

Coast Salish Place Names

Village Sites

- A. ʔaxʔadis The Growing Place
- B. sluʔwɪl Little Canoe Channel
- C. sʔisul Tucked Away Inside
- D. paqácaʔeʔ Brush Spread on the Water
- E. babaqʔəb Little Prairie
- F. dzidzəlaʔic Little Crossing-Over Place
- G. ʔuʔəlaʔtəʔ Herring's House
- H. sáʔcaqal Water at the Head of a Bay
- I. səxʔiʔicib Place Where One Wades
- J. dəxʔəbqʔuʔ Confluence
- K. sáqʔuʔalqʔuʔ Meeting of Rivers

Water-related Places

- 1. ʔabtalʔixʔ Elderberry House
- 2. sʔacus Face
- 3. sʔəp Deep Water Hole
- 4. basəʔəʔ It Has a Rock
- 5. ʔalqʔadiʔ Blackcaps on the Sides
- 6. sísaltəb Calmed Down a Little
- 7. xʔólic Salt Water
- 8. kʔaatəb Dropped Down
- 9. líqitəd Red Paint
- 10. ʔəʔəb Water Falling Over an Edge
- 11. ʔəʔalqʔuʔ Digging in the Water
- 12. dxʔəʔəʔ translation unknown
- 13. xʔiwaʔiqʔ Lots of Water
- 14. bəʔəʔdaq Spirit Canoe Power
- 15. waqwaqab Croaking
- 16. gʔaxʔap Outlet
- 17. ʔaxʔadqʔuʔ Thrashed Water
- 18. stəxʔugʔiʔ Carry a Canoe
- 19. stəʔal Baby Fathom
- 20. ʔuxʔəʔalqʔuʔ Cold Creek
- 21. xəʔəʔəʔ Small Lake
- 22. qəʔəʔalqʔuʔ Land Otter Water
- 23. ʔəʔəʔus A Trail Descends to the Water
- 24. bulac Spring
- 25. xʔuʔiʔyaqʔayaqs Rushes Used for a Certain Kind of Matting
- 26. ʔəʔəʔiʔ Smelt
- 27. səʔakəʔicid Cooking Fish on a Stick
- 28. sluʔwɪl Canoe Opening
- 29. ʔəʔəʔas Tideflats
- 30. xaxabus Crying Face
- 31. ʔalic Fish Drying Rack
- 32. gʔəʔal Capsized
- 33. pəʔiʔəʔaləp Little Bends at the Tail End
- 34. gʔəʔəʔalʔixʔ Untie the House
- 35. xəʔəʔuʔ Lake
- 36. ʔəʔəʔip Ducklings
- 37. spəʔəʔixad Marshes

Place names are stories; proof of presence, archives of meaning, evidence of ancestry, and a reference for treaties and other legal connections to territory. The place names on this map, written in the Lushootseed language of the Coast Salish people, are drawn from elders who worked with ethnographers in the early twentieth century, from the work of linguists and scholars such as the late Vi Hilbert, and from an atlas created by Coll Thrush and Nile Thompson for the book *Native Seattle*.

dxʔəʔəʔad - NORTH

0 1 miles

- A** Selected Village Sites
- 1** Water-related Places
- J** Other Villages
- 1** Other Named Places
- Upland Forests**
Western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, red huckleberry, blackcaps, trailing blackberry
- Floodplain Forests**
Red alder, bigleaf maple, black cottonwood, stinging nettle, red elderberry, Oregon ash, bitter cherry, beaked hazelnut
- Prairies**
Garry oak, camas, bracken fern, strawberries, salal, balsam root, service berry. Fire was historically used to maintain these resource-rich habitats.
- Freshwater Wetlands and Bogs**
Wapato, tule, cattail, skunk cabbage, devil's club, cranberry, sphagnum moss, crossapple.
- Saltwater Wetlands**
Pacific silverleaf and springbank clover
- Tideflats**
Bitter clam, geoduck, blue mussel, Olympia oyster, acorn barnacle
- Rivers and Creeks**
Trout, whitefish, salmon, waterfowl
- Lakes and Puget Sound**
Freshwater: trout, whitefish, salmon, sturgeon
Saltwater: flounder, perch, salmon, herring
- Modern Shoreline**

Vital ecosystems ensure the health of our landscape and provide the structures that are key to the sustainability of critical habitats for fish, wildlife, vegetation, and ourselves. Coast Salish people harvested over 300 plants and animals from a diversity of carefully tended habitats. These species continue to be integral to the Coast Salish culture today.

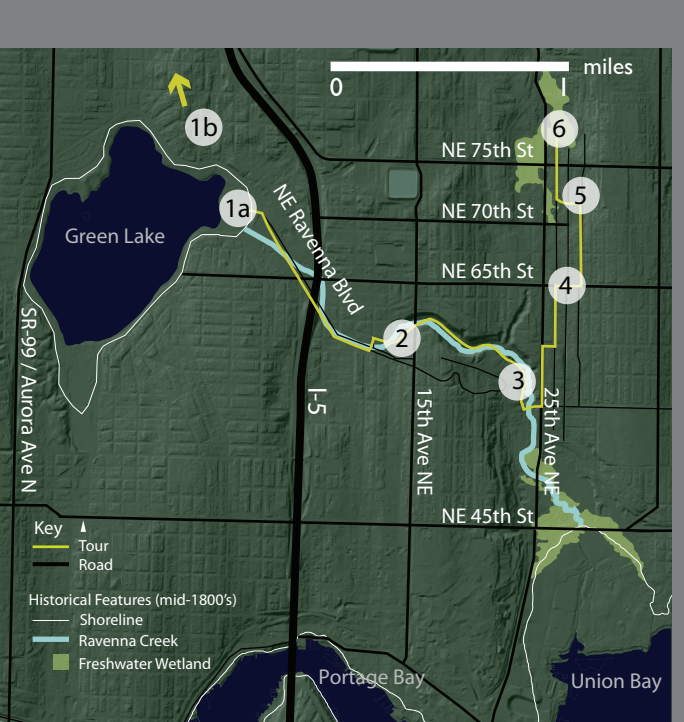
This map is an interpretive photorealistic and hand-painted rendering of the Seattle area in the mid-19th century, just prior to non-Native settlement, based on mapping done by the Puget Sound River History Project. Continue to explore Seattle's landscapes through the tours presented on the reverse side of this map.

Waterlines is a project of the Burke Museum. Please visit us to learn more about Seattle's past landscapes.

www.burkemuseum.org/waterlines

SEATTLE: DISCOVER AND EXPLORE PAST LANDSCAPES

THE WATERLINES PROJECT

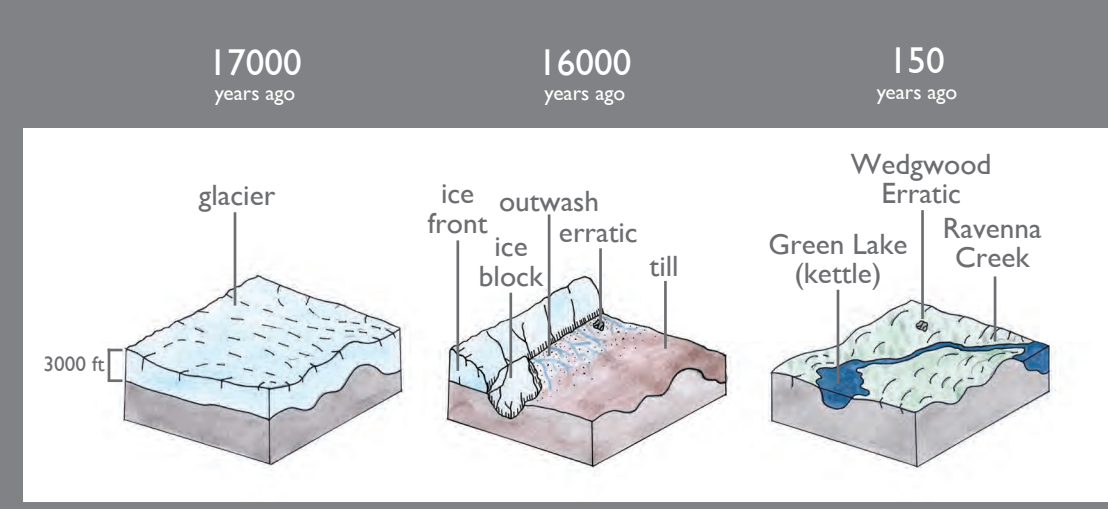


GLACIAL TOUR

Green Lake, Ravenna

6 Miles
WALK
BIKE

Seventeen thousand years ago a 3,000-foot-thick wall of ice encroached from the north. As it spread across the landscape of what is now Seattle, the massive glacier deposited hundreds of feet of sand, clay, gravel, and large boulders. As the ice melted, the moving ice and erosion from glacial streams carved the landscape, leaving behind the region's hill and valley topography, lakes and waterways, and landslide-prone slopes. Coast Salish oral traditions refer to the end of the Ice Age. Today, one of the best ways to appreciate this icy history is to traverse the city's many hills. This tour takes you by many features formed by and during the last time when ice covered Seattle.



During the time the glacier advanced over and then retreated from Seattle, it left behind several distinct layers. A mixture of sediments called till was deposited beneath the ice. Streams of meltwater washing out of the glacier's ice front deposited sand and gravel called outwash. When the ice retreated, occasionally ice blocks were left behind that became kettle lakes such as Green Lake. The retreating glacier also deposited large rocks called erratics, the most famous of which is the Wedgwood erratic.

- 1a** Green Lake
7201 East Green Lake Drive N
- 1b** Licton Springs (optional)
9536 Ashworth Ave N

Though a longer route, this freshwater spring is well worth the additional miles as an alternative start to the tour. A healing place with a long tradition of use, known for its thermal mineral waters and red mud, this one time private spa is now part of a public park. It is one of Seattle's modern place-names derived directly from Lushootseed.



- 2** Ravenna Creek
Ravenna Park

Ravenna Boulevard follows the historic route of Ravenna Creek, which formerly flowed out of Green Lake through Ravenna Park and across what became University Village to Lake Washington. After Green Lake was lowered, the creek was directed into a sewer pipe, leaving only springs and seeps further downstream as source water.

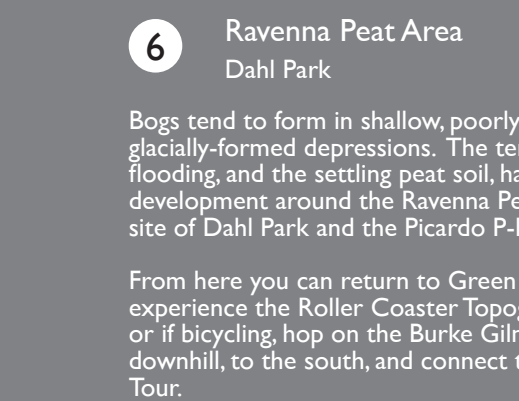
- 3** Mineral Spring
Ravenna Park
- 4** Roller Coaster Topography
NE 65th St

As you go east-west across Seattle, you will notice how you go up and down a series of ridges and valleys. The last glaciation produced the city's roller coaster landscape as it carved a series of north-south parallel ridges and troughs. Traveling north-south is generally easier as you travel along these gorges, rather than across.



- 5** Wedgwood Erratic
28th Ave. NE and NE 72nd St.

When the glacier that covered Seattle retreated around 16,000 years ago, it left behind the rock known as the "Wedgwood Rock." Geologists call these glacially carried boulders "erratics."



- 6** Ravenna Peat Area
Dahl Park

Bogs tend to form in shallow poorly-drained, glacially-formed depressions. The tendency for flooding, and the settling peat soil, has impacted development around the Ravenna Peat Area, site of Dahl Park and the Picardo P-Patch.

colder/drier extremes
tundra and open forest
pine, sagebrush, mountain hemlock, spruce
glacier advances over Seattle
glacier reaches southernmost point and is about 3000 feet above Seattle
Puget Sound is freshwater for short time as glacier retreats
glacier retreats from Seattle area
Puget Sound turns saltwater



LITTLE CROSSING OVER PLACE

Pioneer Square

1 Mile
WALK
BIKE

"Little Crossing-Over Place" is the Coast Salish name for present day Pioneer Square, long a center of human settlement. Formerly a wooded peninsula separated from the mainland at low tide by a sand spit, it was surrounded by the sea and a lagoon fed by a stream flowing from the hills to the east. A major Coast Salish village was located on this promontory. It had a strategic location above a small lagoon, with fresh water, easy access to the Duwamish River and estuary, and direct trail access to Lake Washington. Early Euro-American settlers saw similar advantages in the site, as well as the deep water anchorage just offshore in Elliot Bay. These settlers began to fill the lagoon and Duwamish estuary in 1853, shifting Pioneer Square's western shoreline nearly 500 feet west of its pre-1850 boundary. Vestiges of the deep past are still visible during a walk along the historic streets of Pioneer Square.



The shed-style longhouses of this central Coast Salish village are similar, though smaller, than those usually built further south, around Puget Sound, 1866. [Royal British Columbia Museum]

- 1** Little Crossing Over Place
1st Ave S and S Washington St
- 2** Ballast Island
Pier 48, north of Main St

Ballast Island formed at the end of Washington and Main Streets in the late 1800s, when ships dumped their ballast before taking on cargo. It became a camping spot for Native American workers visiting Seattle or heading to the hop fields because they were excluded from staying in the city. Ballast Island was covered up in the late 1880s.



- 3** Tidal Stream
N of present day Washington Street

A small tidal stream ran into the lagoon that separated the promontory from the rising land to the north and east. This spot was the first to be filled with sawdust from Yesler's Mill at the foot of Yesler Way. Additional sawdust and other debris was used to fill in the lagoon over the next 30 years.



- 4** Lagoon
Occidental Park

The lagoon provided important resources for people living nearby. Flounder were plentiful here. Peat deposits from the lagoon covered by layers of sawdust and debris can still be found underneath Occidental Park.

- 5** Profanity Hill
NE of Yesler Way and 3rd Ave S

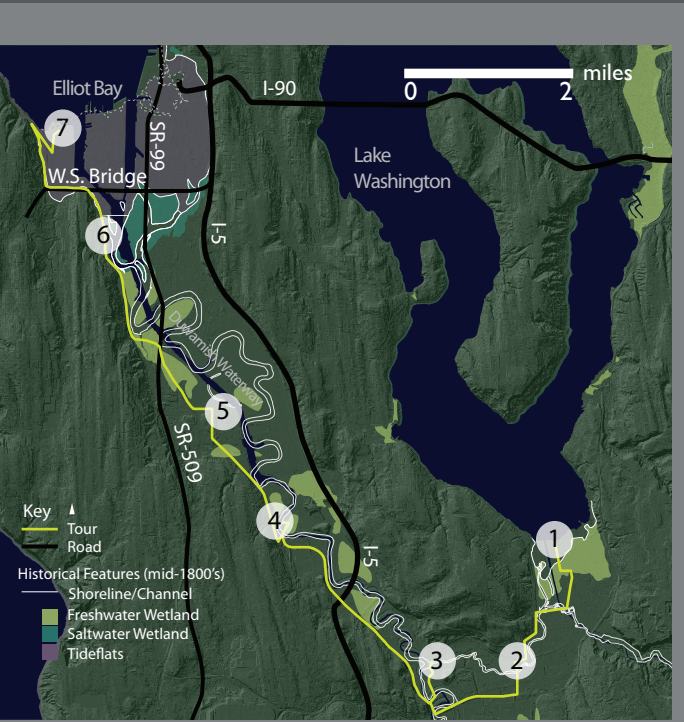
Climbing up this grade will highlight why pedestrians, past and present, have referred to this slope up to First Hill as Profanity Hill. Turn back and consider how difficult it is to navigate Seattle's landscape and realize why early settlers were so eager to regrade the terrain.



- 6** Sand spit
Jackson St and 3rd Ave S
- 7** Fill
Seattle Waterfront and Downtown

Beginning in the 1870s, city engineers dramatically regraded Seattle's steep streets to provide easier access for people and horse-powered transportation.

hunting of mastodon and bison
full rebound of land after glacial retreat
climate warming, sea rising, drought and fire
earliest Seattle area archaeological site
Garry oak savannahs extend their range

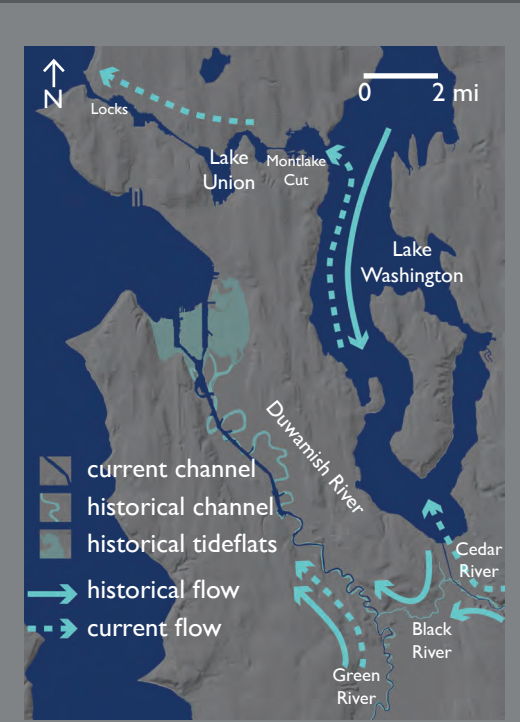


RIVER TOUR

Duwamish River

17 Miles
BIKE
CAR

Tour Seattle's rivers. Although profoundly altered, in recent years the Duwamish River has been undergoing something of an ecological and cultural renewal. The 17 mile river tour goes through one of the few relatively flat areas of Seattle. In August 1916, the Black River, historically the outlet for Lake Washington and the Cedar River watersheds, dried up when the Montlake Cut lowered the level of Lake Washington by 9 feet and diverted the flow through the locks. Around the same time, the Duwamish River was straightened from a 14 mile meandering river to a 5 mile navigable waterway. Engineered changes to Seattle's shoreline destroyed the ecosystems and traditional food sources upon which local Native Americans relied. Nearly all wetlands disappeared in the Duwamish Valley. This land became Seattle's industrial and commercial heartland and an engine of economic growth for the city.



Rerouting of Rivers



- 1** Lake Washington
W Perimeter Rd and Rainier Ave

Stand at the present-day outlet of the Cedar River to Lake Washington next to the Boeing Plant. Before 1916, the lake shoreline was about a half mile to the south. The Black River, dried up by the city's reengineering, was then the outlet for Lake Washington. It flowed south to join the Cedar River, and then on to the confluence of the White River (now Green River) to form the Duwamish River.

- 2** Black River
Hardie Ave SE and Sunset Blvd
- 3** Lahars
Green River Bicycle Bridge

Pass over the Green River, a few feet upstream of its confluence with what remains of the Black River. The playfields to the south are in what was historically a shallow lake. About 2,200 years ago you would have been in Puget Sound, the river's then-mouth being about ten miles upstream in Tukwila. Volcanic mudflows (lahars) from Mt. Rainier changed that, depositing the sediments that now form the Duwamish River valley bottom and shifting the river mouth northward.



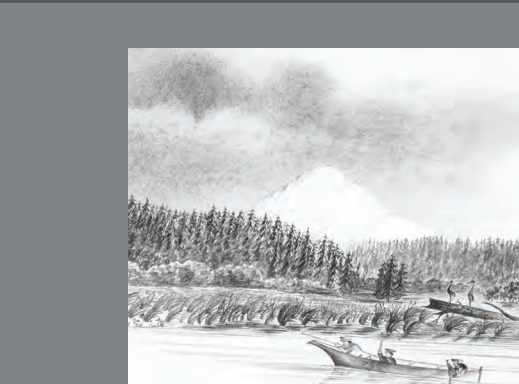
- 4** North Wind's Weir
S 112th St off of Pacific Hwy, Tukwila

At North Wind's Weir, a rock outcropping is visible in the bed of the Duwamish River at low tide. This site has been important to Native people throughout the region. This is also the site of a project to create estuarine habitat for salmon, one of several restoration sites along the river.



- 5** Superfund
Dallas Ave S (oxbow) & 12th Ave S
- 6** T-107 Park & Duwamish Longhouse
4705 W Marginal Way & Duwamish Trail

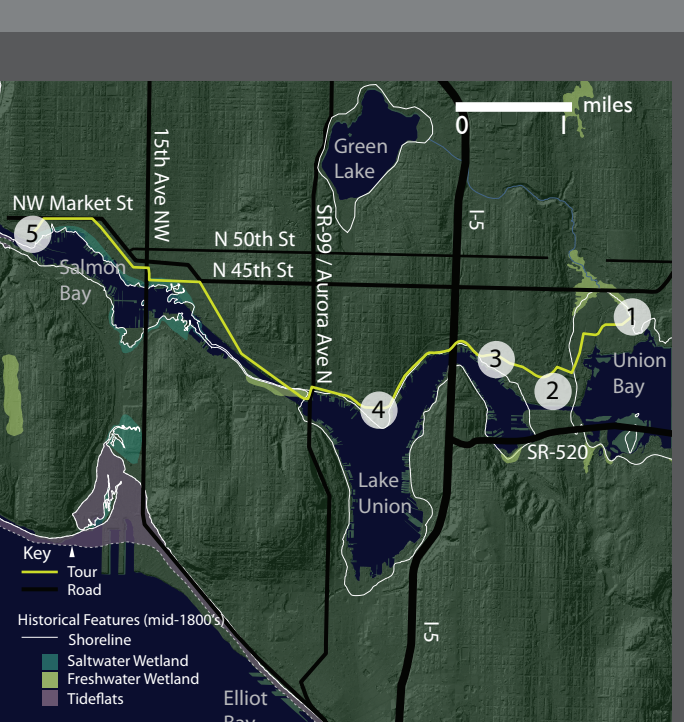
Ride a curved street that follows a former oxbow (an abandoned channel). Pass by the former Boeing Plant 2 that "won World War II" by producing bombers. Several Superfund sites are in this area of the project, polluted from the river's industrial past. Its cleanup will restore habitats and revitalize surrounding communities.



- 7** Tideflats
2130 Harbor Ave SW

End your tour at the "best view of Seattle," from Jack Block Park. Located just out of this sketch on former tidal flats, the park land was created from fill dredged from the Duwamish River in 1909 along with Harbor Island just to the East. Harbor Island was the largest artificial island in the world at the time.

sea level stabilizes, moderate climate (wet winter, dry summer)
salmon re-colonize local rivers
Osceola lahar (mudflow) from Mt. Rainier; delta forms at Auburn



LAKE TOUR

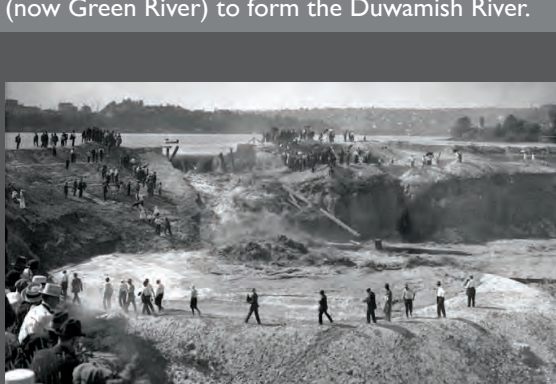
Lake Washington, Lake Union

7 Miles
BIKE
BOAT

Lakes Union and Washington were created during the last glaciation. In the last 150 years, the lakes have been significantly impacted by the construction of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, along with industrial development and intense urban use. Nonetheless it is still possible to get a sense of the lakes before 1850, especially while traveling the water's edge in a canoe, a boat, or on a bicycle. This tour takes you to places along Lake Union and Lake Washington's Union Bay shore that best evoke its pre-settlement past, as well as significant sites of industrial and naval history.

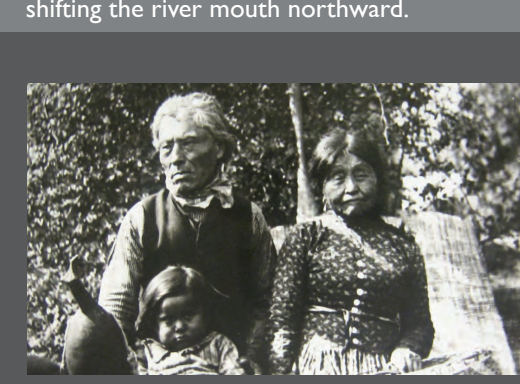
- 1** Union Bay
3501 NE 41st St

Union Bay Natural Area was once open water surrounded by a freshwater wetland. After the lake was lowered by the city's reengineering, the area was filled with construction debris and garbage. The landfill has since been capped and is now a sanctuary for birds and wildlife. Across the bay, Foster Island, a significant Coast Salish cultural site, can be seen. "Little Canoe Hole" was an important village on "Little Canoe Channel" with at least five longhouses and a large fishing weir on Ravenna Creek. Remains of that weir were exposed when Lake Washington was lowered in 1916, but were soon destroyed.



- 2** Montlake Cut
Montlake Blvd NE

People have been crossing this isthmus for centuries aptly called "Garry's Canoe." For a time there was a small log flume here. In 1916, the 'cut' was dug to connect the two lakes for the ship canal, dropping Lake Washington's level by 9 feet to meet the existing level of Lake Union.



- 3** Doctor James Zakuse

Zakuse was known as a doctor for his status as a shaman. He and his family were some of a few remaining Coast Salish people living in the Lake region when the University of Washington campus was built beginning in 1894. They later moved to the Lake Sammamish area.



- 4** Industrial Lake Union

Industry has long been a significant part of Lake Union and Seattle history. The lake has transitioned through logging, manufacturing, military, and now biotechnology and hi-tech. Identified as a potential park by the Olmsted Brothers, Gas Works Park was designed by Rich Haag. The park is a seminal reclamation project highlighting the industrial past.



- 5** Hiram M. Chittenden Locks

Construction of the locks linked Lake Washington and Lake Union to Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean. The engineering project had enormous economic, social, and ecologic impacts on the Seattle region, good and bad. Opening up the inland freshwater lakes resulted in the lowering of Lake Washington and the demise of the Black River.



- 6** Denny Party Area
Dahl Park

1792 Vancouver exploration
1851 Denny Party settles at Alki
1855 Treaty of Point Elliott
1890s informal regrading
1901-1904 failed Beacon Hill regrade (fill to SODO)
1903 Olmsted Master Plan
1906 White River diverted by flood and log jam
1907 - 1910 Jackson Regrade (fill SODO and Harbor Is)
1908 - 1911 Denny Regrade 1 (waterfront side)
1909 Harbor Island
1911 Dearborn Regrade (fill of SODO and Harbor Is)
1913-1930s Duwamish River straightened
1916 Lake Washington drops and Black River disappears
1917 Lake Washington Ship Canal opens
1928 - 1931 Denny Hill Regrade 2

earliest shell middens in Seattle
tools for making cedar canoes and plankhouses in archeological record
modern plant communities are well-established, with active management of resources
Mt. Rainier erupts, sediment from lahars advance the delta to Tukwila
Duwamish delta reaches present location
earthquake on the Seattle Fault raises part of the Duwamish Valley 20 feet and spawns a tsunami in Puget Sound
Wapato processing near the Black River
epidemic diseases

years before present
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
present