



Thornton Creek Stair Walk

This 2.4 mile loop features an urban stream that is struggling for survival. Community groups have been working to daylight parts of this stream. The route goes through a very hilly neighborhood, up 144 steps and down 216 steps. An additional 1.6 mile loop through the Meadowbrook playfield and pond offers even more beautiful creek crossings (and 2 short stairways).

Start at Ravenna Ave NE and NE 105th Street. Walk along Ravenna for half a mile. At 95th St. cross Lake City Way (a very busy street) at the traffic signal. The pedestrian light does not seem to work very well, and we have had to wait for a couple of cycles before we could cross, so keep pushing the button.

Up 108 steps



At the top cross 20th Ave and go straight, down a steep path past the school playground to a park. Follow the path as it angles to the left to 94th St. Turn right and at 17th Ave turn left. In one block turn right onto a small, steep path in the 92nd street right of way.

Up about 10 steps

At 15th Ave turn right, walk one block and duck into the church parking lot so you can walk up the stairway to the sidewalk.

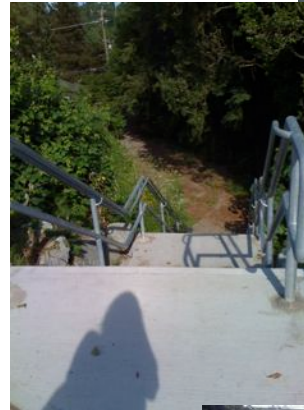


Up 13 steps

Continue to 96th St. Turn right and go down a steep path (this is an official stair although there are no steps).



At the bottom, turn left on 17th Ave and walk one block to 97th.



Turn right and find the new stairway.

Down 29 steps

Turn left and in one block you will be at the stairs that go to a bridge across the creek.

Down 71 steps



Down 13 steps

Explore around the creek, then follow the path from the bridge, up a steep walkway leading to 20th Ave. Turn right on NE 102nd St, left on 23rd Ave, and right on NE 103rd St to a stairway.



Down 89 steps



Turn left and walk along Lake City Way to the crosswalk, with a stair on the other side.

Down 27 steps

You will be on NE 105th Street, which goes to the starting point. You will cross Thornton Creek again.

MEADOWBROOK PARK LOOP

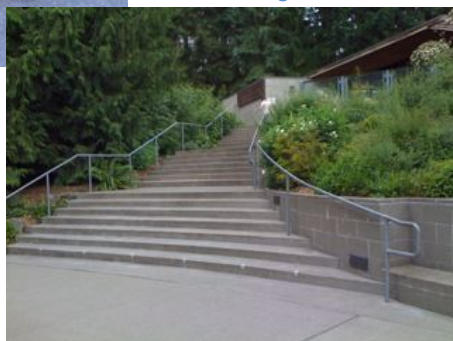
Go the other way on Ravenna until you reach the tennis courts. Walk around them to the southeast corner, duck through a tunnel in the bushes onto a trail.



Follow the trail along a small stream until you get to the side of a large building.

This is the back of the swimming pool. Walk clockwise around this building.

Up 22 steps

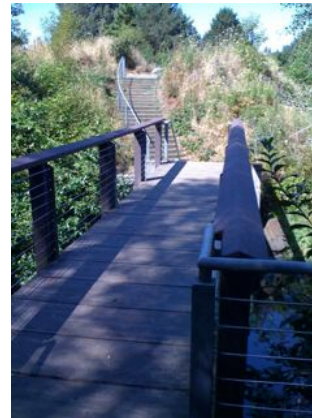


At the top turn left, walk down 35th Ave to the crosswalk. On the other side of the street is the entrance to Meadowbrook pond, a retaining pond to help control the flow of Thornton Creek, and also a wildlife habitat.



After crossing the creek you come to a complicated intersection. Take the path towards the large maple and redwood trees. You'll get to this walkway across the ponds.

Follow this to the east exit, then follow the path to the right, circling around the ponds. At an intersection with a broad path, turn right back towards the pond, and soon you come to a bridge and a stair.



Down 7 steps

Up 23 steps

The path takes you back to the complicated intersection. From here you can retrace your steps to the crosswalk. (Or, if you are more adventuresome, walk out on 36th Ave and romp across the field along the path that crosses the northern tributary of the creek on a little round bridge.) Cross 35th street again, and head to the northwest corner of the parking lot. A walkway will follow the creek back to the tennis courts. From there return to the starting point along Ravenna Ave,

