

West Queen Anne Stair Walk

This 5.1 mile walk goes through residential areas on the slopes to a busy street at the bottom. There are views to the north and west, pedestrian passageways through gardens, a walk along the interbay golf course and pea patch, and a great slippery slide. Half-way through stop at Muse for coffee or Icebox grocery for lunch, or have a drink and snack on the patio of the golf club. Climb up 614 steps and down 927 steps. This walk could be split into two walks (the northern 3.2 mile loop and *the southern 1.8 mile loop, shown in italics*, starting at the Golf Club).

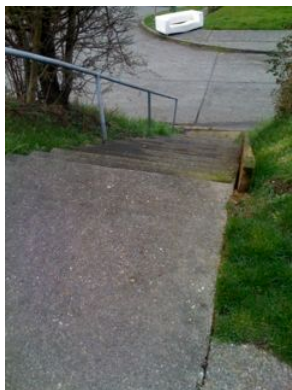
Start at Nickerson Street and a crosswalk at 10th Ave W, where there is a bus stop and ramp going up the hill.

Walk about half way up the ramp to an intersection with a parking lot to your right.



Turn right and go through the parking lot to 11th Ave, then turn right on Emerson St.

In a short block cross 12th Ave and take the alley that goes above and parallel to Emerson Street for one block. This turns into a side walk that takes you to a stairway.



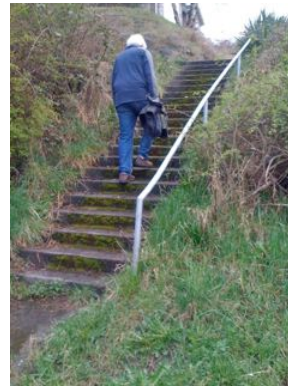
Up 15 steps

Turn right and follow the sidewalk to the next street. Cross the street.



Down 22 steps

Turn left and go around the corner onto 13 Ave W, and shortly you reach another stair back up to the sidewalk.



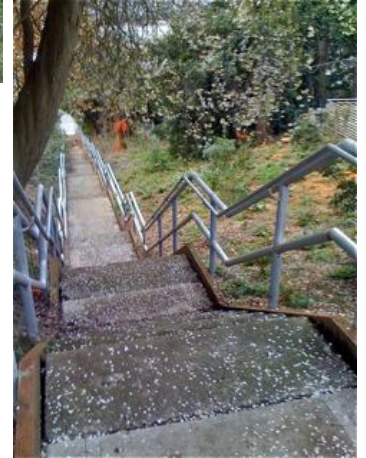
It isn't necessary to go up these steps, but that way you get credit for the full Ruffner stairway.

Up & down 22 steps

Cross the street and go down through the "Ruffner Wilds"

Down 85 steps

Turn left on 14th Ave and in one block go down the old Bertona Stairs.



Down 104 steps

Notice the cement slabs which form the stairs; they came from recycled trolley lines, and the posts were the trolley rails.

Turn left at the bottom and walk two blocks to Barrett Street.

Up 122 steps

Keep walking up the hill until 12 Ave W, then turn left for one block. At Dravus street turn right and go up the hill until the new stairway.





Up 19 steps

Now follow a passageway for 3 blocks down the slope, through gardens and back yards.

Down 66 steps



This ends where Cremona street curves and becomes 9th Ave. Turn right and curve around the block to your right, without crossing a street, going past 2 intersections until a sign for Conkling Pl, Dravus, and 8th Ave. Then turn left and walk up 8th Ave.

This ends in a T-intersection with Barrett St; turn right and go up the hill. After you cross 9th Ave stay on the left hand sidewalk, which is higher than the street and leads to the next stairway.



Go down 16 steps to 10th Place, turn left, and go up and down the stairs between the street and sidewalk. Up 16, down 16, up 16, down 17 steps to the corner.



Keep walking south along 10th Place for one block to Armour St. Turn left.

Up 39 steps

This goes to 10th Ave W, which was part of the Olmsted plan and was once called Queen Anne Blvd. Note the brown street signs.

Turn right and in one block go

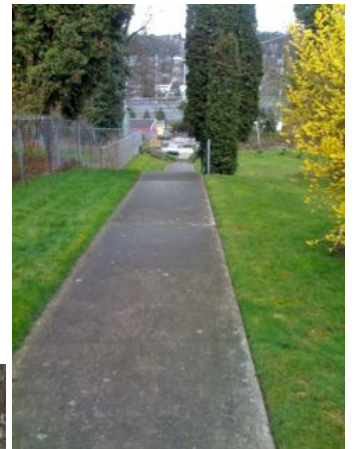
down 57 steps

Continue down to 11th Ave on Newell street. At the T-intersection turn right. In a block you reach a curvy Armour Street. Curve down the hill until just past the intersection with 13th Ave.



Look for this path, nearly hidden by the hedges.

Take this shortcut.



It opens up and goes down the hill for several blocks.

Keep going all the way down to 15th Ave.

Down 77 steps

For a shorter walk, cross the street at the light to the Golf Club and skip the next group of stairs. Alternatively you could start here and just do the southern loop.

The Southern Loop



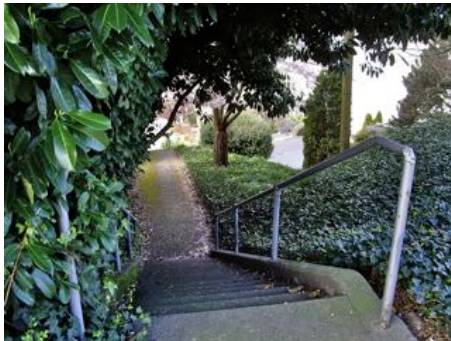
Turn left. Walk one block along the busy street and then climb back up the hill on Raye Street

Up 106 steps

Notice that the extension across the street was built by the WPA in 1939.



Turn right and follow 14th Ave until it joins Gilman Drive. Stay on Gilman drive, going past the Wheeler stairway (you'll come down these later!) Go past a pea patch to Boston Street.

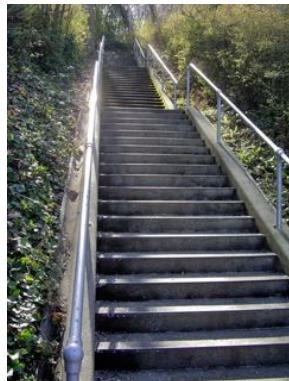


Down 93 steps

Turn left and walk down 13th Ave W, and then up until the dead-end and the beginning of this stairway.

Up 63 steps

The way turns at the top into a path which goes to a little park with a great slippery slide.



Slide down!
then
Up 39 steps

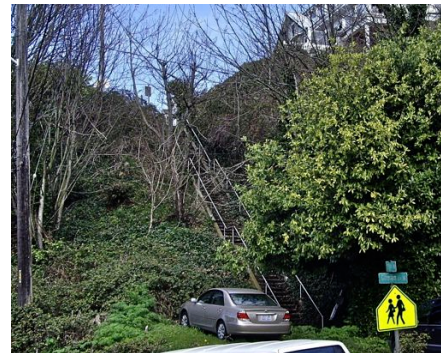
After the park there is a stair to take for the exercise.

Up and down
20 steps



Keep hiking up Howe Street. The route turns left after you cross 11th Ave W, but if you go one more block and turn left you will find the Muse Coffee shop and the Icebox Grocery, nice places for a treat or lunch.

On 11th Ave in one block is the next stairway.



Up 71 steps

Keep walking straight north, going past Boston Street and the now closed "haunted stairway", to McGraw Street. Turn right.



Up 20 steps
Go straight to 10th, turn left and walk 1 block.



The Wheeler Stairway has a beautiful terrace park on the top level.

Down 126 steps



After crossing 12th Ave the next flight goes partway down the block and ends as shown. You could just keep going down the Wheeler stairs, but you would miss a sneaky hidden stair. So climb back up 46 steps to 12th and go left (north) to a driveway next to a black fence.

Look carefully for the stair.

Down 51 steps

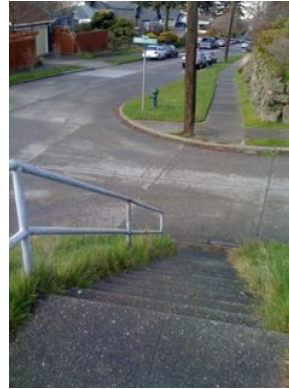


Turn left at the bottom and finish the Wheeler stairs.

Down 130 steps

Cross 15th Ave at the light, and walk through a well-kept pea patch. Then walk along the sidewalk to the golf club, closing the southern loop.

Continue along 15th to Dravus Street, turn right and cross on the bridge, walk up to 12th Ave and turn left. Stay on the right sidewalk, which goes above the street. In one block is a stairway.



Down 12 steps

Follow 12th one more block to Ruffner, turn right going past a beautiful garden. In one block turn left onto 11th Ave to another, triangular garden with a ramp going down.



When you reach Emerson take the last, small stairway down 13 steps. Then continue down the ramp to the starting place.

