



**Rainier Beach
Stair Walk**

Rainier Beach Stair Walk

This 5 mile walk takes you to two totally different parks, and of course includes stairs up and down the lower edge of Lake Washington. The trip can easily be shortened by eliminating the side trip to Kubota Gardens (1.5 miles) or Lakeridge Park (1 mile) or skipping the most southern stair (1/2 mile). No coffee shops along this route, but you could have a nice picnic at the Hutchinson Playground. The route is mostly through residential areas. Rainier Ave. South is an unpleasant busy street, but the stairs up from it have great views over the lake.

Start at the Rainier Beach Presbyterian Church on Waters Ave S and 61st Ave S, where there is street parking. Go down Keppler Street, which turns into the switchback sidewalk.



Worm your way down to Rainier Ave and turn left. Walk one block to the Redwing Street stair.

Up 102 steps

Turn left on Waters Ave. In 1 and a half blocks turn right onto 60th Ave. [if you want to skip the gardens keep going straight until 62nd street, and stay on the upper level of Waters Ave S.]



Walk one block on 60th Ave, turn right onto S Pilgrim Street and walk past the school. Turn left on 59th Ave S and take the stairs down to the playground.



Down 22 steps

Walk through the playground and return to Pilgrim street. In one block you reach a T-intersection; turn left. At the end of that block turn right onto Norfolk and at the next intersection you will be at the Kubota Gardens.

You could explore here a long time, but at least take a loop through the main older part of the Japanese garden (to the right on the path behind the rock shown here).



Return to Norfolk Street, follow it past the playground



to 62nd Ave S, and turn left. Cross the upper level of

Waters Ave and take the stair **down 13 steps** to Perry St.



Walk down the hill and turn right on Arrowsmith Ave. This is a wonderful side-walk. You will pass a stair - don't worry, later you'll go down it. Stay on the sidewalk until the Cooper street stair.

I could not figure out a way to do all the stairs and paths without backtracking on at least one of them, so I picked my favorite stair. Go up as far as you like, then all the way down to Rainier Ave S.



Up and Down
73 steps



Up 53 steps

Down 145
steps



Thayer street ends at Waters Ave. From here you can take an optional but highly recommended loop through Lakeridge Park. This is a deep ravine and as you walk through it you feel like you are miles away from a city. Turn left, going past the stairway you will come down later, and follow Holyoke Way as it goes down the ravine until you reach the trailhead at the bottom. The trail follows the creek until it crosses at this bridge, then loops around, crosses the creek again and returns. There is one smaller, graveled trail about half way along which climbs quite steeply, take this on the return trip.

Turn right and in one block you will pass Thayer street. To take the optional stair, continue along Rainier Ave S, going past a playfield. Cross the street at the crosswalk and continue on the lake side until the next crosswalk, then walk back along the wall to 72nd Ave



Up 43
steps



You will emerge on Bangor Street and Waters Ave. Turn right and follow Waters Ave until you reach that staircase at the intersection with Thayer.

Turn right onto Taft St, go down the hill and turn right again at the next intersection with Cornell Ave until you reach the playfield, continue past the Pizzeria to Thayer Street and take the stairs.



Down 29 steps

Turn left and walk down the lower level of Waters street for a block, then go to the upper level for a block, so you can come down this small but official stair.



Down 4 steps



Down 76 steps

You will be at Norfolk Street, a long stair with several flights that will take you back to Rainier Ave.



Turn left on Rainier Ave, and walk a block until you see this stone house. It was built by the father of the man who still lives there.



Right past the house is the long and straight path up Pilgrim Street, which will take you back to the starting point.

You will cross the sidewalk that you took earlier in the walk.



Down 57 steps

