



HIKING GUIDE

*A guide to some of the best hikes
in the Pacific Northwest*

THE SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY WILDERNESS PLEDGE

I will pack out everything I pack in.

Garbage kills wildlife and destroys waterways.

I will not disturb branches in the rivers.

Salmon use these areas to lay eggs.

I will take selfies without harming myself.

Do not get close to cliff edges or wildlife.

I will not feed or touch wildlife.

Human food can harm our furry and feathered friends.

I will not go off the trail.

It's easier than you might think to get lost.

I will pick up after my dog.

Dogs feces destroys the environment by...

I will pack the ten essentials.

Packing correctly can save your life. See page 2 for details.



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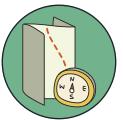
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About the Author

Craig Romano is an award winning author and co-author of more than 20 guidebooks on hiking in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. He has hiked trails all over the world; from Alaska to Argentina, Sicily to South Korea, and concludes that some of the best hiking in the world is right here in Snohomish County. Content provider for Hikeoftheweek.com and Trails Editor for Outdoors NW, Craig also regularly contributes to Northwest Runner, Mountaineers Magazine, and Northwest Travel. Visit him at www.CraigRomano.com. And for scores of other hikes in the region check out his books; Day Hiking Central Cascades, Day Hiking North Cascades, and Backpacking Washington (Mountaineers Books). All photos by Craig Romano except otherwise noted.

10 ESSENTIALS



MAP & COMPASS



SUN PROTECTION



EXTRA CLOTHING

Such as a Rain Jacket



MATCHES OR FIRE STARTER



HEADLAMP OR FLASHLIGHT



FIRST AID SUPPLIES



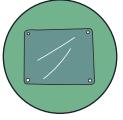
POCKETKNIFE



EXTRA FOOD



EXTRA WATER



EMERGENCY SHELTER

Such as a Space Blanket

GETTING STARTED

Hiking in Seattle NorthCountry, Snohomish County, WA can be enjoyable, invigorating, and quite rewarding; but it's important to be well-prepared before setting out. Granted, some of the hikes in this brochure involve terrain and distances that aren't very difficult. But wearing proper **footwear** should be a priority on all of the region's hikes. For most groomed trails, walking or running shoes should be sufficient. But for wilderness trails and those that involve uneven terrain and backcountry travel, good hiking boots are a must. Be sure they fit properly and provide good support.

Be sure you stay properly **hydrated**, too. Even on short trails, it's easy to dehydrate, especially on warm summer afternoons. Always carry water. There are plenty of different water bottles and hydration packs available to suit your taste and preference. Consider all sources of water in the backcountry to be contaminated. Treat it with purification tablets or a filtering pump before drinking it.

Always carry **extra food**. Granola bars, energy bars and gels, and fruit make for convenient trail snacks.

When setting out on wilderness and backcountry hikes, it's essential that you carry the **10 Essentials** (see side bar left). Carry **rain gear** and **extra clothing**. Weather can change rapidly within the region. It's not uncommon for a 70 degree warm morning to rapidly transform into a cool, windy and rainy afternoon. Be prepared for all conditions when hiking in the region.

All of your hiking supplies should be transported in a pack. Depending on the distance and degree of difficulty

of your hike, this can be as simple as a hip-hugging fanny-pack or a large multi-compartment backpack. Personal preference and hiking options should dictate what you use.

Before setting out it's also important to consider your **fitness level**. Be sure that you're capable of completing the hike before heading out. A mile up a steep mountain is not the same as a mile on a flat paved trail. Although the latter may take you only 20 minutes to walk, the former may take you over an hour. Give yourself sufficient time to complete and enjoy your hike.

Our Hiking Guide is a wonderful resource and great introduction to the trails of the region, but it's not a comprehensive guide. Consider buying one of the many fine trail guides available to supplement this brochure.

Day Hiking North Cascades, Day Hiking Central Cascades, and Backpacking Washington (Mountaineers Books), by this author are excellent up-to-date guides teeming with hiking options. Also, when heading out on wilderness trails, take along a good **map**. *Green Trails* makes excellent detailed maps of all the national forest hikes in this brochure. They can be purchased at National Forest ranger stations, and many outdoor specialty shops, convenience stores, and sporting good stores throughout the region.

Some of the hikes on National Forest lands within this brochure require a **Northwest Forest Parking Pass** at the trailhead; which you display on your rearview mirror. These sell for \$5 per day or \$30 for an annual pass good throughout Washington and Oregon. Be sure to purchase before you hit the trail. You can purchase one at any national forest ranger station within the county, from several outdoor retailers and area businesses or online (www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits).

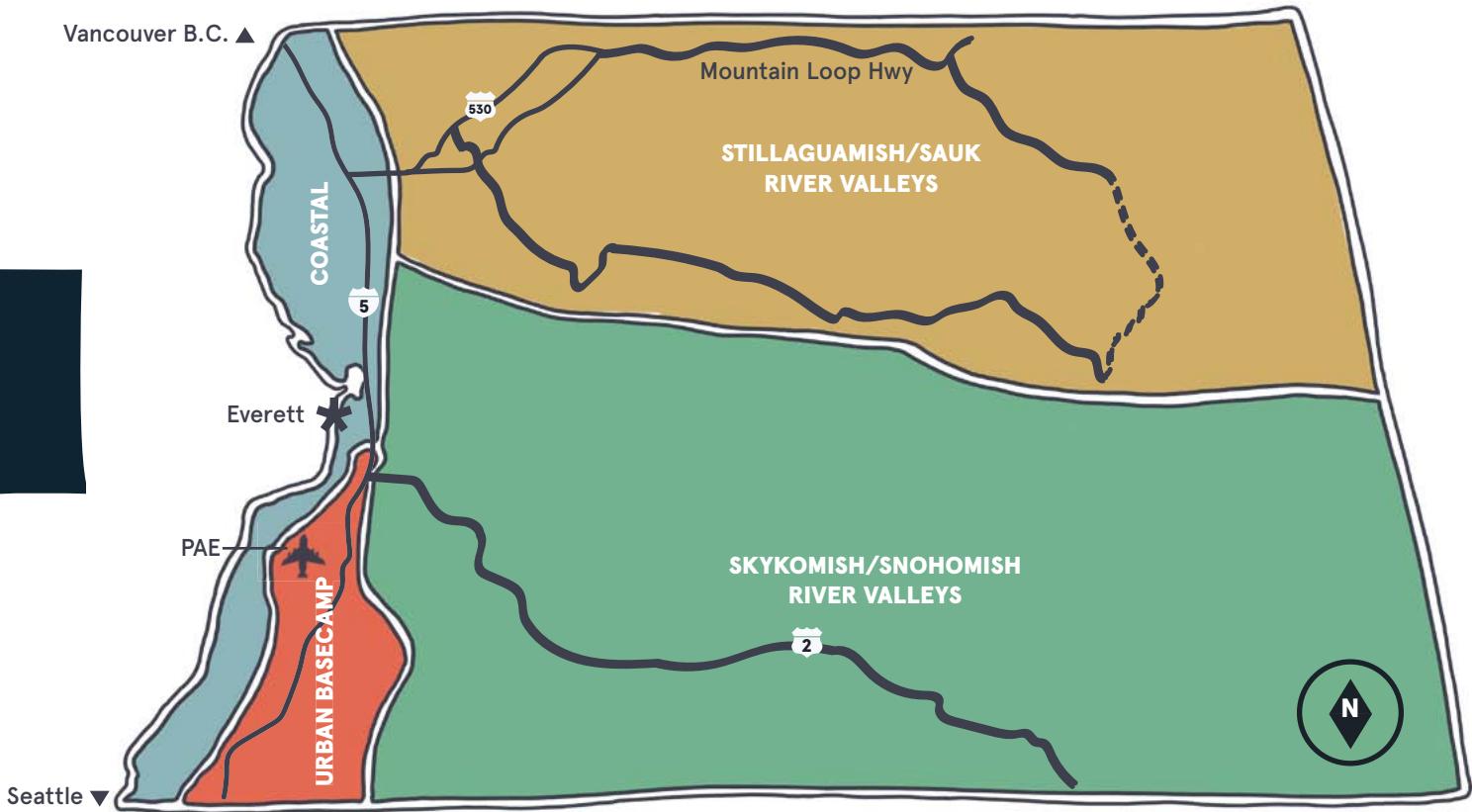
Hikes in this brochure on state park lands require a **Discover Pass**, which you also display on your rearview mirror. These sell for \$10 per day or \$30 for an annual pass and are good at all state parks, DNR lands, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife properties. You can purchase one from several outdoor retailers and area businesses or online (discoverpass.wa.gov).

What about **dogs**? Dogs make great hiking partners if they are well-behaved. Most of the hikes in this brochure are open to them. But, leashes may be required. Please obey these regulations, or you may forfeit the privilege of bringing along your furry friend. Please clean up after your buddy, too.

Be sure to **respect** the land that you are traveling across. Stay on the trail. Don't cut switchbacks for this increases erosion and causes unsightly scars. Don't litter. Pack it out with you. Use restrooms when available and if you need to heed the call of nature while out on the trail, heed at least 200 feet from any water source. Be sure to bury your waste. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy and keep a safe distance when viewing wildlife. Take only pictures; leave only footprints. If in a federal Wilderness Area, adhere to all special wilderness rules and regulations.

And one final note. Trails and roads can and do **change**. They can wash-out, be buried in snow, or destroyed by wildfire. Occasionally they're closed for wildlife management or other reasons. Always check with the appropriate governing land agency, before setting out on your hike. Contact information for these agencies is included in each hike's introduction.

And finally; have fun! Enjoy the region's hiking trails. They are among some of the finest and most scenic in America.



SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY

TRUE PNW

Seattle NorthCountry has four distinct visitor regions. The Coastal Communities, the Urban Basecamp, and two river valleys in the north and south. Abundant hiking opportunities are found throughout these regions, the valleys offer particularly stunning hikes.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES The coastal region runs alongside Puget Sound in the Salish Sea. Hikes in this region tend to be near cities, easier, and more accessible, often with stunning sunsets and seaside views.

STILLAGUAMISH/SAUK The upper Stillaguamish/Sauk River Valleys is the most “off the grid” experience of the four regions. The Mountain Loop Highway features some of the best hiking opportunities in the state.

SKYKOMISH/SNOHOMISH Stunning mountain views and tiny towns are abundant in the Skykomish/Snohomish River Valleys. Hike to alpine lakes and waterfalls, then refuel in a tiny mountain village.

URBAN BASECAMP In the Urban Basecamp, you will find a home base with everything you need to enjoy the great outdoors and some delightfully accessible trails too. Forgot some gear? Need to rent snowshoes? You'll find it all in the Urban Basecamp.

Coastal Communities

- 1. JETTY ISLAND
- 2. BIG GULCH
- 3. JAPANESE GULCH
- 4. SPENCER ISLAND
- 5. KAYAK POINT PARK
- 6. MEADOWDALE BEACH PARK



In the Coastal Communities you can take a tiny ferry to a man-made island, wander a mossy ravine, mindfully birdwatch and learn about salmon habitat recovery in a prized sensitive river estuary, and be back in time to sip a locally-brewed beer while you watch the sunset over Puget Sound on the Salish Sea.



CAPERS AND OLIVES

House-made pasta, extensive wine list.
2933 Colby Ave, Everett

SAGE AND CINDER

Creative vegan fare.
613 5th St, Mukilteo

J RAMEN The best ramen this side of Seattle (and great sushi too).
1011 Hewitt Ave, Everett

LOMBARDI'S ITALIAN

Delicious Italian fare with waterfront views.
1620 W Marine View Dr, Everett



SCUTTLEBUTT The beer is great, but don't miss the fish & chips - they're the best in town.
1205 Craftsman Way, Everett

DIAMOND KNOT Delicious beer, stone sandwiches, throw your peanut shells on the floor.
621 Front Street, Mukilteo

BLUEWATER DISTILLING

Organic distillery serving up inventive cocktails and northwest fare like grilled salmon.
1205 Craftsman Way #109, Everett



TULALIP RESORT CASINO Four-star accommodations with a casino, spa, and dining on-site.
10200 Quil Ceda Blvd, Tulalip

THE INN AT PORT

GARDNER Watch the sunset, walk to waterfront restaurants and the Jetty Island ferry.
1700 W Marine View Dr, Everett

SILVER CLOUD INN Puget Sound views, walk to downtown restaurants and the ferry dock.
718 Front St, Mukilteo



01

Jetty Island

A sandy man-made island off the coast of Everett, Jetty Island is accessible by a walk-on only ferry that leaves the Port of Everett.

ROUNDTRIP: Up to 5 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: None

SEASON: July 5 - Labor Day

START: 10th Street Boat Launch, Everett

PARKING: Daily fee, pick up boarding passes at the ferry kiosk

Hard to imagine, but one of the finest beaches in the region is just minutes from downtown Everett. This two-mile long expanse was created by man, not by nature. Beginning in the 1890s, the Army Corps of Engineers built a jetty just north of Port Gardner, then commenced to dredge a channel. The spoils along with silt and sedimentation from the Snohomish River eventually created an island. Sand accumulated from tidal influences, birds arrived and nested, and plants soon colonized the island.

In the 1980s, the Everett Parks and Recreation Department began providing passenger ferry service to the island. Over 50,000 folks visit this sandy gem each year. Visitor numbers are limited, so plan on arriving early and being flexible on your return trip as the ferry can only take 60 people at a time.

Once on the island, walk past a restroom, picnic area, and two huts used for interpretive programs to a small nature trail, or to a well-worn path to the beach. Hike on the beach south to the jetty and north all the way to the mouth of the Snohomish River Delta. A fairly large lagoon has developed on the island where you can watch for sandpipers, osprey, kingfishers, herons, finches, ducks, and more.

You won't be able to walk around the island as the channel side contains no beach. But the beach on Possession Sound is wide and smooth and you can easily walk four to five miles going from tip to tip. Soak up views of the Olympic Mountains; Whidbey, Camano, and Gedney Islands, and downtown Everett against a backdrop of Cascade Mountains.

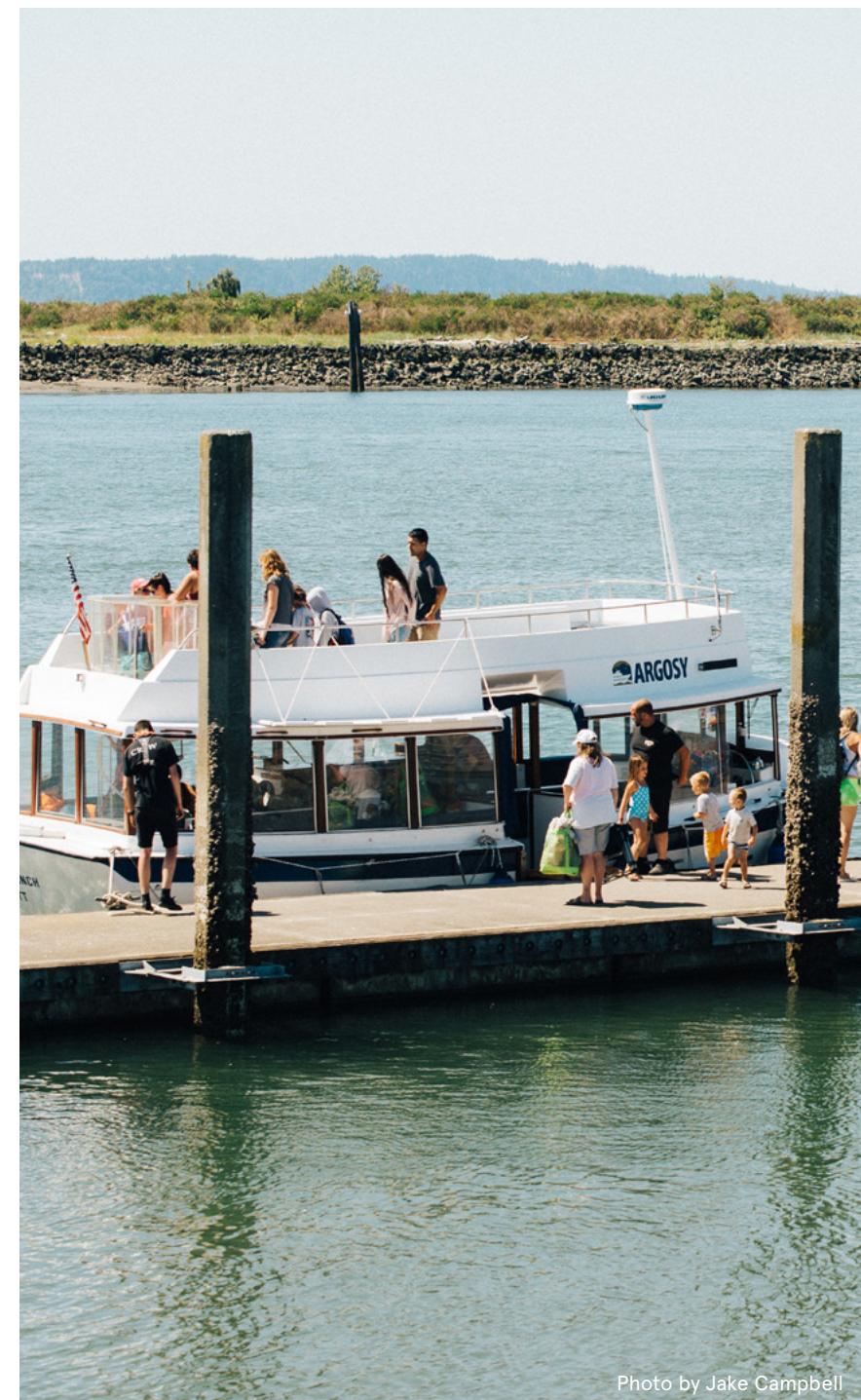
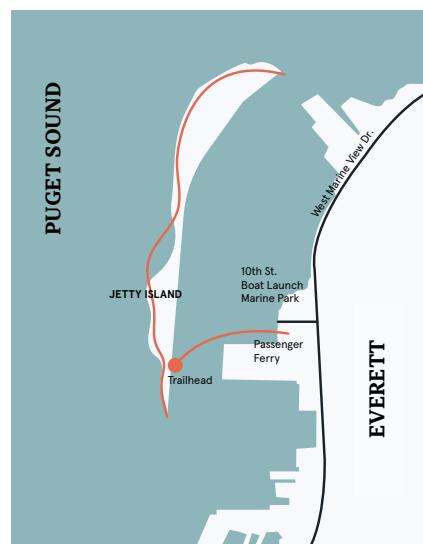


Photo by Jake Campbell



Big Gulch

Big Gulch is a deep, mossy ravine in the heart of Mukilteo.

ROUNDTRIP: 2.5 miles

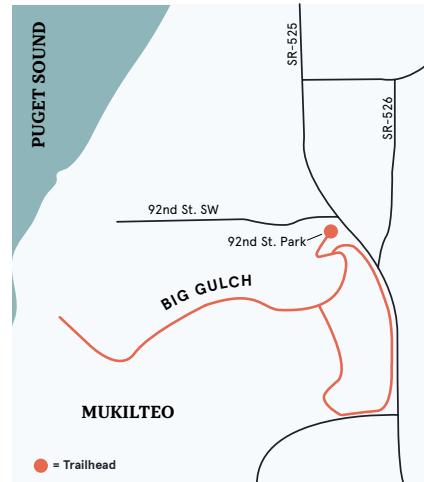
ELEVATION GAIN: 225 Feet

SEASON: Year round

START: 92nd Street Park, Mukilteo

Once logged for its cedars and firs and slated for a massive refinery, Big Gulch today is a greenbelt graced with well-maintained trails offering some fairly wild roaming just minutes from busy Paine Field. Locate the signed trailhead at the southeast corner of the 92nd Street Park. Walk a short distance to a junction. The trail left heads to SR 525. The trail right utilizing sturdy steps drops deep into the gulch. The ambiance here is wild despite the fact that houses occupy the bluffs above. Although you'll probably be unaware of that!

Cross Big Gulch Creek on a nice bridge and come to a junction with an old road. The way left leads to the Staybridge Suites Hotel. Head right and before reaching a wide bridge come to another junction. Walk right a half mile or so along Big Gulch Creek to a boardwalk. The trail continues down the gulch passing interpretive signs before reaching the West Fork Trailhead. Feel free to keep roaming—or for a nice loop return to the previous junction and head right following a cascading tributary up and out of the gulch to the Mukilteo Library on Harbour Pointe Road. Then return



to your start following a path along the gulch's edge; or walk Harbour Pointe Road a short distance turning left onto SR 525 and walking on a lovely section of sidewalk offering glimpses down into the emerald gulch.



Japanese Gulch

Explore miles of trails in this historic greenbelt gully.

ROUNDTRIP: 3.4 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 400 feet

SEASON: Year round

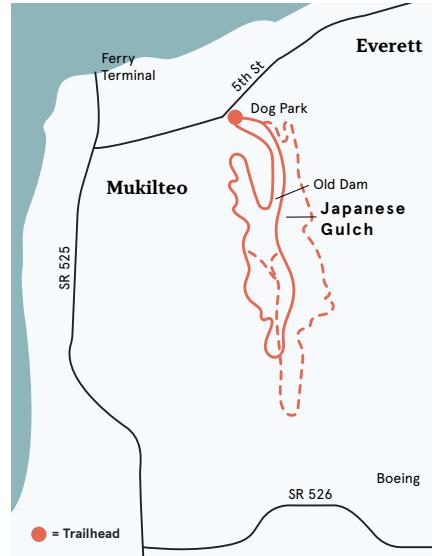
START: 1301 5th St, Mukilteo

Straddling the Everett-Mukilteo city line and tucked between Boeing and Possession Sound is a lush greenbelt harboring miles of trails and a fascinating history. Once threatened with development, the city of Mukilteo recently purchased a large section of Japanese Gulch for a park. Volunteers (Japanesegulch.org) have since been busy constructing trails for hiking and mountain biking.



The gulch is laced with many unofficial trails that can be confusing to follow. The Japanese Gulch Loop Trail is a good introduction to this green oasis. Beginning next to the dog park, follow this well constructed trail traversing a steep slope above a tumbling creek. Pass a small old dam and spillway—remains of a lumber mill operation. This deep ravine once housed the Crown Lumber Company which employed a large population of Mukilteo residents of Japanese descent (which were heavily discriminated against in other communities but found a home here).

Climb to the 480-plus foot rim of the gulch passing some window views through the trees of the sound below. Ignore paths leading to nearby neighborhoods and left into the gulch. Continue straight on the main loop path returning to the gulch and an old road at about 2.2 miles. Then hike downhill on the old road following a cascading creek and returning to the trailhead after 1.2 miles.





Photos by Jake Campbell



04

Spencer Island

A slough of wild surprises in Everett's backyard.

ROUNDTRIP: 3 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: None

SEASON: Year round

START: 5033 4th St SE, Everett

Located just a few miles from downtown Everett, Spencer Island sits in the heart of the Snohomish River Estuary, a wildlife rich ecosystem

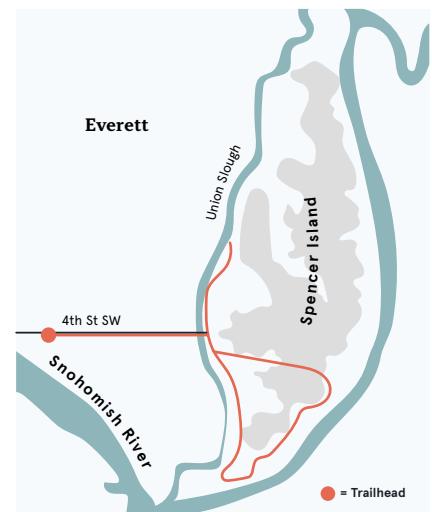
where salt and fresh waters mix. Surrounded by snaking sloughs, this 400-acre island offers a slew of scenic delights from glistening mudflats to glimpses of snow-capped peaks. And the bird watching is superb.

Start your hike by walking east .6 mile on gravel 4th Street, passing Everett's water treatment plant before reaching the trailhead at the old Jackknife Bridge. Alternatively you can walk straight on the paved Riverfront Trail to reach the Jackknife Bridge. While this route is longer—1.4 miles, it is much more scenic and interesting.

Now cross the historic bridge setting foot on the island. The trail left follows

a levee north to open-to-hunting (check seasons) WA Fish and Wildlife land. It terminates in one mile at a breach. For the loop, follow the levee trail south. There's a parallel boardwalk loop which you may want to walk when it's not flooded.

In .2 mile, come to a junction with the Cross Island Levee Trail, your return. Continue straight and enjoy the scenery. Scan reeds, cattails, and sedges for a myriad of waterfowl and songbirds. Watch for hawks, herons, harriers, widgeons, ruddy and wood ducks. Look too for bald eagles, river otters, coyotes, and deer. And enjoy the view east across the flats to Mount Pilchuck and Three Fingers.





COUNTY
PARK

05

Kayak Point Park

A yurt village, boat launch and rocky Pacific Northwest beach make Kayak Point the perfect place to spend a weekend.

HIKING: Short Nature Trails

ELEVATION GAIN: None

SEASON: Year round

PARK ENTRANCE: 15711 Marine Dr,
Stanwood

PARKING: Daily fee

Situated along the banks of the Puget Sound, Kayak Point stretches along 3,300 feet of shoreline and offers outstanding recreation opportunities. A 300-foot pier extending into the Puget Sound makes the park perfect for fishing, crabbing and wind-surfing. The rocky beach offers great opportunities for picnicking, bonfires, and tidepooling.

Kayak Point's trails feature cliffside viewpoints and beautiful evergreen forests. Keep a watchful eye out for the park's wildlife, such as deer and eagles. You may even spot migrating whales throughout the winter and spring.

The hikeable trails here were built by Eagle Scouts. There's a one-mile trail that loops around the campsites through forest—minor elevation gain,

nice and quiet with cedars, ferns, and footbridges. It's great for amateurs looking for a quiet wooded stroll. There's another trail that heads down to the beach from the yurt village.

The park offers 30 wooded campsites with water and electrical hookups, some with views of Port Susan. For those who want a less rustic experience, the park offers a yurt village—complete with heat, a locking door, and private fire pits. The park also has a vacation home and picnic shelters available to reserve. Those arriving by water can stay in a designated beach campsite.

PARK FEATURES

- Beach
- Boat Launch
- Campsites
- Fishing Pier
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms/
Sanicans
- Swim Area
(No Lifeguard)
- Vacation House
- Yurts



Photo by Jake Campbell



06

Meadowdale Beach Park

Reach the beach via a green lush ravine.

ROUNDTRIP: 2.5 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 425 feet

SEASON: Year round

START: 6026 156th St SW, Edmonds

PARKING: Do not park along access road

Meadowdale Beach Park forms an emerald swath in heavily suburbanized south Snohomish County. Here you can hike to a quiet Puget Sound Beach by following a salmon-spawning stream through Lunds Gulch, a deep green ravine.

The trail begins in a small grassy opening on a forested bluff. Follow it into a mature forest of Douglas fir and waste no time dropping more than 400 feet into the ravine. Sturdy steps provide some assistance. The trail is lined with big cedar and

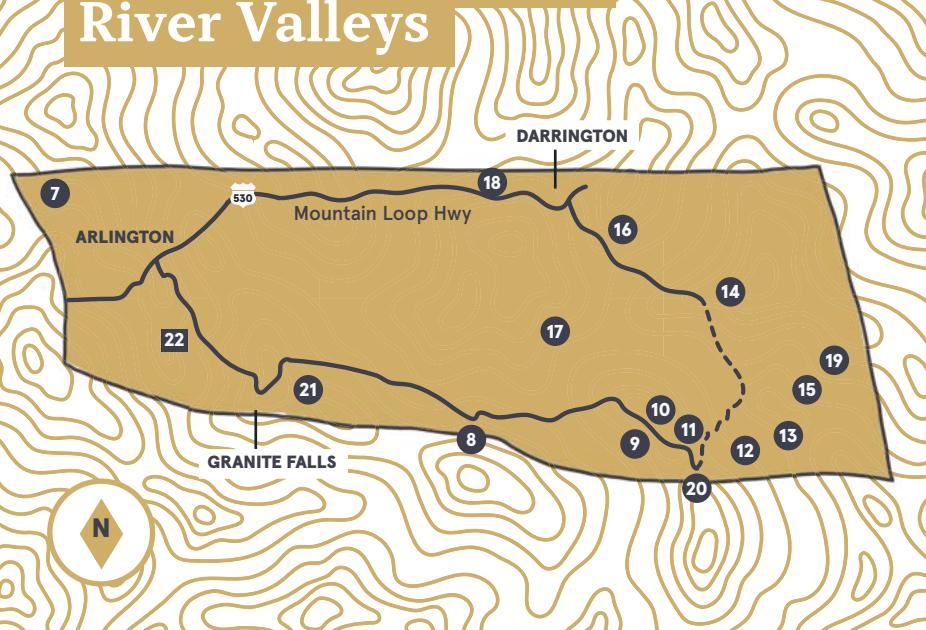
hemlock stumps, testaments to the giants that flourished here before pioneering loggers "discovered" them. Not all of the big trees here however were harvested; a few giant firs, cottonwoods, and Sitka spruce still stand tall within the gulch.

The trail eventually follows alongside Lunds Creek. The creek and ravine were named after John Lund who homesteaded here back in 1878. Lunds Creek is an important waterway supporting spawning salmon. Come in the fall to see them. In one mile the trail comes to a junction. The path left leads to the ranger's residence and to picnic tables scattered about on a manicured lawn. Much of this area once sported a country club complete with an Olympic-sized swimming pool and bath houses. In 1968 the county parks department acquired it.

Continue hiking straight along the creek and through forest coming to a railroad underpass. Make tracks under the tracks and reach the beach. When the tide is low you can roam upon extensive flats. Enjoy splendid views of Whidbey Island and the Olympic Mountains. Sunsets are supreme here, but don't forget to allot yourself some daylight for the return to your vehicle.



Stillaguamish-Sauk River Valleys



- 7. NAKASHIMA BARN
- 8. CUTTHROAT LAKES
- 9. BIG FOUR ICE CAVES
- 10. MOUNT DICKERMAN
- 11. BARLOW POINT
- 12. GOAT LAKE
- 13. NORTH FORK SAUK FALLS
- 14. BEAVER LAKE
- 15. GLACIER PEAK MEADOWS

- 16. OLD SAUK TRAIL
- 17. EIGHT MILE CREEK & SQUIRE CREEK PASS
- 18. FORTSON PONDS & WHITEHORSE TRAIL
- 19. SUIATTE RIVER & IMAGE LAKE
- 20. MONTE CRISTO
- 21. LIME KILN
- 22. RIVER MEADOWS PARK

Hike to an abandoned mining village, view the mouths of ice caves, and spend an afternoon at an alpine lake tucked between prehistoric glaciers. The Stillaguamish-Sauk Rives Valleys offer wild and wonderful places to explore.



BISTRO SAN MARTIN

Delicious French bistro in downtown Arlington. Reservations recommended.

231 N Olympic, Arlington

RHODES RIVER RANCH

Watch horse trainers at work while you feast on classic American fare.

22016 Entsminger Rd,
Arlington

NUTTY'S JUNKYARD GRILL

The best burgers around, perfect for a casual post-hike meal.

6717 204th St NE, Arlington



SKOOKUM BREWERY

One of the most popular breweries in the region, Skookum brews unique beers from locally sourced ingredients.

17925 59th Ave NE,
Arlington

RIVER TIME BREWING

Community-oriented brewery located in the old Darrington City Hall.

660 Emens Ave N,
Darrington

GLORY BUCHA

Not in the mood for booze? Try freshly brewed kombucha in downtown Arlington.

116 E 5th St, Arlington



ARLINGTON'S RIVER ROCK INN

A beautiful bed and breakfast in the woods.
15425 133rd Ave NE,
Arlington

ANGEL OF THE WINDS CASINO RESORT A small casino in the middle of the woods. On-site dining.
3438 Stoluckquamish Ln,
Arlington

BEST WESTERN PLUS

Centrally located in Smokey Point near restaurants and shopping.

3721 172nd St NE, Arlington



07

Nakashima Barn

Hike from a historic farm to a pretty little lake.

ROUNDTRIP: Up To 9 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: Minimal

SEASON: Year round

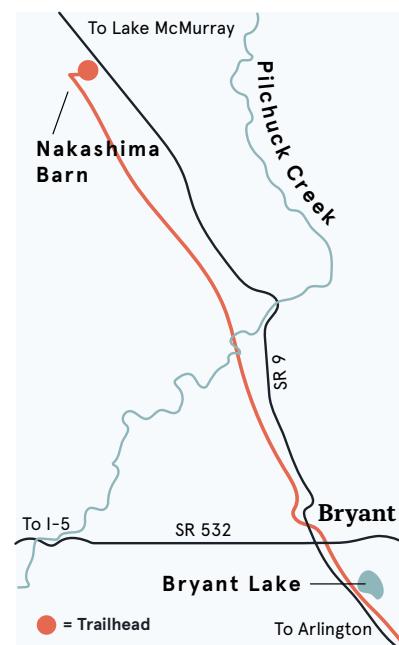
START: 32328 WA-9, Arlington

The paved 29-mile Centennial Trail travels from the Skagit County border to the city of Snohomish. With ten trailheads, this county-spanning rail-trail can easily be accessed from Arlington, Marysville, Lake Stevens, and Snohomish. The trail skirts these communities traversing farmland, forests, wetlands, and pockets of rural countryside. The northern section includes some of the trail's prettiest terrain.

Start your hike at a restored historic barn. Farming began here in the early 1900s by Daniel Waldo Bass and his wife Sophie, whose grandfather was A. A. Denny, the "Father of Seattle." In 1937 Bass sold the farm to Japanese-American Takeo Nakashima who continued a dairy operation on the property. However, after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Nakashima family was sent in 1942 to internment camps and was forced to sell their farm. In 1997 the Trust for Public Land purchased

89 acres of the farm to become a park. In 2007 the barn was listed on Washington's heritage barn register, becoming the state's first and only one so far belonging to an Asian-American farming family.

While the farm once encompassed 1,200 acres, most of the surrounding land is still rural. The county park preserves mainly wetland meadows. Most of the land west of the park belongs to the Pilchuck Tree Farm and is managed for sustainable forestry, recreation and wildlife management. Follow the Centennial Trail through a forest of maple, alder, fir and the occasional Sitka spruce, coming to Pilchuck Creek at about 2.6 miles. This is a good spot to turn around. Otherwise, cross the creek on a high bridge and continue another 1.4 miles to Bryant and just beyond, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Bryant Lake property.



08

Cutthroat Lakes

Scenic alpine lakes set among bountiful berry patches.

ROUNDTRIP: 9 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 1,900 feet

SEASON: July - October

START: Cutthroat Creek Road 400

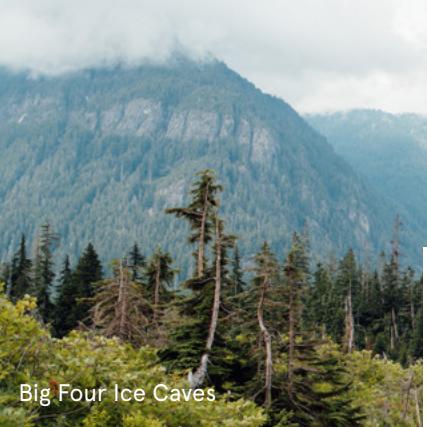
Follow the Walt Bailey Trail to a series of small alpine lakes scattered about the rugged slopes of Bald Mountain. Walt and his Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) buddies built this trail not in the 1930s, but in the 1990s, when they were in their 70s! Start your hike on the edge of an old cut on Mallardy Ridge. Enter mature forest and begin an up-and-down, but always delightful journey through stands of impressive timber, bountiful berry patches, and bird and bug boasting bogs. At about 1.0 mile enter WA DNR's Morning Star Natural Resource Conservation Area,

an area off limits to logging and road building. After reaching a 3,640-foot high point the trail drops 200 feet to parkland meadows.

Now skirt a cliff, cross a rocky avalanche slope, and drop another 200 feet. Then start climbing again—steeply. After 3.0 miles, arrive at the first of the Cutthroat Lakes; a series of small tarns surrounded by heather meadows tucked beneath the long ridge of Bald Mountain. Campsites dot the area, and social paths diverge in every direction. Treat these fragile meadows with care by avoiding traveling on the paths that cut across heather patches.

After admiring reflecting peaks in the placid waters, consider carrying on to higher ground. The trail continues another mile climbing 500 more feet to connect with the Bald Mountain Trail. Turn right and amble for a half mile through gorgeous meadows on the slopes of Bald Mountain. Enjoy breathtaking views out over Puget Sound, to Mount Rainier, and directly below to the Spada Reservoir (Everett's water supply). Bald Mountain's 4,851-foot rocky summit requires some scrambling, but experienced hikers may not find it too difficult.





Big Four Ice Caves

09



Big Four Ice Caves

Marvel at the snowy catacombs of the Mountain Loop Highway.

ROUNDTRIP: 2.2 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 200 feet

SEASON: May - November

START: Forest Road 4059

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

Each year, cascading water and warm winds create hollowed tunnels hidden in heaps of avalanche-deposited snow. These tunnels, dubbed "ice caves" become visible by mid-summer and fluctuate in size from year to year. These unstable formations are extremely dangerous, but interesting to view from the designated trail end. Big Four Mountain's impressive features have been attracting admirers for decades. A grand hotel once stood at what is now the picnic area where thousands of train-arriving tourists came to this unique, and ever-changing point of interest.

From the trailhead a paved path heads right a quarter-mile on a former rail bed to the picnic grounds. It's worth the diversion for the views and to learn more about the hotel that stood there from 1921 to 1949. Then follow a trail from the hotel site .25 mile across wetlands to a junction. The trail left returns to your vehicle. Continue straight to a bridge crossing the South Fork Stillaguamish River and another soon afterwards spanning Ice Creek.

Now on wide tread, the trail gently winds through open forest. After crossing Ice Creek once more, reach the ice caves in a barren flat beneath the north face of Big Four Mountain. **ABSOLUTELY DO NOT VENTURE INTO THE CAVES, OR ONTO THEM, AS THEY REGULARLY COLLAPSE CAUSING FATALITY ESPECIALLY IN THE WARM SUMMER MONTHS. FOLKS HAVE DIED.**

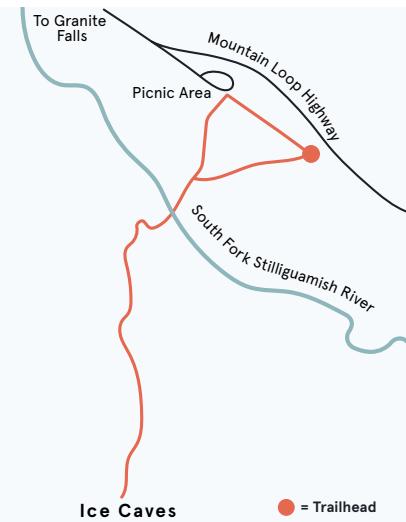


Photo by Jake Campbell

10



Mount Dickerman

Supreme viewing post along the Mountain Loop Highway.

ROUNDTRIP: 8.6 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 3,900

SEASON: Mid July - October

START: Mount Dickerman trailhead

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

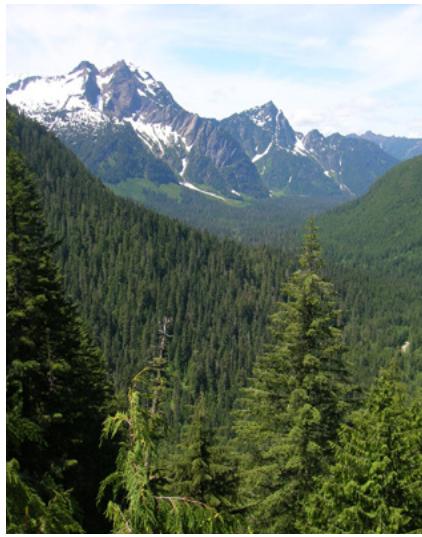
Starting low and then heading high, you'll gain much elevation on your way to Mount Dickerman's 5,723-foot summit. But sweeping views and legendary blueberry patches make all the effort needed to do this hike well worth it.

Starting in thick timber the way soon commences into switchback rhythm. After two miles of continuous clambering under a dark canopy, the grade eases as the way breaks out into boundless blue and huckleberry flats. Snack a bit, then continue to climb, cresting Dickerman's western shoulder. Now steeply wind through hemlock

groves and heather meadows. The stunning view south to Big Four, Del Campo and the Monte Cristo peaks should help keep your mind off of the grind. Finally, reach the open summit.

Sheer cliffs drop from the north face, so keep dogs, children, and vertigo sufferers away from the edge. From a secure post admire the Perry Creek Basin below flanked by Mount Forgotten and Stillaguamish Peak. Look at all the surrounding mountains! Prominent to the north are Baker and White Chuck. To the east, it's Pugh, Sloan and Glacier. To the south, Big Four and Del Campo practically leap out at you while Rainier peeks above a wall of jagged summits. To the west, Pilchuck and Three Fingers proudly stand out. No wonder this hike is so darned popular!





11



Barlow Point

Old lookout site at edge of historic Monte Cristo mining district.

ROUNDTRIP: 2.5 miles

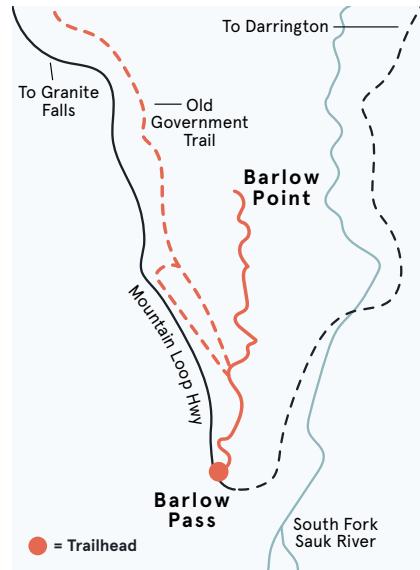
ELEVATION GAIN: 850 feet

SEASON: June - November

START: Barlow Point trailhead, Granite Falls

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

A little knob of a peak just above Barlow Pass and just below Mount Dickerman, Barlow Point is oft overlooked by area hikers. Straddling the Sauk-Stillaguamish Divide, this little summit hosted a fire lookout from 1935 to 1964. Much of the surrounding forest went up in flames in 1905, sparked by a locomotive heading to the mines of Monte Cristo. And while the surrounding forest has recovered nicely since that conflagration, Barlow



12

Goat Lake

A great place to bring the kids.

ROUNDTRIP: 10 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 1,400 feet

SEASON: Late May - November

START: Forest Road 4080

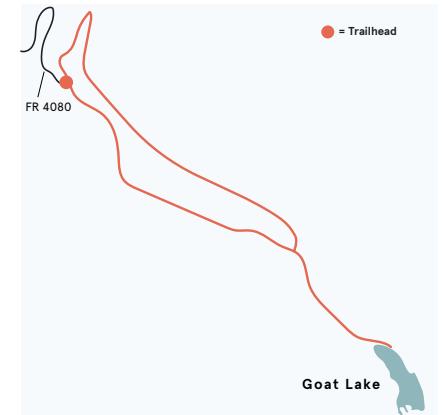
PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

An all day hike to a pleasant wilderness lake, but don't let the distance scare you. The going is fairly easy and the grade gentle. One of the larger and more popular lakes off of the Mountain Loop Highway, Goat Lake has been attracting tourists for over a century. A grand hotel once graced its northern shore. And not far from Goat Lake outlet, at the base of a tumbling cascade, a busy little mining community once stood. A campsite has replaced the hotel and nothing remains except for a few decaying relics of the late 19th century settlement. The lake however, is once again in a wild state—and completely protected within the 103,591-acre Henry M. Jackson Wilderness.

Two trails lead to Goat Lake and they can be combined to form a loop. Take the one left (the easier one) to begin. Following an abandoned logging road this trail meets up with the other one

in about 3.5 miles. After another half mile enter the Jackson Wilderness. Traverse a lush grove of old-growth cedar before climbing to the lake basin. Pass magnificent McIntosh Falls en route.

Five miles from the trailhead, sparkling Goat Lake is reached. Continue along the lake's northern shore for delightful spots to picnic or swim. The old hotel once stood at this locale. Enjoy views of impressive Cadet Peak hovering above the lake. On your return follow the Elliot Creek Trail out alongside the tumbling waterway and through patches of old growth forest.





North Fork Sauk Falls

Thundering cataract is a spectacular spectacle in the spring.

ROUNDTRIP: 0.5 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 100 feet

SEASON: April - November

START: Forest Road 49

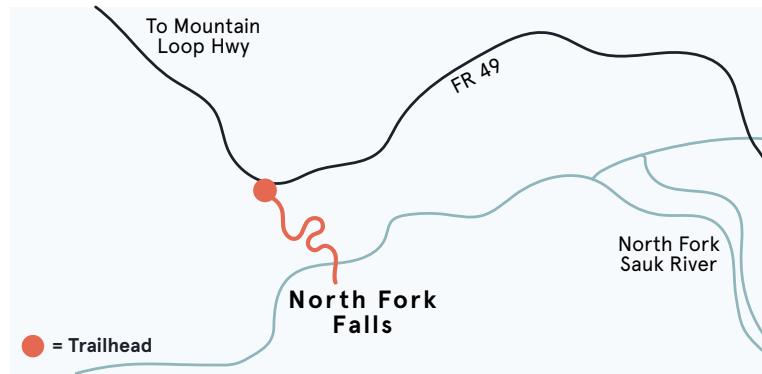
This is a short and easy hike to one of the prettiest waterfalls in the North Cascades. The North Fork of the Sauk River thunders through a rocky chasm plummeting over 50 feet into a mossy-rimmed punchbowl. During autumn rains and spring thaws witness a hydrological force that is simply staggering.

Starting in a grove of alder and second growth conifers, follow the good trail to the bellowing river. Losing about 100 feet of elevation the trail winds its way to the misty gorge housing the roaring falls. Handrails offer assistance for the not-so-sure-footed and act as barriers of prudence for keeping



the hyper-curious from getting too close to this stunning but potentially dangerous natural feature. Admire the falls safely from the secure viewing areas and try to stay dry while being a gawker in the mist! Stare into the maddening waters and see if you can spot daring dippers, aquatic robin-like birds intent on finding aquatic morsels and unfazed by the fury of water surrounding them.

Since this trail is pretty short, you may want to combine it with a trip to the nearby Harold Engles Memorial Grove of ancient giant cedars. This wonderful 0.5 mile kid friendly hike is located about 2.5 miles beyond the falls on FR 49.



Beaver Lake

Follow an old logging railroad along a wild river.

ROUNDTRIP: 2.6 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 100 feet

SEASON: Year round

START: Beaver Lake Trailhead, Darrington

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

This is an easy near-level family-friendly trail along the Wild and Scenic Sauk River to a series of beaver ponds in an old slough. The way follows an old logging railroad grade still harboring old ties and trestle remains. The trail is a birdwatchers delight too. Scan the river and surrounding wetlands for eagles, dippers, mergansers and kingfishers.

Starting on a bluff above the confluence of the Sauk and White Chuck River, dip slightly onto the old

logging railway grade. Then hike on a near straight-away through a thick stand of second growth hemlocks and a tunnel of alders. Soon swing left onto a high bank enjoying a good view out to Mount Pugh while the mighty river continuously pounds the gravel-layered riverbank causing portions of the trail to slump. But volunteer work crews from the Washington Trails Association have kept the trail in good shape.

After passing through skunk-cabbage patches you'll come to the trails end at Beaver Lake at 1.3 miles. Sadly the bridge here built upon some of the original railroad trestles was damaged by falling trees in 2018. The likelihood of the Forest Service receiving any cash to replace it soon is bleak.

Before turning around, admire the lake, which is actually an old channel of the river. A good place to observe wildlife, its namesake isn't in abundance here, but plenty of avian residents are.





15

Glacier Peak Meadows

An adventurous backpacking trip on the Pacific Crest Trail.

ROUNDTRIP: 25 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 5,325 feet

SEASON: Mid July - October

START: Forest Road 49

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

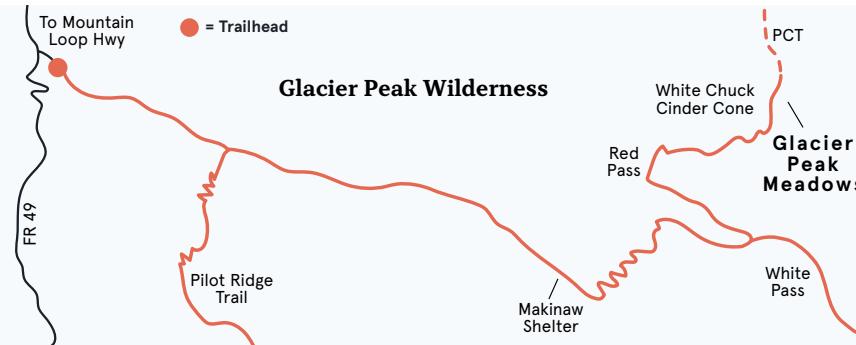
Set up camp near the headwaters of the serenading White Chuck River in tranquil parkland meadows within the shadow of snowy showy 10,541-foot Glacier Peak. Reaching this idyllic setting however requires an arduous journey of several days. First through deep primeval forest—then up steep slopes bursting with wildflowers—and finally dropping over a high barren pass through stark alpine tundra.

Start by immediately entering majestic primeval forest and the sprawling Glacier Peak Wilderness. Through groves of gargantuan cedars, head

up valley. Pass the Pilot Ridge Trail (another great multi-day trek) and reach good camps near Red Creek at 4.5 miles. More good camps can be found at 5.8 near the seen-better-days Mackinaw Shelter.

The trail now climbs steeply up hot southern exposed slopes. Stunted trees eventually give way to blueberry bushes further yielding to magnificent meadows. At 9.0 miles reach the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Good camping spots at 5,900-foot White Pass lie a half mile right.

You want to head left traversing high windswept meadows where the only thing more impressive than the floral show is the sweeping alpine views! Reach 6,450-foot Red Pass and descend into a barren high basin where snow often lingers long. Pass a faint path leading left to a small tarn beneath the White Chuck Cinder Cone and continue descending leaving tundra for greenery. Glacier Peak soon reveals itself in all its glory. At about 12.5 miles near an old shelter site (el. 5,500 feet) find wonderful camps scattered about the parkland Glacier Peak Meadows. Let the cascading White Chuck and its many tributaries soothe you to sleep.





Old Sauk Trail

Riverside trail invites hikers of all ages and abilities.

ROUNDTRIP: 6.0 miles/1.3 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 150 feet

SEASON: Year round

START: Forest Road 2200

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

A major tributary to the Skagit River, the federally-protected Wild and Scenic Sauk River provides critical habitat for Puget Sound salmon. And like the Skagit, this important river also provides winter habitat for scores of bald eagles. The Old Sauk Trail hugs the riverbank of this ecologically important and strikingly beautiful waterway for three nearly flat miles.

Begin in a thick stand of mature forest. Logged in the 1930s, many old-growth



Douglas-fir trees still stand here. After skirting alongside a slough, reach the Sauk. Behold its beauty and ever changing mood. Cross a bridge over a small creek and then hike alongside the churning river. Walk this way in springtime and be treated to brilliant displays of wildflowers carpeting the forest floor. Look for birds too—thrushes, wrens, jays, eagles and dippers.

At 1.9 miles reach a junction with the new Old Sauk Interpretive Loop ADA-accessible trail. This 1.3 mile loop is accessed from the Mountain Loop Highway 2 miles south of the trailhead you started from. It's perfect not only for wheelchairs, but for young hikers and folks looking for a shorter option.

The Old Sauk Trail continues south to another junction with the Interpretive Loop Trail. It then veers left crossing a channel and traversing a grove of big trees. Cross another channel and come to a big riverside rock. The trail then leaves the raucous river to follow Murphy Creek through a tunnel of moss-draped maples and under a canopy of towering cottonwoods. At 3.0 miles reach the trail's southern terminus on the Mountain Loop Highway. Now turn around and enjoy hiking this trail downriver.



Eightmile Creek & Squire Creek Pass

Big cedars, polished granite, awesome views of the Three Fingers.

ROUNDTRIP: 6.0 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 2,300 feet

SEASON: Mid July – October

START: Forest Road 2065, Arlington

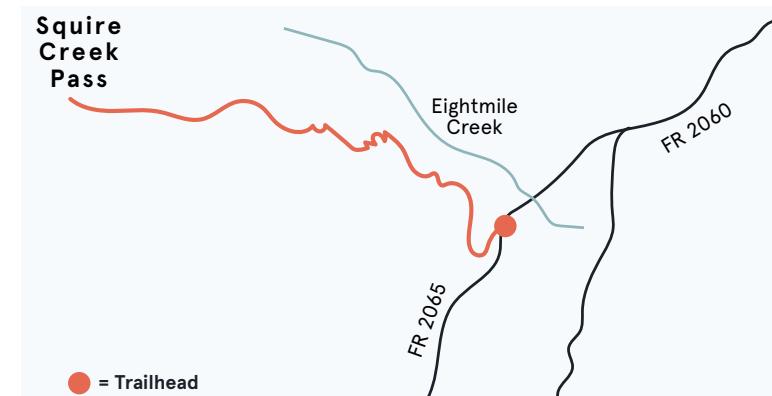
PARKING: Access road requires high clearance vehicles

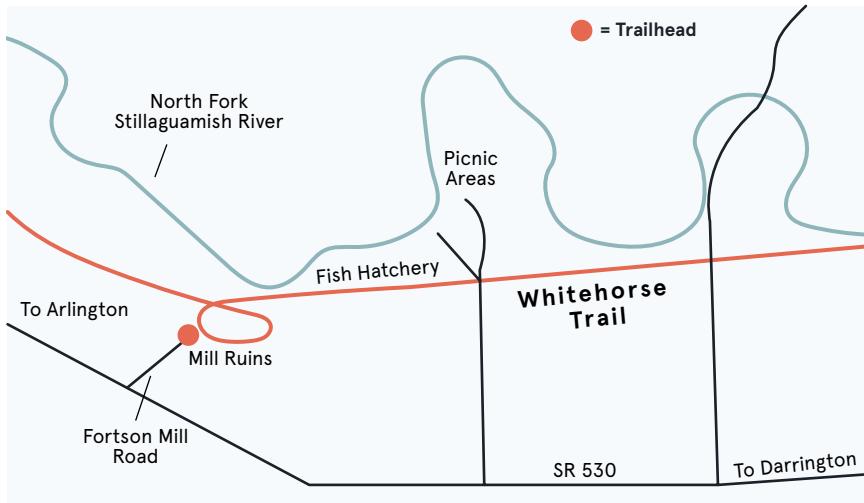
The close-to-town Squire Creek Trail to Squire Creek Pass is slowly being rehabilitated. But it's still rough and brushy in places making Eightmile Creek (despite its rough trailhead access road) the preferred way to get to stunning Squire Creek Pass. This trail is in decent shape, abounds with views and passes through an impressive stand of old-growth.

Starting on an old road through an old cut, the way enters the Boulder Creek Wilderness after about a half mile. Weave around some of the largest and oldest cedars in western Washington. Now climbing more

steeply, the trail crosses an open avalanche chute granting good views to the cliffs of Helena Peak. There are some impressive cliffs above you too; and it's quite possible a handful of climbers may be clambering up them.

The way then reenters primeval forest, skirts a slick rock creek bed, and resumes steadily climbing. Cross numerous slick rock creeks and traverse bountiful huckleberry patches. At 3.0 miles reach 4,075-foot Squire Creek Pass adorned with shiny granite slabs and blocks. Enjoy breathtaking views of Three Fingers, Whitehorse Mountain, and Jumbo Mountain. They form a large and forbidding wall around the pass. Scramble an easy ledge south for even better views—and good berry picking opportunities, too!





18

Fortson Ponds & Whitehorse Trail

Explore a new park at an old mill site and old rail line.

ROUNDTrip: 2.0 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: None

SEASON: Year round

START: Fortson Mill Road

Once the site of a bustling mill and community of over 300 residents, all that remains now of Fortson are some concrete walls and two beautiful mill ponds. While the concrete walls of the old mill aren't exactly pretty—the mill's ponds are quite the contrary. The man-made walls of the old mill now feature extensive and interesting graffiti art. These expressive walls stand in contrast to the natural habitat of the Fortson Mill ponds. Lined with

stately cottonwoods, the two ponds reflect these tall trees as well as the rugged mountains surrounding them. This historic site was recently purchased by Washington Fish and Wildlife. Snohomish County Parks will manage the site as a new trailhead for the adjacent Whitehorse Trail—a 27-mile long trail-in-the-works.

From the trailhead, walk north on a wide path left of the old mill remains. Soon come to the Whitehorse Trail. Stretching from Darrington to Arlington, this 27 mile trail follows alongside the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River to connect with the



30-plus mile Centennial Trail. Currently only the easternmost 7.0 miles of this scenic trail is open. Government and parks officials are hoping to have the remainder of the trail open by late 2019.

Head right crossing a creek on a bridge and eventually come to a path leading right to one of the mill ponds. Once housing the mill's de-barker, this pond now serves as a spawning ground for coho and chum salmon. Look for them—and for eagles, kingfishers and herons, too.

Walk along the pond and come to a junction. The trail left leads back to the Whitehorse Trail. The trail right circles around the first mill pond returning

to the mill ruins and trailhead in 0.5 mile. Walk it enjoying Mount Higgins reflecting in the pond. Then return to the Whitehorse Trail and walk east traversing a large marshy area near the second mill pond. The view here to glacier-capped Whitehorse Mountain is impressive.

Continue hiking the Whitehorse Trail reaching 379th Street in about 0.8 mile. Consider walking left to the Whitehorse Fish Hatchery. Then either retrace your steps one mile back to the trailhead—or continue walking east on the Whitehorse Trail six miles to Darrington. Arrange for a shuttle and walk the trail one way.



Suiattle River & Image Lake

Iconic lake beautifully reflects Glacier Peak.

ROUNDTRIP: 33.0 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 4,700 feet

SEASON: Mid July - October

START: Forest Road 26

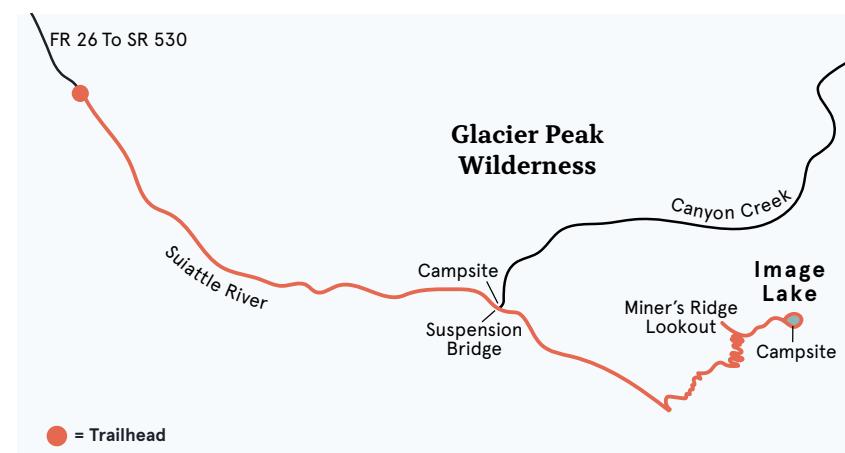
PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

You haven't experienced the full grandeur of the Cascades until you've watched morning's first rays of sunlight waltz across the snow and ice of Washington's most remote volcano perfectly reflected upon Image Lake's placid waters. It's a long trip to this famed spot, but camping spots along the way are plentiful. And if Image Lake is too far, a short hike along the beautiful Suiattle River will satisfy your wilderness wanderlust.

Immediately enter the sprawling Glacier Peak Wilderness following the glacier-fed Suiattle River through miles of old-growth forest. Cross several boot-wetting creeks along

the way. At 6.6 miles, come to good camps at Canyon Creek spanned by an impressive suspension bridge. At 6.9 miles continue left on the Pacific Crest Trail. At 9.4 miles, follow the Miners Ridge Trail relentlessly climbing out of the valley. Stay left at a junction with the Miners Cabin Trail and continue steeply grinding upward to 6,100-foot Miners Ridge. Hike left 0.4 mile to the Miners Ridge Fire Lookout to reap some of the finest views anywhere.

Then retrace your steps and hike through berry patches and meadows 0.4 mile to a junction. Here a trail departs right 0.5 mile for Image Lake (elev. 6,050 feet) and camps below the lake basin. The trail left contours around and above the lake providing vantages for capturing the famous image of Image Lake reflecting Glacier Peak. Sunrise is best.





20

Monte Cristo

Hike to a ghost town deep within wilderness.

ROUNDTrip: 8.2 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 500 feet

SEASON: May - November

START: Trailhead at Barlow Pass

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

Hike to a ghost town surrounded by towering craggy peaks. Only about a half dozen structures remain in Monte Cristo, a once booming gold and silver mining town of nearly 2,000. Five hotels, a school, store, rows of homes, and a huge concentrator used to line the streets of this now deserted locale. Ore was transported to town via tramways from the steep surrounding peaks. It was then sent to Everett by rail.

Founded in 1889, Monte Cristo like most mining towns was short-lived. By the 1930s it was abandoned and rapidly decaying. A county road connected the townsite to the outside world in the 1940s, and several attempts were made to convert a couple of the hotels into mountain resorts. But these ultimately failed, and by 1980 a flood had destroyed sections of the road and the county abandoned it.

Start your hike on the old road, now closed to vehicular traffic (except for a few permit owners). Pass the trail for Gothic Basin and continue on the road and its bypass trails around washouts. At 1.1 miles reach the Twin Bridges over the South Fork Sauk River. In 2006 the river jumped course rendering them useless. You must now cross the river by fording (safe only in low water late

in the season) or on a large fallen log located to the south of a privy.

Once across, continue hiking on the generally delightful old road. Stay right at a junction and come to a former car campground at 4.0 miles. Then cross the South Fork Sauk on a bridge, entering the townsite (Respect private property and structures and leave all artifacts).

Linger around the old town or if you want to continue hiking, head to Silver Lake near 4,350-foot Poodle Dog Pass via a challenging 2.1 mile trail. The lake sits in a cirque beneath Silvertip Peak. The setting, like the metals that were extracted from the surrounding slopes, is precious.





Lime Kiln

Historic hike along the South Fork Stillaguamish River.

ROUNDTrip: 7.0 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 625 feet

SEASON: Year round

START: Robe Canyon Historical Park, Granite Falls

Hike back in time through a deep lush canyon carved by the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This delightful trail takes you into the heart of the region's 970-acre Robe Canyon Historical Park. Start your journey by hiking over rolling terrain and through young forest. Pass Hubbard Lake, a shallow body of water surrounded by old cedars. Then cross its outlet creek on a sturdy bridge and follow an old road to a junction.

Head left and descend into a lush, emerald ravine emerging high above the roaring waters of the South Fork Stilly. Now using the former railbed of the old Everett and Monte Cristo Railway, the trail travels upriver through a narrow canyon under a canopy of towering moss-draped maples.

En route pass historical relics littering the forest floor. Old saw blades, bricks, bottles, stove parts, and bed frames testify that this remote locale once supported a thriving community, Cut-Off Junction (leave all artifacts in place for others to enjoy). Just up

ahead at 2.6 miles lies the limekiln, a 20-foot tall stone structure once used to cook limestone. The powdered lime was then transported by railway to smelters and mills in Everett. Built in 1892 and abandoned in 1934, it remains remarkably intact. (Stay off of it to ensure it stands another hundred years).

Beyond the kiln, the trail continues for 0.8 mile, ending at where a rail bridge once spanned the river. A short loop path takes off left, leading to a graveled bar on the river—a perfect spot to savor the area's natural beauty.

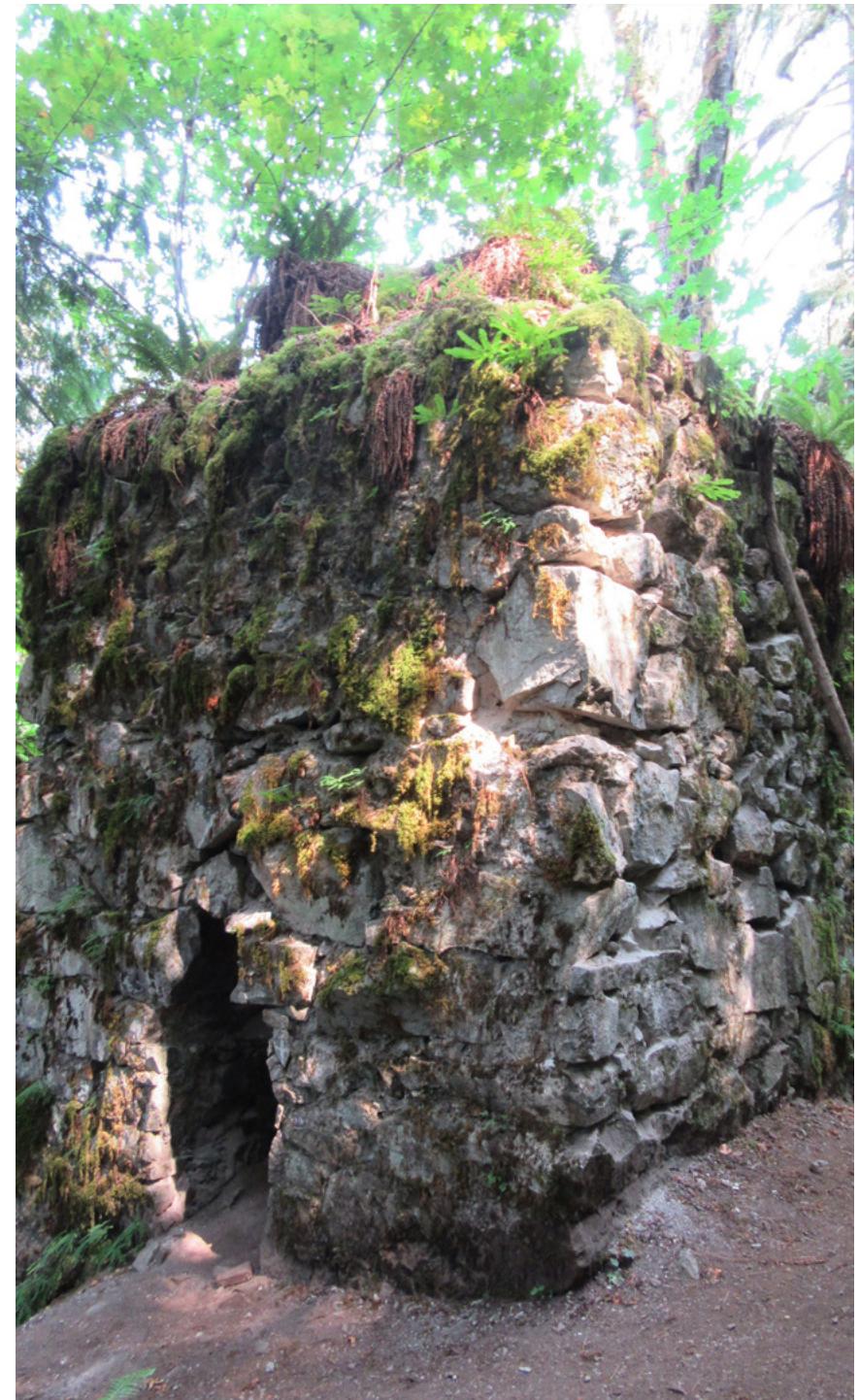




Photo by Jake Campbell

**22**

River Meadows

The Stillaguamish River flows between wide open meadows in this beautiful county park.

HIKING: Short nature trails

SEASON: Year round

PARK ENTRANCE: 20416 Jordan Rd, Arlington

Situated on 150 acres of wide open meadows and dense forests running along the banks of the Stillaguamish River, River Meadows Park was originally a Native American trading destination, and then, in the late 1800s, a homestead. Traces of the original farmhouse and garden remain in the park.

Visitors can fish in the Stillaguamish River, stay in a yurt village situated in an old orchard, camp along the

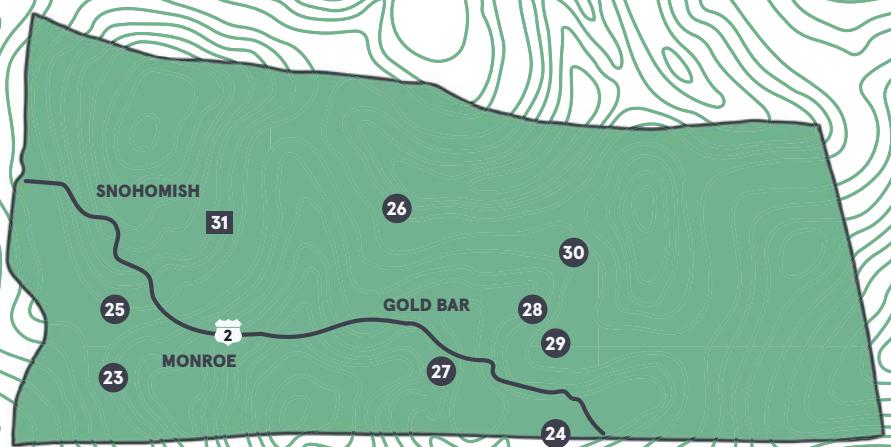
river, go swimming in the summer and snowshoeing during some parts of the winter. In the fall, the park is the perfect place to watch the leaves change. You can also use River Meadows as a base camp to explore nearby attractions such as the Mountain Loop Highway and the tiny town of Granite Falls.

Every August, the park hosts the Stillaguamish Tribe's Festival of the River and Pow Wow celebrating the many ways a clean, free-flowing river system contributes to the benefit of our community and to our entire natural environment. The festival features a giant storytelling turtle tent, interpretive salmon habitat tours, live music, arts and craft vendors, and a salmon barbecue prepared by the Stillaguamish Tribe.

PARK FEATURES

- Campsites
- Picnic Tables
- Fishing
- Trails
- Picnic Shelters
- Yurts

Skykomish-Snohomish River Valleys



- 23. PARADISE VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA
- 24. LAKE DOROTHY
- 25. LORD HILL REGIONAL PARK
- 26. SULTAN RIVER CANYON TRAIL
- 27. BRIDAL VEIL FALLS & LAKE SERENE
- 28. EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT
- 29. JOHNSON RIDGE & SCORPION MOUNTAIN
- 30. WEST CADY RIDGE
- 31. FLOWING LAKE PARK

In the Skykomish-Snohomish River Valleys, hikers can take in a mountain view from a historic fire lookout, hunt for wildflowers, and get up close and personal with a wild waterfall pouring from towering Mount Index.



ROGERS RIVERFRONT BISTRO

Farm-to-table style bistro in downtown Snohomish.
511 2nd St, Snohomish



SNOTOWN BREWERY

Fantastic small-batch beer in downtown Snohomish.
511 2nd St, Snohomish



THE ROSEHILL MANOR A

A Victorian-style mansion tucked below Mount Index.
449 5th Street, Index

TRES MARIAS Authentic Mexican food in downtown Monroe.
116 W Main St, Monroe

THE RIVER HOUSE

American fare in a locally-owned Index pub.
444 Ave A, Index, WA

SKIP ROCK DISTILLERS Small-batch, farm-to-bottle distillery using local ingredients.
104 Ave C, Snohomish

MT. INDEX BREWERY AND DISTILLERY Quirky brewery with stunning mountain view and plenty of cats to keep you company.
49315 US-2, Gold Bar

EVERGREEN INN AND SUITES A straightforward motor inn on Highway 2, a mile from downtown Monroe.
19103 US-2, Monroe

INN AT SNOHOMISH A casual hotel near restaurants and breweries.
323 2nd St, Snohomish



23

Paradise Valley Conservation Area

Iconic lake beautifully reflects Glacier Peak.

ROUNDTrip: 0.5 to 13 miles

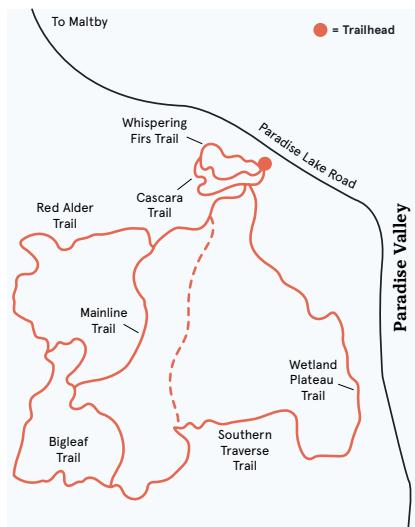
ELEVATION GAIN: 0 to a few hundred feet

SEASON: Year round

START: 23210 Paradise Lake Rd,
Woodinville

Consisting of nearly 800 forested acres on the edge of suburbia, Paradise Valley is not only a hiking heaven with its 13 miles of trails, but also a haven for wildlife. Originally homesteaded in the 1880s, Paradise Valley now provides refuge for bear, cougar, deer, and a myriad of other critters both furry and feathered. And the park protects the headwaters of Bear Creek too, an important salmon rearing stream.

Before setting out, pick up a map of the park's extensive trail system at the kiosk at the main trailhead. Then have fun exploring this sprawling conservation area! The hiker-only Whispering Firs Trail makes a nice half mile escape perfect for young hikers and older ones short on time. Follow the Mainline Trail through the core of the park to access other trails deeper within the Paradise Valley. The Bigleaf and Ephemeral Trails lead



past wetlands that burst with birds and blossom with wildflowers in the springtime. The Wetland Plateau Trail offers a fair degree of solitude while the Southern Traverse Trail undulates over small ridges through mature forests. Combine the Southern Traverse with the Wetland Plateau, Bigleaf, Red Alder and Cascara Trails for a 5.0-plus mile grand walkabout around the park's periphery.





24

Lake Dorothy

Two mile long subalpine lake surrounded by towering timber.

ROUNDTRIP: 3.8 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 800 feet

SEASON: May - November

START: Forest Road 6410, Skykomish

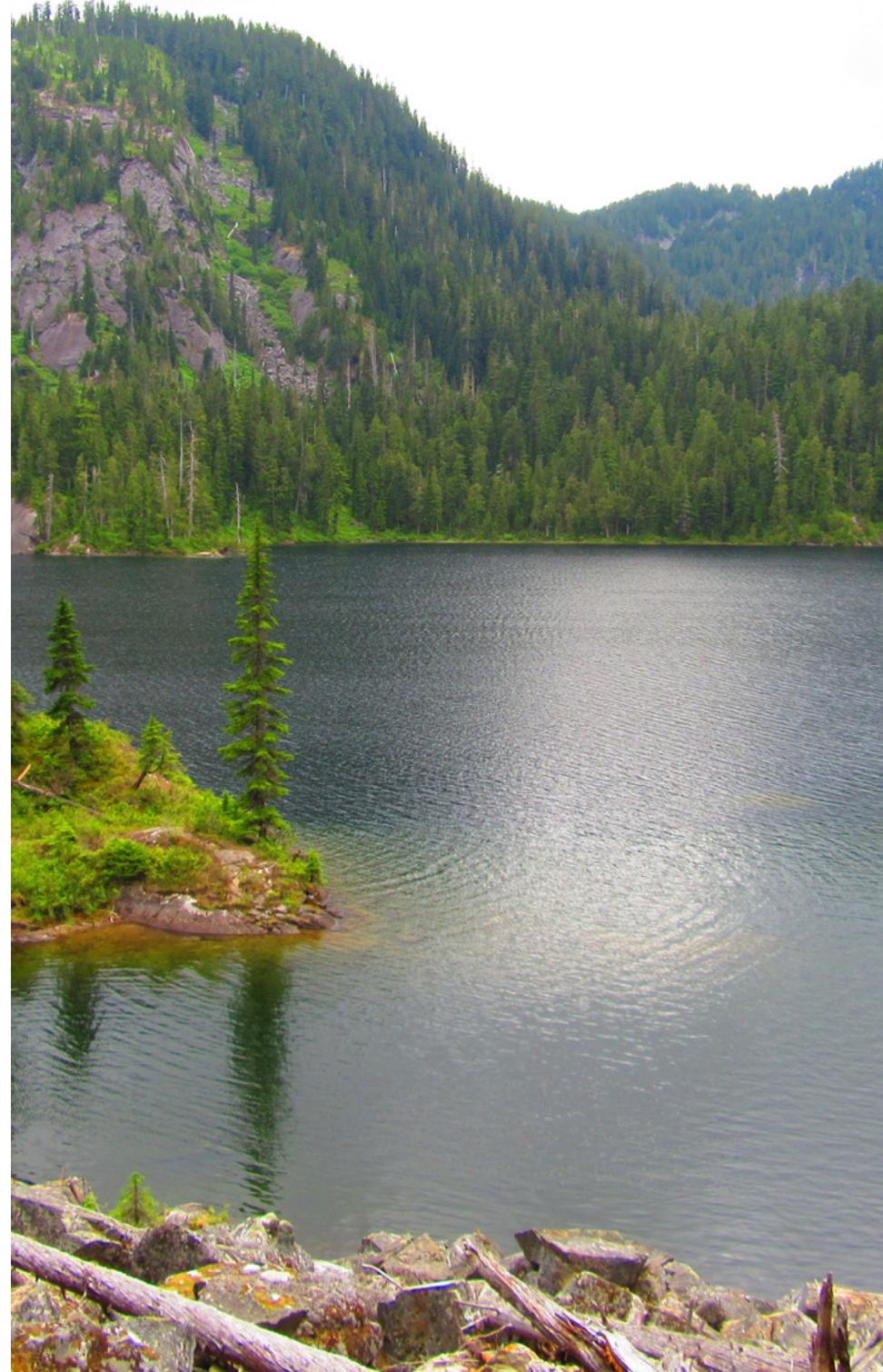
PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

Lake Dorothy is one of the largest bodies of water within the sprawling 414,000-acre Alpine Lakes Wilderness. It's also one of the easier ones to hike to—just don't expect to be alone. But there is plenty of room for all, as the trail continues nearly 2 more miles along this large lake's shoreline. Surrounded by towering virgin forest centuries old and shiny rocky ledges scoured by ancient ice flows, Dorothy Lake is a stunning destination. But it's also a fragile environment, so be sure to practice "Leave No Trace" principles and treat this special area with care.

The well-built and maintained trail takes off into primeval timber entering the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Soon afterward come upon cascading Camp Robber Creek, which you'll cross on a sturdy bridge. Here among polished granite slabs the creek plunges into a deep pool; an inviting spot on a hot afternoon. The trail then begins to climb more steeply reaching Dorothy Lake's littered with logs outlet at 1.9 miles. Enjoy the view south to Big Snow Mountain.



The outlet is a good place to relax, but if you feel compelled to explore more of the lakeshore, continue hiking. The trail continues on a rocky at times route for nearly two miles along Dorothy's eastern shoreline. Pass backcountry campsites, ledges perfect for lounging, and plenty of scenic spots along the way. At the south end of the lake the trail turns west crossing a tumbling inlet creek before steeply ascending to Bear and Deer Lakes. They're worth exploring too, but out of the realm for hikers looking for a short and easy day.





Lord Hill Regional Park

Explore wildlife-rich wetlands tucked on a lofty hill.

ROUNDTTRIP: 2.2 miles Beaver Lake Loop/3.7 miles Temple Lake Loop

ELEVATION GAIN: 200/150 feet

SEASON: Year round

START: 12921 150th St SE, Snohomish

The largest county park in the region, Lord Hill Regional Park protects over 1,460 acres of forested slopes, lush ravines, basaltic outcroppings, scores of wetland ponds, and a wild undeveloped stretch of the Snohomish River. There are over eleven miles of trail and several miles of old woods roads traversing this park named for Mitchell Lord who homesteaded here in the 1880s. Lots of loop options exist from short leg stretches to all-day explorations. Here are two good suggestions to get you exploring.

Beaver Lake Loop: Head down the main trail through a cool forest of big trees coming to a junction in .4 mile. Turn left on the Beaver Lake Trail and follow it through a tunnel of alders to marshy Beaver Lake. Take a right on the Pipeline Trail, a right on the Pipeline Cut-off Trail, then another right on the Main Trail and return to the parking lot.

Temple Pond: From the Beaver Lake Trail junction head right continuing on the Main Trail for another .6 mile coming to a four-way junction.



Continue straight on the Main Trail Cut-off coming to another four-way junction in .2 mile. Continue straight once again, this time on the Temple Pond Loop trail. Follow this delightful near level path 1.6 miles to Temple Pond, largest body of water within the park and then back to the Pipeline Trail. Continue straight on the Pipeline Cut-off Trail returning to the Main Trail. Turn right retracing familiar territory back to the trailhead.



Sultan River Canyon Trail

Hike into a remote canyon housing big trees and a wild river.

ROUNDTTRIP: 4.4 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 850 feet

SEASON: April - November

START: Sultan Basin

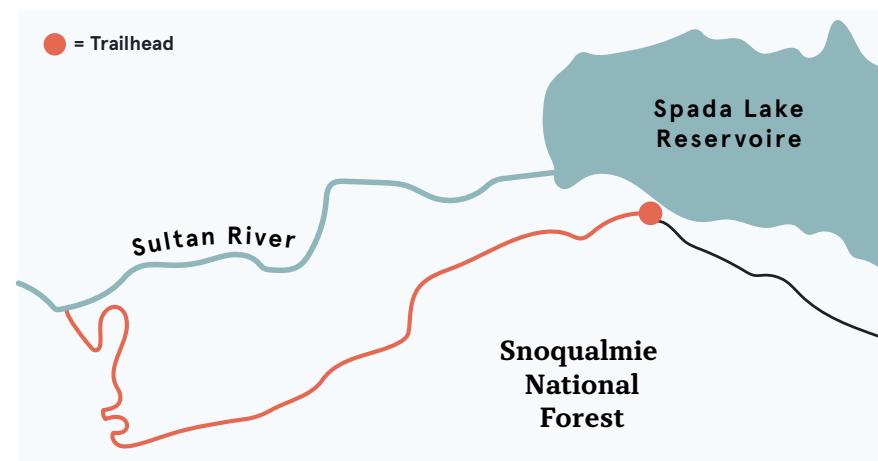
Opened in 2015, this new trail takes you deep into the Sultan River Canyon where towering old growth trees and steep slopes shade a remote section of the Sultan River. The hike starts on a gated dirt road near the entrance of the parking area. Walk this road through pleasant forest gradually climbing about 250 feet.

After 1.0 mile, come to the beginning of the actual trail which is clearly signed. Now begin your descent into the deep dark canyon. Via a good grade, the trail switchbacks downward



into the rugged canyon. The steep slopes here prevented past loggers from harvesting the canyon's towering old trees. You'll pass some impressive ancient giants. You'll pass some nice small seasonal cascades too.

At 2.2 miles reach the canyon's lush bottom and the rippling Sultan River. During the summer months, sunlight reaches the canyon floor allowing you to prop on a riverside rock and enjoy a sunny spot along the river. Watch for dippers flitting in the cool waters. After enjoying this quiet and remote spot prepare for your return journey where a 600 foot climb out of the canyon waits for you.





27

Bridal Veil Falls & Lake Serene

Frantic falls and a placid lake beneath spiraling Mount Index.

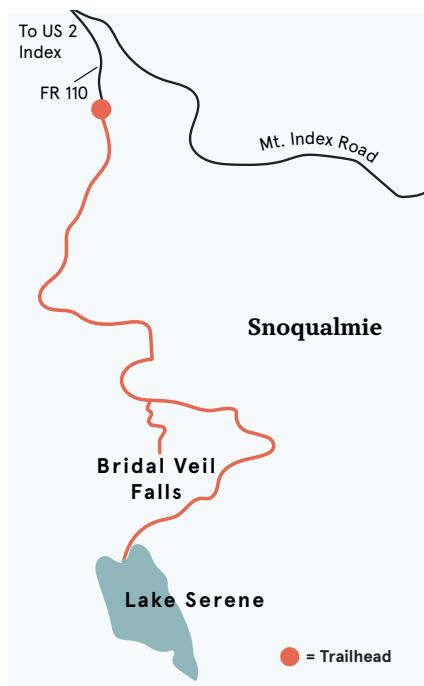
ROUNDTrip: Bridal Veil Falls 4.4 miles/
Lake Serene 7.2 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 850/1900 feet

SEASON: May - November

START: Lake Serene Trail 1068

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass



Towering and formidable, Mount Index is perhaps the most awesome sight along the Stevens Pass Highway. And Bridal Veil Falls emanating from beneath the mountain's austere crags is not a scene you'll forget. But to really appreciate this impressive landmark, you'll need to leave your vehicle and hit the trail.

Start by following an old road lined with mossy maples and alders gradually ascending 1.7 miles to a junction. For Bridal Veil Falls, head right a half mile climbing steeply via a series of short switchbacks and stairways to viewing areas often soaked in spray.

For Lake Serene continue on the main trail dropping a little into a damp ravine. Cross Bridal Veil Creek and then begin climbing. The trail makes a long sweep east and then a long sweep west working its way under, over and around cliffs. Take in fine views of the Skykomish Valley below as well as out to Ragged Ridge and other peaks of the Wild Sky Wilderness.

Lake Serene greets you in a tight basin beneath the ramparts and parapets of Mount Index. Cross the lake's outlet on a sturdy bridge and head to Lunch Rock above the shores of the icy lake (keep children close by). Now stare straight up those surrounding 3,000 vertical foot stark walls. Hardly serene; it's awe-inspiring! But when the basin is calm, those imposing rock faces reflect upon the lake's surface.





28

Evergreen Mountain Lookout

A short, sweet and a tad bit steep hike to historic fire lookout.

ROUNDTRIP: 3.0 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 1,400 feet

SEASON: July - October

START: Forest Road 6554

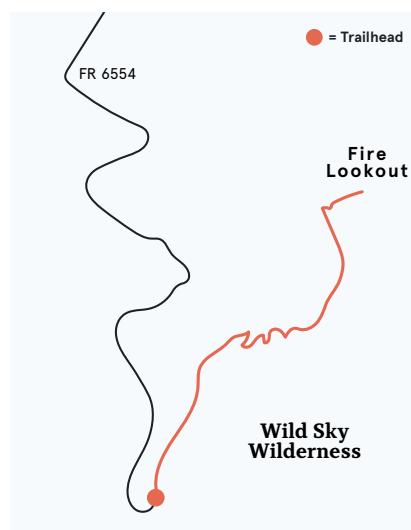
PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass

Starting at a high elevation and beginning in an old burn surrounded by old cuts, the way steeply climbs. Between switchbacks, take in sweeping views south of the broad U-shaped Beckler River Valley. At .6 mile enter



the Wild Sky Wilderness leaving young regenerating forest for groves of old-growth mountain hemlock. Now on a gentler grade, traverse ridge reaching a small gap. Then continue along ridge crest leaving forest for meadows that burst with wildflowers. Swing around the north side of the mountain and after one final push reach the 5,587-foot summit with its restored fire lookout.

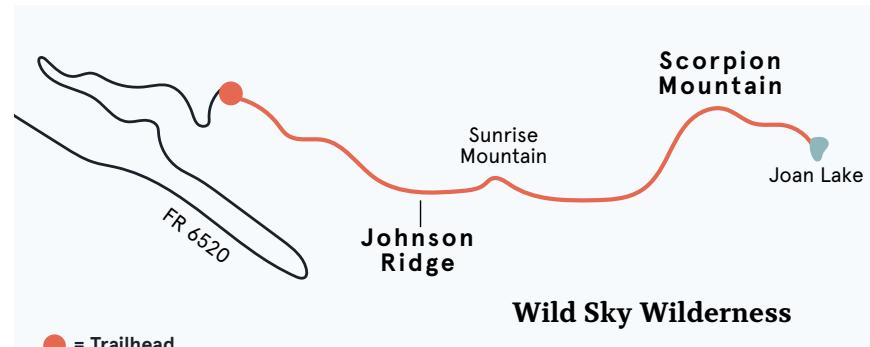
Look south to Mounts Stuart and Daniel, the Snoqualmie Pass peaks and big beautiful Mount Rainier hovering above them all. Look north to the Monte Cristo Peaks and east to the high alpine meadow country of the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness. Of course take time to appreciate the 1935 lookout, too. It can be rented out for overnight stays (reservations are required: reserveamerica.com). Restored by the Everett Mountaineers and the Seattle Explorer Search and Rescue in the 1990s, it stands now as a sentinel in Washington's newest wilderness area, the Wild Sky.



29

Johnson Ridge & Scorpion Mountain

Supreme wildflower hike in the Wild Sky Wilderness.



● = Trailhead

ROUNDTRIP: 9.0 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 2,650 feet

SEASON: July - October

START: Forest Road 6520

One of the finest meadow-traversing, ridge-walking, view-granting trails in the Skykomish Valley, Johnson Ridge is also surprisingly one of the quieter trails in the region.

The way begins steeply through an old clear-cut rapidly regenerating. After .75 mile the grade eases, the trail now traveling through mature forest and soon entering the Wild Sky Wilderness. Established in 2008, the Wild Sky is Washington's newest federally protected wilderness area. At 2.0 miles round the heather-graced 5,050-foot summit of Sunrise Mountain, outstanding views can be had of surrounding summits and snowy sentinel Glacier Peak, the highest peak

in the region. Sunrise makes a fine destination for a shorter hike.

But if it's Johnson's Scorpion Mountain you wish to strike out for, continue, steeply dropping over 300 feet to a narrow saddle. Commence climbing once reaching sprawling meadows replete with resplendent wildflowers. At about 4.4 miles at the edge of a meadow reach an unmarked junction. Head left if Scorpion Mountain's 5,540-ft summit is your objective. From this outpost enjoy a stunning 360-degree view of the Central Cascades. To the east, directly below, twinkling Joan Lake may catch your attention. To reach it, retreat to the unmarked junction and follow a brushy steep trail. Reach the isolated lake after a half mile and 500 feet of elevation loss. Fish are fairly abundant at the lake—so are the mosquitoes.



30

West Cady Ridge

Savor miles of flowering alpine meadows.

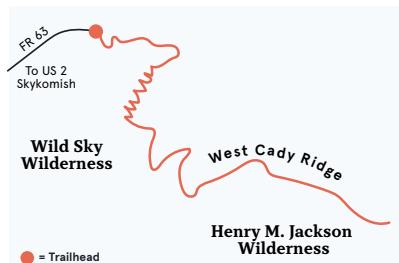
ROUNDTrip: 8.0 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 2,300 feet

SEASON: July - October

START: Forest Road 63

PARKING: Northwest Forest Pass



One of the most spectacular ridgeline hikes in the Central Cascades, the only thing superseding West Cady's flowers is its views. Start your hike in luxurious ancient forest. After crossing the North Fork Skykomish River on a bridge above a small gorge, begin to climb. The trail winds through some of the biggest and oldest trees in the Skykomish Ranger District, all protected within the Wild Sky Wilderness.

At approximately 2.0 miles reach a densely forested gap between West Cady Ridge and Excelsior Mountain. The way now becomes much steeper marching up the spine of West Cady. Views begin to grow. Traversing berry



31

Flowing Lake Park

A lakeside retreat for the whole family.

HIKING: Short Nature Trails

ELEVATION GAIN: None

SEASON: Year round

ENTRANCE: 17900 48th St SE, Snohomish

PARKING: Daily fee

Situated on the site of a mid-century lakefront resort, Flowing Lake Park is a recreational destination for the whole family.

The park features a myriad of recreational opportunities and is one of the few parks in the region that allows for motorized watercraft and

water skiing. You'll also find a full-service campground. Not interested in camping? Cozy cabins are available to rent (two are even pet-friendly).

During the day, visitors can wander a nature trail, swim in the lake, fish off the dock, use the volleyball courts and kids can hit the playground.

PARK FEATURES

- Amphitheater
- Beach
- Boat Launch
- Cabins
- Disabled Parking
- Fishing
- Picnic Shelter
- Trails
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms/ Sanicans
- RV Campsites
- Swim Area (No Lifeguard)
- Tent Campsites
- Water Skiing



Urban Basecamp

32. INTERURBAN TRAIL

33. NORTH CREEK PARK



Though few hikes are available in the Urban Basecamp, the region offers everything you need to enjoy the outdoors. Pick up rock-climbing equipment, rent snowshoes, and plan a post-adventure soak in the sauna.



YEH YEH'S The best Vietnamese sandwiches around in a bare-bones setting.

19915 64th Ave W,
Lynnwood

DICK'S DRIVE IN A 'can't miss' Seattle classic since 1954, Dick's serves up burgers, fries, and shakes.

21910 WA-99, Edmonds

AZUL RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Popular spot serving delicious Pan-Latin cuisine and great cocktails.

15118 Main St #100,
Mill Creek



DECIBEL BREWING COMPANY A family and pet-friendly brewery and tasting room.

18204 Bothell Everett Hwy,
Bothell

CRUCIBLE BREWING Cozy Everett taproom with guest food trucks and outdoor seating.

909 SE Everett Mall Way,
Everett

LYNNWOOD BOWL & SKATE A bowling alley and roller rink dating back to the 1950s with a full bar.

6210 200th St SW,
Lynnwood



EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON

Easy I-5 access makes this the perfect basecamp for hiking the whole region.

20610 44th Ave W,
Lynnwood

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT SEATTLE NORTH

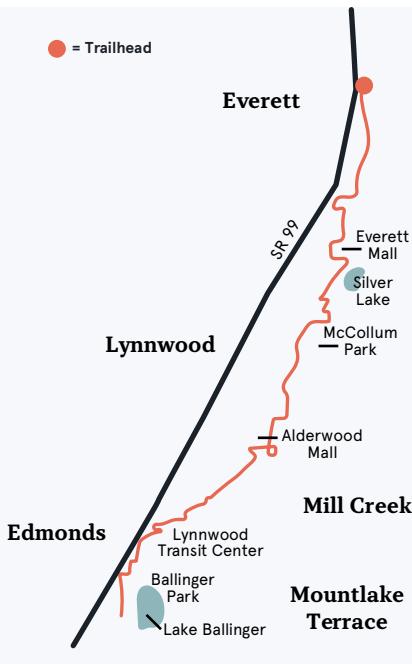
The Courtyard by Marriott offers easy access to the Interurban Trail.

4220 Alderwood Mall Blvd,
Lynnwood

EXTENDED STAY AMERICA

Hop on the Interurban Trail, or spend an afternoon at nearby Silver Lake.

1431 112th St SE, Everett



32

Interurban Trail

Walk or bike from Everett to Seattle on an old trolley route.

ROUNDTRIP: 20 Miles

SEASON: Year round

START: Multiple Locations

The Interurban Trail follows an old trolley route that ran from Everett to downtown Seattle from 1910 to 1930. The Great Depression and the growing popularity of automobiles made the



33

North Creek Park

A bird-watcher's paradise - a 3/4 mile wetland boardwalk.

HIKING: Short nature trails

ELEVATION GAIN: None

SEASON: Year round

PARK ENTRANCE: 1011 183rd St SE, Bothell

Located just outside of Bothell, North Creek Park features an incredible floating trail comprised of more

than 150 sections. The 3/4 mile long boardwalk provides an opportunity to experience the rich diversity of a wetland environment. It is typical to see and hear hundreds of birds and a variety of other wildlife.

Visitors can also take advantage of picnic shelters, tables and a playground.

PARK FEATURES:

- Interpretive Boardwalk
- Restrooms/ Sanicans
- Picnic Shelters
- Viewpoint
- Picnic Tables

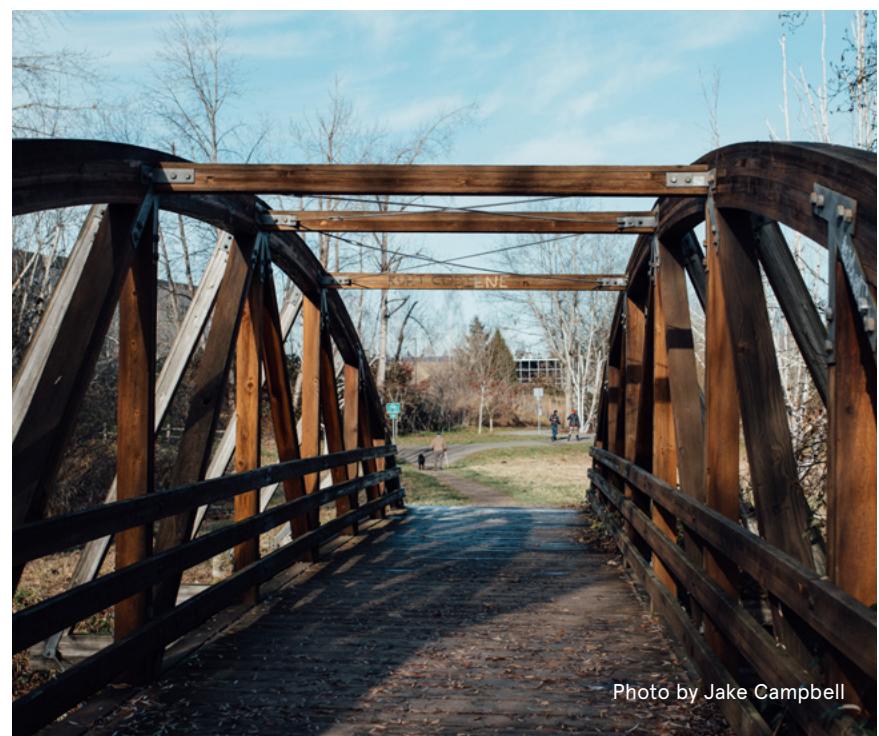


Photo by Jake Campbell

SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY

TRUE PNW

Snohomish County Parks Guide

Vancouver B.C. ▲



Everett *

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Edmonds

▼ Seattle

King County

Skagit County



Darrington



Chelan
County



Monroe

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	COASTAL COMMUNITIES	ACCESIBLE	DOGS ALLOWED	PICNIC SHELTERS	FISHING	PLAYSET	BOAT LAUNCH	CAMPING/RV	WATER ACCESS	TRAILS
1.	Meadowdale Beach	X	X	X	X	X			X	W
2.	Kayak Point Park	X	X	X	X	X			X	W
3.	Wenberg Park	X	X	X	X	X			X	W
4.	Lake Goodwin Park	X	X	X	X	X			X	W
5.	Gissberg Twin Lakes Park	X	X						X	
6.	Picnic Point	X	X						X	
7.	Paine Field Park	X	X	X	X	X				W
8.	Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary	X	X							W
9.	North Creek Park	X	X	X						W
10.	McCollum Park & Pool	X	X	X						WB
11.	Miner's Corner	X	X	X						W
12.	Tambark Creek Park	X	X	X						W
13.	Martha Lake Park	X	X	X						W
14.	Willis D Tucker Park	X	X	X	X	X				W
15.	Bob Herman Wildlife Park			X						W
16.	Lord Hill Regional Park	X		X						WBH
17.	Paradise Valley			X						WBH
18.	Heybrook Ridge Park	X								W
19.	Flowing Lake County Park	X	X	X	X	X			X	W
20.	Lake Roesiger Park		X	X	X	X			X	
21.	Machias Trail Head	X	X	X	X	X				WBH
22.	Lime Kiln		X							W
23.	River Meadows Park	X	X	X					X	W
24.	Twin Rivers Park	X		X					X	
25.	Squire Creek Park	X	X	X					X	
26.	Whitehorse Trail	X	X							WBH
27.	Backman Park	X		X					X	
28.	Nakashima Barn Trailhead	X	X							WBH



More parks and information at SnoCoParks.org

W: Walk B: Bike H: Horse

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES FOR HIKING IN SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY

LAND AGENCIES

Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/

Verlot Visitor Center
(Mountain Loop Highway)
summer only
360-691-7791

Darrington Ranger Station
360-436-1155

Skykomish Ranger Station
360-677-2414

Washington State Parks
parks.wa.gov

Wallace Falls State Park
360-793-0420

Washington Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.wa.gov
Northwest Region Office
360-856-3500

Snohomish County Parks
snohomishcountywa.gov
425-388-6600

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
wdfw.wa.gov

Spencer Island
425-388-6600

HIKING AND TRAIL ADVOCACY GROUPS

Washington Trails Association
wta.org

Everett Mountaineers
everettmountaineers.org

Friends of Lord Hill
[facebook.com/
FriendsOfLordHill](http://facebook.com/FriendsOfLordHill)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU

Main Office
6705 Puget Park Dr,
Snohomish, WA 98296
888-338-0976
SeattleNorthCountry.com