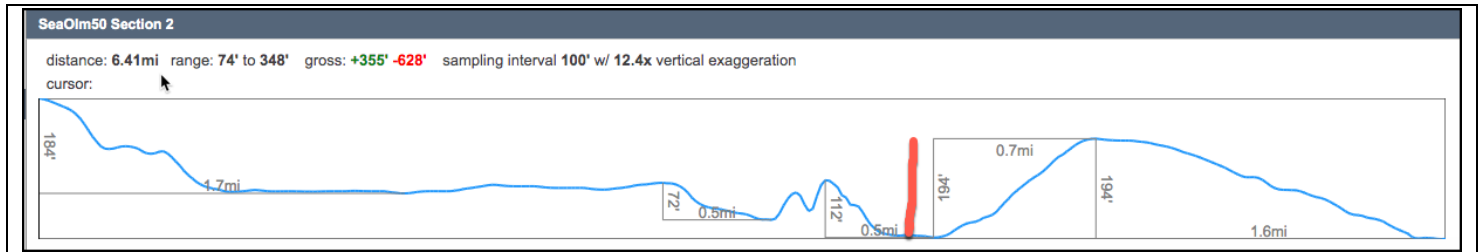
## Seattle Olmsted 50 Trail – Section 2

<b>S1</b> 9.4km, 159m	<b>S2 10.3km, 110m</b>	<b>S3</b> 10.7km, 228m	<b>S4</b> 9.7km, 178m	<b>S5</b> 10.8km, 139m
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### Woodland Park Zoo West Entrance to UW Montlake Triangle/Husky Stadium

Walking distance: 10.3 km (6.4 miles)

Elevation gain: 110 m (362 ft)



**Section 2** of the Seattle Olmsted 50 trail begins at the West Entrance (5500 Phinney Avenue N) to the Woodland Park Zoo, served by two Metro Bus routes.

You can split Section 2 into two shorter walks. Section 2 North runs from the Zoo to Ravenna Park Playfield 5.4 km, (4 mi) and Section 2 South finishes at Husky Stadium (3.8 km, 2.4 mi). A Loop Option Zoo to Green Lake and return is also available 7.9km (4.9 mi).

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

### Section 2 North

*Walking distance: 6.4 km (4 miles)*

*Elevation gain: 49 m (161 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.

- From the West Entrance to the Zoo turn right to follow N 59<sup>th</sup> Street fence line path to just above Aurora Avenue N.
- Turn right (south) continuing along the Zoo fence to the first pedestrian crossing above Aurora Avenue N.
- Cross back into **Woodland Park<sup>1</sup>** and bear right to the down-sloping path.
- With Dog Park on left shoulder continue down towards park boundary.
- You soon have choices to cross West Greenlake Way N. Walk right around 1950

**Green Lake Aqua Theater**, site of extravagant Aqua Follies in 50s, 60s. Later Led Zeppelin / The Grateful Dead.

- Turn right onto the Green Lake Trail to **Green Lake Park<sup>2</sup>/Evans Pool**.

*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.*

- Walking clockwise around the building, turn east along the splendid promenade to reach a busy 5-way intersection and cross to Greg's Greenlake Cycle on **NE Ravenna Boulevard<sup>2</sup>**.

**Loop Option:** Before crossing E Greenlake Drive N, return via Loop Option to Woodland Park Zoo. Directions after Section 2 South.



**Compare Greenlake 7' lower 1911–** Photo P Hendrickson

- Continue southeast admiring the Green Lake then-and-now **sidewalk inlay** to the I-5 underpass, taking note of the **Sheila Kline (2007) art** installation on the support columns. Looking north, but barely visible, is a cold war nuclear attack shelter tucked into the earth, now locked shut.
- Continue down NE Ravenna Boulevard to turn left along Brooklyn Avenue N. Across the way is **Cowen Park Grocery & Cafe**, a neighborhood convenience store.
- Enter **Cowen Park<sup>2</sup>** at NE 61<sup>st</sup> Street. The current park was built atop 100,000 yards of I-5 construction debris in 1960.
- The gravel path leads through play fields to a play area where there are (perhaps) unlocked bathrooms and an inviting Zip line.



**Walkers need ziplines**--Photo Nese Aiumu

- Take the gravel path down into Ravenna Ravine and head east to pass under the arched 1936 Art Deco **Cowen Park Bridge** – on the Historic Register. Hurrah again to WPA.
- You're now following Ravenna Creek, day lighted from a large pipe. The park is under the care of neighborhood volunteers and Seattle City Parks.
- Keeping your left shoulder to the creek, you'll soon spot the 1913 **Ravenna Park Bridge**, high above and now a pedestrian way.
- Take the boardwalk diverging right to cross the creek by a huge glacial grandoiorite erratic deposited by the **Puget Lobe** ~ 18,000 years ago. The ice was some 1km

(~3000 ft) thick over Seattle. Green Lake once drained to Lake Washington, but a southbound 1911 sewer pipe once diverted the flow. The creek is now fed by rain, local seepage, drainage and city water.

**Option:** *Stroller rollers may wish to stay on the main trail to avoid stairs and steep path.*

- Pass the **erratic** on your left on the boardwalk, following the path under the bridge up to the rim where you'll find a small meadow and picnic shelter.
- Turn right for the upper bathroom block and pass to its left.
- Turn right again past the drinking fountain to strike 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. It was closed to traffic in 1965 when the traffic bridge, now on the historic register, failed to meet vehicle safety standards.
- Cross the bridge marveling at your treetop view far down to the creek below. Wow, the Norway Spruce.
- Turn right at NE 61<sup>st</sup> Street and proceed to the street end where you'll find the approach to a **wood planked pedestrian bridge** over a Ravenna Creek tributary.
- Cross and continue up the rise to find yet another wood planked bridge over a second tributary. These side bridges carry walkers and sewage lines across the gaps.
- Cross half way, then turn back to the first wood planked bridge to find the well-graded path on the left down to the creek and the **Ravenna Park<sup>1</sup> Sulfur Spring**. Yes, there was a 25-cents pay-to-enter attraction until 1911 when the city took ownership.
- Proceed left down the main trail along the creek pausing at a kiosk detailing the efforts to daylight the stream. After some **poetry delights** take a break when you get to the playfields at NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street.

You have completed Section 1 North. Return to near Zoo via Bus #79, #44. Public bathrooms and a cafe are a short way ahead up Ravenna Boulevard.

## Section 2 South

*Walking distance: 3.8 km (2.4 miles)  
Elevation gain: 59 m (194 ft)*



**Note:** The final Section 2 elevation gain ahead is up a gentle grade to "**Greek Row**", the Olmsted north approach to the University of Washington main campus. South is stroller accessible and a treat for kids of all ages.

- Continue right (west) towards Ravenna Avenue NE but stay on the park trail, turning right (north) through the forest, then left (east) to another park bathroom.
- Walk past a sand box, then right (north) following the path to a hard left up NE **Ravenna Boulevard**<sup>2</sup>. Safer crossing at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave NE.

*That's "**Candy Cane Lane**" looping right onto Park Lane off NE Ravenna Boulevard. A fiesta of lights and yard decor bring cheer during the winter holiday season.*

- **Seven Market and Cafe** on the left-hand sidewalk is a local gathering spot with a sidewalk bench and ~10 cafe seats. Fresh beans from their roaster, several drinks, and near Zero Waste!
- Continue following NE Ravenna Boulevard to the traffic circle.
- Turn left (south) onto 17<sup>th</sup> Ave N (**University Boulevard**<sup>2</sup>) to admire the double chestnut trees canopy. **Greek Row** commences at NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Continue, noting the evidence of last night's bacchanalia in those columned boarding houses.
- At busy E 45<sup>th</sup> Street, cross into the UW campus past the entrance kiosks, tributes to those fallen.
- On your right is the **Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture** with nationally ranked collections, particularly strong with tribal collections and collaborations. At left is Jacobson Observatory and nearby is **Intellectual House** with a stunning longhouse style great room and academic support for indigenous students.
- Pass by Paccar Hall (business at left) until UW's oldest building, Denny Hall (1895, Classics +), appears on your left. Bear left to circle counterclockwise (south), to the grand stairway entrance, then right down the King Lane NE stairs through the Denny Yard into **The Quad**, Seattle's favorite place to view cherry blossoms.

- Wander, if you will, then turn right (southwest) towards an obelisk to exit down the steps into **Red Square**. **Suzzallo Library** endures as the main attraction. Most visitors climb up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor reading room where under a 65-foot high ceiling you may "combine Hogwarts and silence." Toilets, too.



**Drumheller Fountain, AYP 1909 Legacy.**

-- Photo P Hendrickson

- From Red Square take the south stairs towards **Drumheller Fountain** and, weather permitting, stunning views of distant Mt Rainier. In summer 1909, a world's fair, the **Alaska-Yukon- Pacific Exposition**<sup>2</sup>, took place here on grounds of what is now the University of Washington. **Rainier Vista**<sup>2</sup> is another Olmsted landscaping legacy.
- Can you find the duckling exit ramp?
- Continue down the broad walkway looking for a path branching off to the left that leads into a copse of trees.
- **Sylvan Grove Theater** features a tribute to Lafayette (like George Washington and Leif Erikson, also a stranger to Seattle) and four, 24 ft Ionic columns salvaged in 1908 from UW's original downtown building--graduation photos here.
- Exit south to E Stevens Way NE for bus #45 back to Green Lake.
- Else turn left down Rainier Vista over NE Pacific Place to Montlake Triangle, a parking lid handy to bus stops.
- If you take the pedestrian overpass to **Husky Stadium**, you'll find the UW Light Rail Station for trips to Lynnwood (2024), Downtown or SeaTac Airport.

- If you're continuing to **Section 3**, on the sidewalk from the Husky dog statue (Garber, 1995), go south down **Montlake Avenue<sup>2</sup>** for the Montlake Bridge.

## **Congratulations, you just completed Section 2 of the Seattle Olmsted 50!**

**Return to Zoo** NE Pacific St bus bays. Bus #44, #5 to west entrance on Phinney Avenue.

### **Section 2 Loop Finish Option**

>>Total Loop and Loop Finish Section Data<<  
*Distance: 7.9 km (4.9 mi) -- 5.1km (3.2m)*  
*Elevation gain: 109 m (360 ft)—92 m (303 ft)*

**Note:** Loop Option is stroller friendly on sidewalks and paths.

- Turn right (south) on along the park edge until turning left (south) to cross E Green Lake Drive N onto Latona Avenue NE.
- Bear right (south) to merge onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE two block to NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Turn right (west) a half block to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE.
- Turn left (south) nine blocks to N 56<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Turn right (west) into **Tangletown** neighborhood where retail and restaurant options abound.

**Tangletown?** *The likely source for the name Tangletown is the irregular configuration of Seattle's street grid in this transition zone, where Wallingford shades into the Green Lake neighborhood, some of which follow the contours of Green Lake, others conforming to the city's basic grid. An alternative explanation is that the neighborhood was given the name Tangletown years ago, when a streetcar interchange occupied the space where businesses and condominiums now stand. (Meridian, Wikipedia)*

- Bear right onto N 55<sup>th</sup> Street to cross Green Lake Way N at N Clogston Way to

your left (south) into Lower Woodland Park. Playfields are busy year-round, day and night.

- Some may wish to wander paths to the N 50<sup>th</sup> Street / Highway 99 (Aurora) underpass. Others turn left (south) by sidewalk to N 50<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Turn right (west) to walk up to turn right (north) along the Rose Garden bordering Woodland Park Zoo.
- Continue west past the Zoo's main entrance through the grassy War Garden Park to Phinney Avenue N.
- Head right (north) through parking area paths to Penguin and Otter (or Bear where Section 2 started) Parking Lots to the Zoo's West Entrance.

### **You've Finished Section 2 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:**

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Seattle Urban Walk Committee

The Mountaineers, Founded 1906

**(Rev5 17 Feb 2025/PH)**

**Navigation Tip:** *Staple, then fold these two sheets the long way. You can easily hold them in one hand to follow turn-by-turn. Some walkers keep a 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 2 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](#)

- **Woodland Park Zoo** (Phinney Ave North and North 59<sup>th</sup> St) Routes #5, #16 (Aurora Ramp & Fremont Ave N) #44
- **Green Lake** (NE Ravenna Boulevard NE & Woodland Ave NE) #45, #62
- Ravenna Park Playground (25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE & NE 55<sup>th</sup> St) #79, #372
- **UW Main Gate** (Memorial Way & NE 45<sup>th</sup> St) #31, #32
- **UW The Hub & Sylvan Grove** #45, #67, #372
- **UW Montlake Triangle** (Montlake Blvd) #44, 73, #255, #288 AND (NE Pacific St) #44, #48, #73, #167, #271
- Husky Station (Montlake Blvd) Light Rail, Tram Line #1

### Suggested Bathroom Stops

*Free public bathroom access is very good on Section 2 during park and business hours. Stops are listed in order of travel from Woodland Park Zoo. Masks may be required in medical settings.*

- Woodland Park Zoo West Entrance
- Woodland Park north end
- South end Green Lake
- Evans Pool, Green Lake Park
- Lower Woodland Park
- Cowen Park
- Ravenna Park, upper and lower
- Seven Bakery and Cafe (customer)
- University of Washington libraries, Husky Union Building
- UW Medical Center

### Where to Buy Provisions

*Section 2 and nearby have a rich mix of residential, parks and local cafes, bakeries, ice cream parlors, and pubs.*

- You'll find at least 3 eateries near the 7-11 Market outside the Zoo.
- Green Lake Center is dense in eateries (Revolution Coffee?) and a PCC Market is only two blocks east at 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and NE 71<sup>st</sup> St.
- Cowen Grocery and Cafe is found near the Cowen Park entrance.
- Seven Market & Cafe is along NE Ravenna Boulevard.
- Husky Union Building (The "HUB") is 200m (600ft) from Red Square and The Quad.
- Find Plaza Cafe in the UW Medical Center, a simple hospital cafeteria.

### Other Items of Interest

- **Steward** for Section 2 is Seattle Urban Walk Leader Max Sarkowsky.
- **Woodland Park Zoo** attracts visitors from all over the world.
- **Green Lake** brings picnickers, volleyball players, swimmers and boaters.
- **Ravenna Park** is a cool retreat year round.
- **University of Washington** is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> best public university in the U.S. with more than 33,000 undergraduates.
- **Neighborhoods** near or on this route are Phinney Ridge, Green Lake, Roosevelt, Ravenna, University Heights, University District, University of Washington.
- 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](#)