

## THE WALK

Walk northeast from **Gasworks Park** on paved trail along the shore of Lake Union. Pass Sunnyside Avenue and the Puget Sound Yacht Club, docks and commercial moorage spots, coming to the old permanently moored **Skansonia Ferry**.

The trail passes above NE Northlake Way. Look down on **Ivar's Salmon House** with its waterfront barge alongside the **Dale Chihuly warehouse** with its whimsical birdhouses. Travel under the huge trestles of the freeway high overhead and the **University Bridge** closer above. Continue alongside the **University Publications Services** building past several dormitories.

Cross Brooklyn Ave and University Way. As you pass the **Astronomy and Physics Building** look up left to a brick wall for a distinctive sundial built into the bricks. To your right across Pacific, **The Magnuson Health Sciences Center** extends for blocks alongside Pacific Avenue. On the left beside the trail are the glass greenhouses of the **UW Botany Department**. Pass the sky bridge over the street connecting with the **Medical Center**. On your left are the buildings of the **College of Forest Resources**, and as you turn northeast, the cantilevered **Husky Football Stadium** and distant **Cascade Mountains** appear.

Continue north, paralleling 25th Ave NE, and **Hec-Edmundson Pavilion**, where visiting President Kennedy and Queen Elizabeth each once spoke, and the **UW Athletic Department** offices in the **Graves Building** on Montlake Boulevard NE. Pass an enormous student parking lot, soccer and softball fields. The trail continues in the shade of old maples and cottonwoods alongside sets of steep stairs to the northeast corner of upper campus at the edge of **University Village**. Several street crossings require care. Continue northeast, skirting the edge of the **Village** and paralleling Sand Point Way. The trail goes near **Children's Hospital** and the **Ronald McDonald House**, briefly dividing because of wetland conditions into two narrow sections, one each for users in opposite directions. Listen for approaching bicyclists.

Continue walking north through neighborhoods until you curve around to sweeping views of **Lake Washington**, **Magnuson Park** and the **NOAA facility**. The trail offers a beach interlude at **Matthews Beach**. It continues on around the lakeshore to join the **Sammamish River Trail** at the **Bothell Landing Park**, connecting Lake Washington with Lake Sammamish. You have now come 1/5 of the trail's total distance and can continue as far as you wish...

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# Burke- Gilman Trail Urban Walk

An In-city Family Adventure with  
**Joan Burton**



START YOUR WALK HERE ➔



## **BURKE-GILMAN TRAIL – TWELVE MILES FROM BALLARD TO KENMORE**

The Burke-Gilman Trail, a former railroad corridor, is a 38-mile paved path for hiking and biking through Seattle. Used by more commuters every year, it passes alongside Lake Union and Lake Washington, eventually connecting with the Sammamish River and East Lake Sammamish trails. Students, skaters, cyclists, runners, and walkers share this heavily used trail which runs from Ballard to Kenmore. You can travel as far as you wish.

The trail is so popular with bicyclists and runners that it can be hazardous walking with children. However, plenty of families enjoy it anyway. Plan to take the trail in segments with kids, and get off it at the University campus, University Village, or Matthews Beach Park.

## **BEGIN AT GASWORKS**

Begin at Gas Works Park with a tour of the old machinery, the waterfront, and the hill with the sundial. Kids should be careful about climbing on the machinery. They can scan the lake to the south for airplanes and sailboats, or fly kites here. Walk north and east, crossing Brooklyn Avenue and University Way until you reach the UW campus.

A fun detour is the Botany Dept. greenhouse adjoining the trail, where many odd and rare plants are grown. In spring kids can seek out the stinky Corpse Plant and laugh at its stench. The sky bridge over NE Pacific leads into the Health Sciences Center, and kids enjoy walking out and looking down on the cars, perhaps venturing into the foyer. The Forest Resources buildings and trees offer another resting point. Continue east past the Husky Sports complex, pausing to scan across 25th to the stadium, and then wind around busy University Village. Pause to inspect the bronze animal sculptures polished by children's hands and the playground at University Village.

An old wooden bridge, its girders left over from railroad days, crosses above Blakeley Place, and the trail passes private yards. At 40th Ave NE it begins traveling through a green belt.

Climb a flight of stairs to reach Sand Point Way, or rest on benches provided before and at 65th. Matthews Beach at NE 93rd on the lakeshore has grassy fields, and a wading and swimming beach, a delight for every child.

## **GETTING THERE**

Drive to North Northlake Way and Meridian Avenue to reach Gasworks Park. From I-5 in Seattle take exit 169 on NE 45<sup>th</sup>. Go west on NE 45th and turn left (south) on Stone Way. Follow Stone Way to Lake Union and turn left on N. Northlake Way. Or take Metro Bus #26 to the same location. Park your car in the parking lot or on nearby streets.

## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

In 1885, in response to the denial of the Northern Pacific's terminal for Seattle, Judge Thomas Burke, Daniel Gilman and other investors began a local railroad, the Seattle Lake Shore and Eastern, to connect with other transcontinental railroads and to carry freight. Although construction never got past Arlington, the railroad served logging companies, coal mines, and mills for decades. Bought by the Northern Pacific in 1913, it operated until 1963. When the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, and Burlington lines merged in 1970 to become Burlington Northern Railroad, the company decided to abandon the historic line.

The idea for a Burke Gilman Trail was suggested by Senator Warren Magnuson. The right of way was acquired by the City of Seattle under the 1976 Federal Rails to Trails Act, and it was developed into a recreational trail for walkers and cyclists. The 12.1 mile trail was dedicated in 1978, to go from Golden Gardens in Ballard to Kenmore.

