

# GALER to the TV Towers



## Galer to the TV towers

This 3.2 mile loop climbs up the longest overall stairway in Seattle - South Lake Union to the TV towers - then back up and down several more stairways, through Bye Krake Park and past Trolley Hill and Thomas Wales parks. Total of 816 steps up and 268 down. There aren't any coffee shops right on the route, but several on Queen Anne Ave at the top of the hill or further south on Westlake Ave, and a small grocery store near the end of the walk.

The previous stair walk went through the greenbelt, and you can see a trail on the map, but recently this has been trashy so we rerouted the walk.

Start at Lake Union, there are some parking lots along Westlake Ave – pay parking south of McGraw and free north. The #40 bus from downtown or Northgate stops at Westlake and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Walk along Westlake (on the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop) to Galer and Westlake, and then climb up and up and up to the TV towers. You will take the Hillclimb which is an overpass over Westlake, cross Dexter and get to another overpass over Aurora, and cross several streets including the beautiful Olmsted-designed Bigelow Ave N.

### Up 504 steps



When you get to 3rd Ave N, turn left, walk past the TV tower and left again on Lee St, which splits. Stay on the lower part until the stairway down

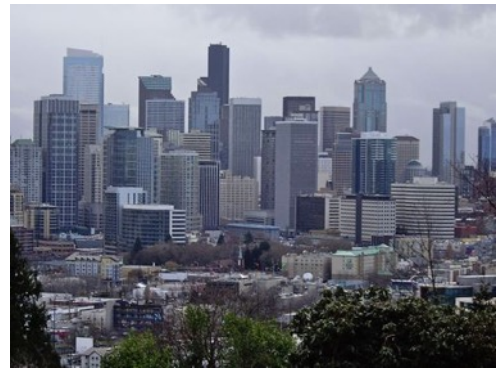
### Down 25 steps



Across the street is Comstock Place, which lead to Bhy Krake Park, which has gorgeous views and a small wooden set of stairs.

### Down 18 steps

Follow the path down. There is an intersection and you can chose the wide new path or the narrow switchbacks. You'll end up in a playfield. Go north (left) on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N, which splits. Stay high. In one block, at Lee Street, go



### Down 11 steps

and follow Lee street to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Turn left. You will cross Galer Street and go down a driveway into a development called "The Eden". Follow this driveway until you see stairs going up next to a building, and then up the hill.



### Up 80 steps

Cross Taylor Ave N and continue up the Garfield stairway, which has an alley in the middle.



### Up 105 steps

At the top, turn right and go down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N. This merges with Taylor Ave N. Stay on the west side of the street. You will pass Trolley Hill Park, which is an entrance to the Greenbelt and worth crossing the street and exploring if you have extra time. Google maps shows a trail going down to Dexter way but I've not seen it.



Continue one block along 5<sup>th</sup> Ave until the new Howe street stairs.

### Up 60 steps

At the top, burn right onto Bigelow Ave. N. This stretch is part of the "Queen Anne Blvd" loop that was designed by the Olmsted brothers. Notice that the street signs are colored brown for all the Olmsted drives.



You will walk past a school and get to Crockett street. A short-cut from here is shown on the map (this was the original route). It goes past some spectacular houses to a steep, narrow and often muddy trail through the greenbelt to cross under Aurora at Dexter Way N. This trail has lots of trash near the bottom.

Meanwhile, beautiful Bigelow Ave will curve left into Wheeler Ave. Then turn right and go down 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N for 4 blocks until Halliday St. Turn right and go one block to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N, turn left and shortly you see a new stair.

**Down 45 steps**

At the bottom, turn right, cross Raye Street and turn right, staying on the sidewalk towards Aurora Ave N. Then take the stair down to the underpass.



**Down 30 steps and then back up 30 steps.**

You will be at the legendary Canlis restaurant. Walk through the parking lot to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N and turn right. You'll go down the hill and past Thomas Wales Park. Loop through the park and



**Up and down 7 granite stairs, then going counterclockwise around the park go up 30 wooden steps and down 50.**

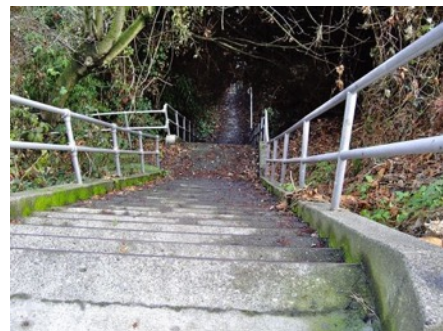
Then continue going south on Dexter Ave N for a block, cross at the next sidewalk onto McGraw St, which curves and becomes Waverly Place N.



Turn left at the next block onto Crockett St, and go down a block to the stairway.

**Down 82 steps**

Cross Westlake at the traffic light and return to your starting place.



Revised 5/28/20