

# Seattle Area Neighborhoods...

## Green Lake

### **An urban village and destination park**

The Green Lake neighborhood is a destination spot for people within Seattle who come to run, bike skate or walk in Green Lake park.

The park also serves as a natural preserve for hundreds of species of trees and plants, as well as numerous birds and waterfowl.

The newly reconstructed 2.8-mile path around the lake provides a perfect recreational spot for runners, bikers, skaters and walkers, and the adjacent 3.2 mile trail is ideal for joggers. Many others use the athletic fields or visit the park for boating, picnics and swimming.

The north Seattle neighborhood is bounded by Wallingford on the south, Greenwood/Phinney Ridge to the west, Maple Leaf to the north and Roosevelt to the east.

The community is mostly single family units with apartments and multi-family housing in the residential urban village area at the east side of the neighborhood.

## Fremont/Phinney Ridge

### **Eclectic, a zoo and lots of dogs and cats**

Drifters, artists, hippies and leather-clad bikers once ruled Fremont streets.

All but the artists drifted away in the early 1990s, but the culture -- and the reputation -- remain.

The lure of art and industry also has persuaded musicians to locate in Fremont, including Stone Gossard of the world-famous Seattle rock band Pearl Jam. He built a major music studio on the western edge of Fremont.

The neighborhood is also renowned for the Fremont Bridge. The blue and orange drawbridge has opened more times than any other on the planet to accommodate boats in the ship canal. About 35,000 cars and trucks use the bridge every day. On summer days, it usually opens every 10 minutes. It has opened 550,000 times since it was built in 1917.

The neighborhood is generally defined as the area bounded on the north by North 46th Street and North Market Street, the east by Stone Way North, the west by Eighth Avenue Northwest and the south by the Lake Washington Ship Canal and the Fremont Bridge.

Fremont's core is one block from the bridge, at the intersection of Fremont Avenue North, North 35th Street and Fremont Place North.

There are art galleries, vintage clothing stores, tattoo parlors, barbershops and knickknack stores. At night, eclectic restaurants, the Empty Space Theatre and a variety of bars and pubs -- including one housed in the original Red Hook Brewery -- make Fremont a destination.

Some of Seattle's best-known statues are in Fremont. "Waiting for the Interurban" and the "Fremont Troll" are well-loved by the community, though some art critics question their quality.

More unconventional is the Lenin statue at 3526 Fremont Ave. N. Originally displayed in communist Slovakia, it is something of a nod to the neighborhood's counterculture roots.

But the face of Fremont has changed.

Small, funky houses and businesses have been replaced by condos and office complexes.

"The hipness has kept pace with the yuppiness. But what Fremont has lost is its hard-core counterculture. I do miss that energy," says Roger Wheeler, a Fremont artist and local historian.

Some residents complain that Fremont's artsy bent does nothing for the average resident, who must put up with increased traffic and escalating rent and home prices.

It is one of the few neighborhoods where people still make things: custom mattresses, beer, Adirondack furniture, pottery, blown glass, dog chow, fleece clothing, custom bicycles and "troll toes."

"Fremont is a state of mind . . . an Imagi-Nation based on the freedom to dream," reads Fremont's 1994 proclamation of independence.

Fremont's neighbor, Phinney Ridge, is not for the short-tempered. People who live there are sometimes kept awake by wolves howling at a full moon or monkeys hooting and yelping at the Woodland Park Zoo. The noises are so loud, they've been heard as far away as Queen Anne Hill.

"You never know what sets them off. You know monkeys," says Jim Westling, a Phinney Ridge illustrator who says his kids love the zoo noise. "How many places can you live and hear monkeys other than Africa?"

And if it's not zoo noises, it's the neighborhood dogs and cats creating a racket. It is estimated that there are three dogs for every fire hydrant in the area.

Phinney Ridge has so many pets it's even attracted a do-it-yourself dog wash, called Rub A Dub Dog, at 6826 Greenwood Ave. N. Paying customers are supplied elevated tub scrub stations, shampoo, doggy conditioner, towels, aprons, brush and blow-dryers.

The neighborhood is named for Guy Phinney, a Brit from Nova Scotia who invested \$40,000 in 1889 in an estate he called Woodland Park. He added ball fields and paths that dropped down the hill to Green Lake, where he built a bathing beach.

Eleven years later, he sold the estate to the city for \$100,000. Today, the Woodland Park Zoo draws about 1 million visitors a year, enough to clog the streets on most summer weekends and grate on the nerves of Phinney residents.

Despite the zoo traffic, many of Phinney's steep and winding side lanes are quiet enough to allow children to shoot hoops in the street.

The neighborhood is known as one of those places where everyone knows your name. It shares a shopping district with nearby Greenwood.

But Phinney Ridge is losing most of its older residents. Many can't keep up with the maintenance on their homes or the rigors of climbing a lot of stairs.

The neighborhood is generally defined as the area bounded on the north by North 80th Street, the west by Eighth Avenue Northwest and Third Avenue Northwest, the south by North 50th Street and the east by Aurora Avenue North.

## Wallingford

### **Tree-lined with distinct family feel**

Wallingford has a distinct family feel, with its tree-lined streets, grand homes more than 100 years old, cozy 1920s bungalows and a lively commercial district.

The neighborhood is bordered by Woodland Park and Lake Union, and Interstate 5 and Aurora Avenue. When Wallingford was platted in the 1880s, the area was mainly cranberry marshes and muck, according to [HistoryLink](#).

Beginning in the early 1900s, industry including shingle mills and asphalt factories, the Pacific Ammonia Chemical Co. and the Seattle Gas Plant lured workers to Wallingford. The neighborhood still boasts a lively marine industry.

A collection of international-themed restaurants, interspersed with bookstores and gift shops, lines both sides of the neighborhood's commercial district along North 45th Street. Wallingford has 1,600 businesses with storefronts, and about the same number of home-based businesses.

## 'Shingle Town USA' comes of age

Generations after the first Danes, Finns, Icelanders, Norwegians and Swedes landed in Ballard, some of the "old country" traditions live on in the neighborhood.

The wave of Scandinavian immigrants crested long ago but left an indelible imprint on Ballard's psyche. The immigrants gave it character and a spirit that remains today.

This Seattle neighborhood is generally defined as the area bounded on the north by Northwest 110th Street, the south and west by Salmon and Shilshole bays and the east by Third Avenue Northwest and Phinney Ridge.

In 1889, when Seattle all but burned down, Ballard's sawmills supplied materials to rebuild the city. For years, Ballard was the No. 1 producer of wood shingles in the world, earning it the nickname "Shingle Town USA."

In those days, Ballard was a rough-and-tumble town. Factory whistles signaled the start and end of the day. Men heading home would stop along Market Street to buy supper or hoist a beer in one of Ballard's many saloons.

The neighborhood sought annexation in 1906 when a dead horse was found in the town's drinking water, forcing residents to find a new supply.

Ballard was also a fishing town, and on Salmon Bay – the birthplace of Ballard – Alaska fishing trawlers remain a dominant presence.

Today, Ballard boasts a number of attractions, including the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, the Lake Washington Ship Canal, Shilshole Bay Marina, Golden Gardens Beach, the Nordic Heritage Museum and historic Ballard Avenue.

The last several years have seen a shift in housing in the area from Market Street to Northwest 65th Street. Single-family homes have given way to condos and apartments, increasing density and traffic.

Ballard has a few commercial districts. Running north-south is busy, four-lane 15th Avenue Northwest, with its grocery stores, chain eateries, pet shops, dry cleaners, auto repair shops and other small businesses.

More unique are Market Street and Ballard Avenue, home to boutiques, galleries, restaurants, pubs and several nightclubs, quickening the pulse of the quiet neighborhood.

Ballard includes the neighborhoods of Loyal Heights, Crown Hill, Blue Ridge, Bitter Lake and Broadview. While the others are primarily residential, Broadview, roughly the

area between North 105th Street and 145th Street from Puget Sound east to Aurora Avenue, is a community that has seen big changes in housing and urbanization.

Annexed by Seattle in 1954, Broadview has changed from an area known for country-like surroundings and amusement parks to one recognized for its community activism aimed at retaining its roots and asserting control over development, including busy Aurora Avenue.

## University District

### **Dymanic relationship with the UW**

Rich forests and meandering streams characterized what is now known as the University District in 1855, when it became part of Washington territory.

Sprawling across land just northwest of the University of Washington, the district takes its name from the campus and maintains a dynamic relationship with the university and its faculty, students and staff members.

That relationship proceeded in fits and starts after 1895, when growing enrollment and the lack of available land near the original university in what was becoming downtown Seattle made a larger campus necessary. Classes opened that year in Denny Hall, the first building on the present campus.

While the U-District's popularity has dwindled somewhat in recent years, it's still the place for college-chic restaurants, taverns, bookstores, music shops, coffeehouses and specialty boutiques, many of them along University Way Northeast, affectionately known as "The Ave."

The Ave has developed a reputation as a rough part of town in recent years, but police are paying closer attention, and the relocation of some businesses back into the neighborhood may be evidence of a rebound.

Business owners also were hoping for positive results from a \$9 million project, begun in June 2001, in which the city is rebuilding the street and sidewalks along University Way in stages from Northeast Campus Parkway to Northeast 50th Street.

The district is still popular among youths and young adults for its annual Street Fair, self-guided public art and culture audio tours, and the Burke-Gilman Trail –12 miles of pavement for walking and bicycling.

North of Northeast 45th Street, the U-District houses students and others in multi-unit complexes and homes on tree-lined neighborhood streets. It also features plenty of art, including the popular "Sasquatch Pushing Over a House" sculpture.

## Home to a view seen 'round the world

Seattle is known for its stunning views, and perhaps no neighborhood in the city has as many sweeping vistas as Queen Anne.

People around the world are familiar with pictures that show the Space Needle set against downtown skyscrapers with majestic Mount Rainier in the background, a scene that sums up Seattle for many -- a modern metropolis just minutes from the Pacific Northwest wilderness. That famous vantage point is from the south side of Queen Anne Hill.

Queen Anne's west side boasts views of the Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, while the eastern slope looks out at the rugged Cascade range.

Queen Anne Hill rises steeply (just ask anyone who's walked up it) 456 feet above Puget Sound. It is named for a style of architecture popular in the 1880s.

Queen Anne is one of the city's most popular (and expensive) neighborhoods. Residents enjoy the proximity to downtown -- just a few minutes away, depending on traffic and lights -- as well as the fact that many of the city's cultural and recreational centers are so close.

The southern end of the neighborhood is home to Seattle Center, the Space Needle, the Experience Music Project museum and Key Arena (home of the NBA's Sonics).

Seattle Center was the site of the 1962 World's Fair, and tourists can hop on the city's monorail for the short ride to the downtown shopping district.

Queen Anne is bisected by Queen Anne Avenue North, a busy north-south road. The neighborhood's two main business districts also revolve around Queen Anne Avenue North.

The area on south side of the hill is dominated by restaurants, bars and shops that cater to people living in nearby apartments, as well as those coming in from outside the neighborhood for Sonics games and events at Seattle Center, such as the popular Bumbershoot Music Festival.

The shopping district at the very top of Queen Anne features upscale grocery stores, swank restaurants and businesses that cater to the affluent residents who live nearby.

## Magnolia

### **Sweeping views, islandlike tranquility**

Along West McGraw Street, the Magnolia village shopping district offers a nice selection of stores and restaurants.

Fisherman's Terminal, across from Ballard on Salmon Bay, is another fun place to eat and shop while watching boats pull into the docks. Built in 1911, the terminal is home to the Alaskan fishing fleet.

It's also a microcosm of the changes happening throughout Seattle. In 2002, the terminal decided to let yachts and other pleasure boats moor there. Fishermen protested, fearing they'd be priced out of their longtime home.

Magnolia is also home to some of the city's most spectacular parks. Discovery Park, on the neighborhood's northwest side, encompasses 534 acres and is the city's largest park. Eagles, herons, falcons, foxes and beavers mingle with joggers and picnickers. Seven miles of trails provide visitors with a wilderness experience and serene views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.

Adjacent to Discovery Park is West Point Lighthouse. It was built in 1881 and is the oldest lighthouse in the Puget Sound area.

On the south end of the neighborhood lies Magnolia Park, which overlooks Mount Rainier and the city skyline. The park provides a picnic area and tennis courts across the street.

## Capitol Hill

### **Capitol Hill: Old Seattle charm, thriving urban center**

Historians say realtor and land speculator James A. Moore, who was credited with the platting of the Capitol Hill area, named it after a similarly named site in Denver. But others say the name stuck after a real estate firm offered space on the hill as part of a proposal to place the area's capital in Seattle.

Whichever the case, by 1908 Capitol Hill and adjacent First Hill had become Seattle's most fashionable districts. Wealthy bankers, shipping executives and other newly rich called it home.

Today the neighborhood is a thriving urban center, and Broadway -- the neighborhood's main drag -- serves as its focal point. Broadway is best known for its assortment of radical shops and tattoo parlors.

The street has been featured in Hollywood's "Singles," where angst-ridden twentysomethings fall in -- and out -- of movie love, and rap artist Sir Mix-A-Lot immortalized its nightlife in his song about a "posse on Broadway."

So it's not entirely a surprise that Capitol Hill is where Seattleites send out-of-towners who seek an interesting place to visit.

During the 1960s, Broadway was informally known as "decorator's row" because of the stores that thrived there at the time. In the 1970s, that gave way to "restaurant row." And in the 1990s, the street was characterized by the emergence of more chains.

The Capitol Hill community is also a hub for religion. It is home to St. Mark's Cathedral, the largest congregation for Episcopalians in the Pacific Northwest.

St. Joseph's Church is also prominent in the historically Catholic neighborhood. In past decades, the area north of St. Joseph's was one of the most heavily Catholic neighborhoods north of San Francisco and west of St. Paul, Minn.

Secular attractions such as shopping and entertainment remain big reasons non-residents of Capitol Hill wind up on the hill. And Broadway still offers a cornucopia of restaurants serving worldly fare at affordable prices.

The area is also considered the center of Seattle's gay community, and it holds an annual Gay Pride week celebration.

During the academic year, Capitol Hill is filled with backpacking students who go to one of the nearby major institutions of higher learning -- Seattle Central Community College and the nationally acclaimed Cornish College of the Arts. Seattle University is on First Hill, but many of its students, faculty and staff work and play on Capitol Hill.

The neighborhood is bounded by Fuhrman Avenue East on the north, Interstate 5 on the west, East Pike Street on the south and 24th Avenue East.

It is home to a number of attractions, including Volunteer Park, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, Seattle Central Community College, Cornish College for the Arts and the Richard Hugo House.

## **Old neighborhoods rich in history**

Madison Park and the nearby enclaves of Washington Park, Broadmoor and Denny Blaine have attracted Seattle's wealthiest families for generations – and even a few celebrities, such as rock star Courtney Love, who recently moved to Los Angeles.

Seattle's first baseball field was built in Madison Park. And the state's first team, the Alkis, played there.

The area was first developed in 1865 by Judge John J. McGilvra from Illinois. McGilvra once practiced law with Abraham Lincoln. Today, Range Rovers and Jaguars swarm Madison Street.

The 200-acre Washington Park Arboretum is regarded as one of the finest public gardens in the United States. It also provides a scenic shortcut to state Route 520 for Madison Valley, Madison Park, Capitol Hill and the Central Area.

Madison Park's exclusive nature is also reflected in the membership fees charged by the Seattle Tennis Club and Broadmoor Golf Club. It costs \$18,000 to join the tennis club, if you can get in. The waiting list is sometimes as long as eight years. Prospective members are screened to determine if they are "compatible socially."

The club, which dates to about 1890, has long been the place for local families to play tennis, swim, socialize and dine in a graciously appointed dining room overlooking about eight acres of gently sloping waterfront. Broadmoor Golf Club's memberships have sold for as high as \$125,000.

Madison Park is also a place where appearances count. It has nine hair salons – all of which are said to be busy, often doing weekly "comb-outs" for women, says a longtime hair stylist.

The commercial district seems to have at least one of everything: a good bookstore (Madison Park Books), a highly touted lingerie shop (Ann Marie) and two bars – the Red Onion, an old-fashioned tavern, and the Attic, known for its good food and a younger clientele.

The commercial hub is at the foot of Madison, near the west end of the Evergreen Point Bridge (aka the 520 bridge). The fact that Madison Park is on a dead-end means less through traffic.

The Red Apple Market may have the distinction of being the only fully carpeted grocery store in Seattle.

If Madison Park has a fault, it may be its lack of ethnic diversity. While the rest of the city has taken on a world of color and cultures, Madison Park remains an island of white people.

But what Madison Park lacks in diversity, its neighbor, Madrona makes up for.

Madrona is a neighborhood that prides itself on its racial diversity and integration.

Almost 30 years have gone by since the Seattle chapter of the Black Panthers set up shop on 34th Street.

The Black Panthers were said to have practiced marching on Madrona Playfield, an image that is hard to imagine today, given the neighborhood's tranquility.

But the neighborhood's diversity is changing. White couples – gay and straight – are snapping up homes in the area, which has been predominantly black for many years.

## Eastlake

### **Working lake transformed into eclectic, quirky community**

Founded about 1890, Seattle's Eastlake community is one of its oldest and quirkiest neighborhoods, located between the University District and downtown, flanking the east side of Lake Union.

The Boeing Co. built its first airplane factory there in 1917. In the early 1960s, Interstate 5 cut through the community's eastern flank and now marks its eastern border.

Other factories and canneries followed. So did homes and apartment complexes. The neighborhood had its first boom in 1919, when the University Bridge opened. The drawbridge still operates today.

But in the 1950s, the development of homes pushed large industry south of downtown and into Ballard. More apartments sprang up. And one of the area's defining characteristics – its houseboat community – began to grow.

Gathered in clusters mostly along the lake's eastern and northern flanks, the houseboats are that in name only. While it's true they float, they are much more home than boat, replete with multiple stories, gardens, interconnected plank boardwalks and pricey values. The community received brief fame in the frothy romantic flick, "Sleepless in Seattle."

The neighborhood now has about 5,000 residents in a mixture of single-family homes and apartments. It has one of Seattle's finest Italian restaurants, Serafina, and one of its most entrenched taverns, The Eastlake Zoo. The Zoo boasts a giant paper mache dragon and is Seattle's only bar that operates as a cooperative.

Voting records indicate that politically, Eastlake leans to the left – not so far as Fremont or Capitol Hill, but with a greater tilt than Wallingford or Ballard.

It has a community organization, The Eastlake Community Council, and a bimonthly newspaper, the Eastlake News.

## Columbia City

### **History and hometown appeal**

The fortunes of Columbia City, a neighborhood named for Christopher Columbus, have risen and fallen over the years.

The neighborhood traces its beginnings to the Great Seattle Fire in 1889. After the fire the Columbia City area was logged heavily and a railroad carried the lumber to Seattle's devastated downtown.

Some industry moved into the area after that, but a streetcar line was shut down and the Rainier Valley neighborhood suffered.

Business declined and crime rose by the 1970s, but turnaround efforts were mounted.

Residents began nightly "dog walks" that reacquainted neighbors with each other and encouraged criminals to stay away. The Wellington Tea Room on Rainier Avenue South, opened 11 years ago, has become a neighborhood hangout.

Forward Thrust money cleaned up an old garbage dump, and the historic business district received landmark status in 1978, making possible tax breaks for those who rehabilitated historic buildings. There are now about 40 such structures.

The stately Andrew Carnegie Library, 4721 Rainier Ave. S., occupies a "village green" in the center of the historic area. The improvements have given the district a turn-of-the-century look while creating hometown appeal.

The neighborhood today lies roughly between South Dakota and Lucile streets, Martin Luther King Jr. Way South and Rainier Avenue South. It was a separate city until Seattle annexed it in 1907.

### **Columbia City Farmers Market**

Wednesdays, 3-7 pm May 11 through October 26.

## **Birthplace of Seattle still going strong**

The founders of Seattle landed at Alki Point in 1851, and the once-remote peninsula has come a long way since the Denny party rowed ashore.

West Seattle -- the city's biggest neighborhood -- today is known for its diversity and variety. There are four distinct neighborhoods (Admiral, Alki, Fauntleroy and Delridge) and a "downtown," a remnant of the days a century ago (1902) when West Seattle was briefly its own little town.

But it's Alki that probably is best known. Its salty charms have waxed and waned since the early days, but the neighborhood has always been a special meeting place of earth, sea and sky.

During the summers, a tsunami of renters, tourists, students and other sun and beach worshippers floods Alki. Its narrow streets, quaint apartments and houses, and cozy restaurants are easily swamped.

It's as if the whole world wants to picnic, sightsee, frolic, walk the dog or party by a bonfire along the beach.

Year-round Alki residents have grown to appreciate the winter months, when Seattle's drizzle takes the sizzle out of Alki's beach scene and gives Alki residents a breather. Parking on Alki Avenue actually opens up, as well as the tables at the neighborhood eateries.

At the opposite end of Alki, on the Duwamish Head, you'll find some of the most breathtaking views in the city: The unbroken sweep of Seattle's skyline is a little like the view of Manhattan from Hoboken, N.J.

At night, Elliott Bay turns inky. Hulking freighters and ferries loom large on the horizon and just as quickly disappear across the bay. Downtown Seattle becomes a backdrop of pulsating color and light.

In the last 25 years, more than 300 homes along a two-mile stretch of beach were torn down and replaced by condos.

And the area has become one of Seattle's hottest condo markets, with units selling for \$275,000 to \$1 million.

But some have refused to sell, and you can still find a dozen or so cottages built during the Depression.