



Seattle  Parks **Pathways**
 FOUNDATION

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

LAKE TO BAY → THE LEGACY



The Beginning

A Duwamish village was once located at the southern end of Lake Union. A trail led from this village through a meadow to the west where the Duwamish cleared the forest to create a prairie where blackberries and salal would flourish and hunting could take place.

The trail continued westward to Elliott Bay where encampments for fishing and shellfish collecting were maintained. The trail also served as portage for canoes. White settlers called the clearing “The Potlatch Meadow” in recognition of the many Native American feasts and ceremonies held there.

The Northwest Native American legend of whales swimming underground from Puget Sound to the fresh water of Lake Union is an ancient reminder of the connection between two of the region’s major water assets. It also provides a metaphor for the many historical journeys of various cultural groups through the area.

—From *The Potlatch Trail: Concept Plan*, March 26, 2001, City of Seattle.

Moving Ahead

Citizens, neighborhood groups, and city planners have long dreamt of reconnecting Lake Union, Seattle Center, and Elliott Bay, going back to at least the 1970’s and a concept from the time of an “Entertainment Crescent” linking these areas with Pioneer Square. In 2001, plans for a “Potlatch Trail” were developed, although never implemented. Today the dream is finally being realized.

Over the last three years more than 20 dedicated and visionary community partners have successfully advocated for the Lake to Bay Loop, a beautiful, safe, green walking experience between neighborhoods, cultural institutions, and businesses, connecting four spectacular public open spaces.

The Loop will safely weave through Lower Queen Anne, Belltown, South Lake Union, and Denny Triangle, neighborhoods historically divided by Highway 99, the “Mercer Mess,” and the “Death Valley” created by the Broad Street viaduct. The Loop will provide residents and visitors easy access to Lake Union Park, Seattle Center,

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Seattle Parks Foundation improves, expands, and creates parks and green spaces, building a more vibrant community.

105 South Main Street, #235
 Seattle, Washington 98104

seattleparksfoundation.org



Olympic Sculpture Park, Myrtle Edwards Park, and—eventually—the newly redeveloped central waterfront.

This waterfront connection is a critical part of designer James Corner's vision for what will constitute a successful redevelopment. The waterfront is not just a series of places along a shoreline. It is how Seattle connects to the world and to itself. The Lake to Bay Loop is an important part of what will make the central waterfront a vital gathering place and destination.

The City of Seattle has recently pledged \$150,000 towards design of the 3.5-mile, figure eight-shaped loop. The design and public engagement process will get underway this spring and conclude next winter.

Connecting Us All on Bands of Green

Seattle Parks Foundation's interest in the Lake to Bay Loop has its roots in the 2006 *Bands of Green* report, commissioned by the Foundation and produced by

Cedar River Group. The report identifies more than 50 proposals for trails, boulevards and linear parks throughout Seattle, and calls out a Lake to Bay Trail as a "necessary connection." In the recently released 2011 update to this report, the Loop is identified as one of four Bands of Green plans taking hold at the neighborhood level.

While the Loop will be an extraordinary asset for pedestrians and bicyclists in the city, its greatest value may be as a central component in our regional trail system. With the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop and Burke-Gilman Trail to the north and east, Myrtle Edwards Park and the Elliott Bay Trail to the west, and the East Duwamish Greenbelt, the Chief Sealth Trail, and the Cedar River Trail to the south, the Lake to Bay Loop is an important "missing link" in a larger network that will ultimately provide more than 300 miles of recreational trails among the region's parks and open spaces.

The Role of Seattle Parks Foundation

Seattle Parks Foundation is committed to the continued development of trails, neighborhood greenways, and linear parks in Seattle. Our Bands of Green plan realizes, extends, and adapts the original Olmsted vision for our modern city. Part of our mission is to "build a more vibrant community" in Seattle. We believe these green connections are the routes along which such a community flourishes.

In a time of economic uncertainty we could shy away from large-scale projects. Instead, we choose to be inventive in our approach, defining new methods of working in partnership with government agencies, community groups, and private partners to gather more and different resources to achieve a shared vision.

As the design for Lake to Bay evolves we will ensure that green elements are incorporated throughout the Loop. We will share financial management and fundraising skills to help neighborhood groups secure the funds to participate in the Loop's development and ongoing maintenance. And we will work with our friends in City Hall to advocate for the funding appropriate to a project that—after one-hundred-fifty years—reconnects two bodies of water so essential to our shared history and identity.

Latest Studies Inform Foundation's Priorities

- Bands of Green: 2011 Update and Recommendations
- Sustaining Seattle's Parks: A Study of Alternative Strategies to Support Operations and Maintenance of a Great Urban Parks System
- The Economic Benefits of Seattle's Park and Recreation System

Available for download at seattleparksfoundation.org, or call Greta at 206.332.9900 x10 to request a hard copy.



MAP COURTESY OF CUSHING TERRELL

Working Together: Making Great Connections

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Seattle Parks Foundation
Seattle Center Foundation

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

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Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
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Feet First
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Office of the Mayor



Why I Love the Lake to Bay Loop

by John Goodfellow

As an owner of Venik Lounge and Banya 5 Spa on 9th Avenue near the future Lake to Bay Loop, my interest was piqued when I first heard about this project. I've always been concerned about the extremely limited options for safe and convenient east-west travel in the South Lake Union neighborhood, and the ability of my customers and employees to access my businesses safely by foot and bike.

Now, with the area growing at such a fast clip and so many transportation and development projects underway, we can leverage the momentum of current projects and create a much-needed safe bicycle and pedestrian route—the Lake to Bay Loop.

I support the Lake to Bay Loop because it is a project that just makes good sense, plain and simple. You have a growing neighborhood, new businesses, tremendous cultural and recreational opportunities, and an increasingly vital new pedestrian district. Currently access to the area is very limited. There are only three places you can cross Aurora (Denny, Mercer and Broad), and all three are very uninviting to pedestrians and bicyclists. The design of the North Portal of the SR 99 tunnel reconnects the street grid, with new crossings at Thomas, John and Harrison streets. With these improvements, the Lake to Bay Loop

will connect a newly integrated part of the city, and be a delightful public space in its own right. And of course, allowing people safe and easy wayfinding will bring foot traffic to the area, which is good for *all* the businesses along the way.

Building the Lake to Bay Loop as soon as possible is the right thing for our city to do for so many reasons. I am excited to see the design of this project finally getting underway. I hope my neighbors in South Lake Union, Queen Anne/Uptown, Denny Triangle and Belltown will join me in participating in this process, and help make the Lake to Bay Loop something truly special.

John Goodfellow A Seattle native, John Goodfellow is a long-time supporter of Seattle's parks, green spaces, and maritime heritage. He owns Banya 5 Spa and Venik Lounge, both located in South Lake Union near the future Lake to Bay Loop, and is a landlord in the neighborhood. A sailor and aficionado of maritime history, he also enjoys music and singing, and issued his first CD, *Songs of Awe*, in 2010. John lives with his wife and daughter near Volunteer Park, where he is currently working with the Parks Foundation and Seattle Public Utilities to design and implement an aesthetic lighting project at the historic Volunteer Park Water Tower which will be implemented this spring. Over the past seven years John has generously supported improvements at the Volunteer Park Lily Ponds, Denny Park, Waterway 18, and Lake Union Park.



Just consider the opportunities for ambling into cafes, book stores, coffee houses and meeting friends.

Thanks to Parks Levy funds and a federal grant, money is in hand to complete the West Thomas Street pedestrian overpass to connect Lower Queen Ann to Myrtle Edwards Park. The goal now is to build on design work already done for Thomas Street and the Mercer project, and to determine "elements of continuity" and way-finding along the Loop. Once this framework is in place, we'll reach out to neighborhoods and interested groups and invite them to create their own "Elements of Distinction" along the way.

The vision is on its way to becoming a reality. This is the "Seattle Process" that makes me proud. Thanks to the team for all their good work. I am thrilled about the possibilities!

Sally Leads the Way

Adapted with permission from Councilmember Sally Bagshaw's blog

One of my delights this year is to see our Lake to Bay Loop project getting underway.

This is an excellent example of gathering stakeholders for a successful "Seattle Process." The Lake to Bay Loop Committee is comprised of an Interdepartmental Team that has leveraged funds from the East Mercer Project to begin implementation of a vision for what is fondly known in our office as L2B.

The Loop could feature green promenades, pedestrian amenities including special lighting, widened sidewalks and seating along the way, art, specimen trees, and much more.

Stimson Bullitt Giving Circle Welcomes New Members

Keith and Kathy Biever first moved to the Seattle area in 1961, having never visited before, and immediately fell in love with the city and its greenery.

An avid hiker and walker, Kathy leads hikes for the Mountaineers, many of them in the city. She delights in introducing fellow hikers to a variety of public features, including parks, libraries, sundials, outdoor clocks, lighthouses, and public sculpture. She calls one of her favorite hikes "The Wilds of Queen Anne," which includes 22 parks and green spaces along an 8-mile route. Another is Academic Amble, which begins at the University of Washington, continues to Seattle Pacific University on the Burke-Gilman Trail, and ends at Seattle University, where each finisher gets a "diploma."

For Keith, relocating to Queen Anne in 2002 was an opportunity to become involved with their new neighborhood's parks. He recalls, "We had barely unpacked our boxes when I learned that the Uptown Alliance needed volunteers for the 1st West Streetscape Project. So I grabbed my shovel and headed down the street to help with the landscaping." Shortly thereafter he became chair of the Uptown Alliance Parks Committee, where he worked with Seattle Parks Foundation on Counterbalance Park.

Given their longtime commitment to Seattle's green spaces, it was natural to include a bequest to parks in their estate plans. As they put it, "With our love of and involvement with parks, we are pleased to have the opportunity to include Seattle Parks Foundation in our wills."

Join us for a guided walk around Lake Union

Kathy Biever will lead us in circumambulating Lake Union on the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop. We will walk past and explore P-Patches, street end parks, floating homes, sculptures, and more. The walk is 6 miles with minimal gain. Meet at Gas Works Park on Friday, May 27, from 10am-2pm. We will stop for lunch at Ivar's Salmon House and eat on the deck, then return to Gas Works Park by 2:00 pm. For more information, or to sign up for the walk, contact Lydia Bassett at Lydia@seattleparksfoundation.org or (206) 332-9900 x15.

THE STIMSON BULLITT GIVING CIRCLE

- Keith and Kathy Biever
- Marjorie Boetter
- Karen Daubert
- Barbara Feasey
- Brian Giddens and Steve Rovig
- Roy Hamrick
- Pamela McCabe



KEITH AND KATHY BIEVER

thank you!

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