

SITES TO VISIT IN OTHER PARTS OF LAKE UNION BESIDES EASTLAKE

As a supplement to the *Eastlake Shoreline Walking Guide* (available at <https://eastlakeseseattle.org/?page=parks>), the Eastlake Community Council offers the following shoreline walking guide to other parts of Lake Union and Portage Bay. Comments and suggested updates or additions are welcome, to info@eastlakeseseattle.org.

Portage Bay Place East. That is the name of a charming narrow road on the south bank of Portage Bay running for several blocks east of the University Bridge. Shaded by trees and the geography are many houseboats, houses, and apartments. Several stairways allow pedestrian entry from Fuhrman Avenue E. As Portage Bay Place East is a dead end, the only vehicle entry is from the southwest corner of the University Bridge.

Portage Bay wetlands. At the extreme south end of Portage Bay (south of SR-520) is a wonderland of wetland habitat and wildlife. Beavers, herons and other waterfowl, and fish abound.

Fritz Hedges Park. Opened in 2020 at 1117 NE Boat Street, this Portage Bay shoreline park on the north side of Portage Bay provides water access for hand-carried boats, shoreline restoration, open lawn space for passive recreation, and interpretive elements about use by Native Americans and the more recent maritime history. The site had a lumber mill owned by Puget Sound Box & Lumber Co. until it was purchased and turned into Bryant's Marina and boat sales. The University of Washington then purchased the property in the 1970s, using it for the UW Police Station, exchange and sales of used office and laboratory furnishings, and a recycling center.

University Bridge. Opened in 1919 as the Eastlake Avenue Bridge, its name was changed later that year to the University Bridge. After a major renovation, it was rededicated in 1933 by President Franklin Roosevelt. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

North Passage Point Park. This shoreline park is the north shore twin of South Passage Point Park. Both are located on formerly private land that was taken by the Washington State Department of Transportation for construction of

the I-5 Ship Canal Bridge. The parks were designed by the late Richard Haag, who also designed Gas Works Park.

5th Avenue street-end. A thickly wooded area between the Chihuly glass studio and the traditional native architecture of Ivar's Salmon House. A pathway leads to a public dock often used by purchasers of take-out food from Ivar's.

State Waterway 15 viewpoint. King County Metro built this park in 1993 as mitigation for piping into Lake Union millions of gallons of storm water from the Green Lake and Ravenna areas. Special features include a curved wooden bench built by the Center for Wooden Boats; native rocks, bricks, and cobbles; ceramics with historic images; and a manhole cover cast with a nautical chart. The beach is shallowly sloping.

Latona Street-end. This steep state-owned waterway would benefit from additional plantings.

State Waterway 16 (2nd avenue street end). Information not available.

Eastern Avenue street-end (State Waterway 17). Just west of the Lakeside restaurant is a small street-end park. The beach is shallowly sloping.

Sunnyside Avenue street-end. The first street end on Lake Union that was developed for recreation, this boat launch is designed for power craft. It is also usable for hand launching of boats.

Sea Scouts park. State Waterway 18 is a shady protected cove affording excellent waterside views of wildlife habitat. The Sea Scouts have a dock and several motorized and non-motorized boats. The gradual beach is suitable for picnics, wading, swimming, and launching and landing of small craft.

State Waterway 19. In the cove just east of Gasworks Park, this collaboration between the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department and the State Wildlife Department enhances wildlife habitat with native plants. Temporary parking is available close to the water for loading and unloading of watercraft. Shallowly sloping beach.

Gasworks Park. Although recommended for a park in 1906 by the Olmsted Brothers, this prominent site became dedicated to coal gasification that same year, and was last used to produce methane gas in 1956 (when pipelines first

brought cheaper natural gas to the Seattle area). Its large towers and machinery are sole survivors from 1400 gasification plants that once dotted the United States. Although a conventional park was then planned for the decaying site, Richard Haag (founder of the University of Washington's Department of Landscape Architecture) bravely and brilliantly convinced City officials to reconceive it as the world's first industrial reclamation park. His 20-acre design is now celebrated, and has been emulated in many countries.

Gasworks Park's features include Kite Hill with its large sundial, the Play Barn, and a paved shoreline viewpoint. The beach is suitable for hand launched watercraft (a rule prohibiting boat-launching in City parks is frequently ignored). However, it is a long portage to the parking area, and most boats reach the beach from the lake.

Harbor Patrol (1717 N. Northlake Place, 206-684-4071). Located at State Waterway 20, this Seattle Police Department office is responsible for all waters within city limits. An important resource in emergencies, the Harbor Patrol also enforces a speed limit of seven knots (seven miles per hour) on most parts of the lake.

State Waterway 21. A public access viewpoint has been built for viewing the operations of nearby Northlake Shipyard, which also leases some of the waterway for its operations. The State Department of Ecology reached a consent decree with the company to compensate the public for the future cost of cleaning up toxic sediments at this site.

Stone Way Street-end (State Waterway 22). A proposed street-end park and shoreline walkway has been opposed by adjacent property owners.

Aurora Bridge. This 2,945 ft foot steel bridge, which carries State Route 99, was built in 1931. Official name is the George Washington Bridge. Under its north end is the Fremont Troll, a large cement sculpture of a troll clutching a real-life Volkswagen Beetle. The sculpture is part of the City of Seattle's public art collection.

Fremont bridge. Built in 1917, this drawbridge is the most frequently opened in the United States. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Arts installations are curated by the Fremont Arts Council.

State Waterway 1. A public viewpoint has been proposed for this site, near Pelington Village.

Pelington Village (2533 & 2501 Westlake Ave N.). An unusual cooperative of workshops and residences. For excellent background, including about the participating businesses, see pelingtonproperties.com/open-house.

Boat rentals in Westlake. Rental of various kinds of boats is available at: Northwest Outdoor Center (2100 Westlake Ave. N., nwoc.com, 281-9694; public launch dock also provided); The Electric Boat Company (2046 Westlake Ave N., theelectricboatco.com, 206-223-7476; and Seattle Boat Rentals (2400 Westlake Ave. seattleboatrentals.com N. 206-639-0492).

AGC Building (1200 Westlake Ave. N). The Associated General Contractors' office building was built in 1970. The ten-story structure extends 80 feet into the lake on the north side. This over-water construction helped motivate a public initiative to pass the state Shoreline Management Act (1972) and City policies, which each now prohibit such structures.

Lake Union Park. Originally Native American land, the site became Eastern Mill (a large sawmill) and then during World War II the City gave it to the U.S. Navy. The 1903 Olmsted Brothers plan for Seattle proposed a park at this site, but it wasn't until 1993 that the first park acreage was established there. The park was named and vastly expanded in 2012, providing access to green space and the water and celebrating the cultural, maritime, and industrial heritage of the city and region. Floats along the shoreline at Westlake Ave. N and Valley St. provide places for hand launch of small craft. Power boats are not allowed to launch, but free tie-up is permitted for up to 2 hours. The park is also home to the Museum of History and Industry, the Historic Ships Wharf, and the Center for Wooden Boats (see below).

MOHAI. Within Lake Union Park, the Museum of History and Industry is in what previously was the U.S. Naval Reserve Armory, built by the Works Progress Administration from 1941-42. A large concrete structure influenced by the Moderne and Art Deco movements, it is on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2012, the armory underwent a major renovation, and became home to Seattle's Museum of History and Industry.

Center for Wooden Boats. Also within Lake Union Park is the Center for Wooden Boats which promotes northwest maritime heritage through education, interpretation and hands-on experience in building, maintaining and using historic small craft. The emphasis is hands-on learning and the practice of traditional maritime skills. "We believe the joy of being on the water in boats should be available to all without economic or cultural barriers." Visitors can see historic exhibits, boatwrights at work, and historic watercraft on the docks. Rowboats, canoes, sailboats, and other wooden boats are available for rent. Lessons, memberships, and volunteer opportunities also available. There are public launching facilities for other small boats. For more information: cwb.org and 206-382-2628.

Historic Ships Wharf. Lake Union Park provides permanent mooring for the historic ships, several of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. All available for at least limited public visitation, those currently moored are: tugboat Arthur Foss (1889), Lightship #83 Swiftsure (1904), Seattle Fireboat Duwamish (1909), halibut fishing schooner Tordenskjold (1911), steam ferry Virginia V (1922), and schooner Lavengro (1926). See more about them on the web.

Chandler's Cove, 901 Fairview Ave. N. Built on a former industrial site, this development includes many public walkways and a shallow beach; redevelopment is planned. There is a public launch dock for hand-carried boats

Yale Street Landing, 1001 Fairview Ave. N. Long the site of a St. Vincent de Paul store and social service office, this site became a restaurant and retail complex in 1991. Rentals of small craft are provided by Moss Bay Rowing Club (mossbay.co; 206-682-2031); and Seattle Donut Boat company (seattledonutboat.com, 1001 Fairview Ave N.

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