

Seattle Neighborhoods

When looking at neighborhoods, be sure to keep in mind accessibility by local transportation to important places such as the University of Washington . The following are general descriptions of local neighborhoods.

Ballard: Scandinavian fisherman and loggers founded Ballard bordering Puget Sound, and the maritime influence is still strong. A large pleasure-boat marina with seafood restaurants and spectacular views of the Olympic Mountains lies adjacent to public beaches at Shilshole. Ballard offers lower prices and a wide variety of housing options, with good bus service to the University.

Capitol Hill: A diverse shopping and residential area, with some of the city's loveliest old mansions, lies on the hill South of the UW campus. The Capitol Hill area is an urban neighborhood, with a large co-op house population. Rents are similar to the U-district, and there is an abundance of shopping, restaurants, and entertainment. Parking is tight, but the bus service is good.

Eastlake/Lake Union: The neighborhood borders Lake Union's working waterfront, where you're likely to see retired military vessels, oceanographic ships, and tugboats. A colorful houseboat community is moored at the northern end, and several restaurants front on the lake.

Fremont/Wallingford: Fremont is a neighborhood of small shops, ethnic restaurants, and artist's studios. Wallingford hosts small restaurants, shops, taverns, and nightspots frequented by university students. Gasworks Park and the beginning of the Northlake/Burke-Gilman Trail are located in Wallingford. Both neighborhoods are popular rental locations and have a number of reasonably priced rentals with fairly easy access to UW.

Green Lake: Seattle's most popular neighborhood for outdoor recreation focuses on Green Lake, a popular location for joggers, bicyclists, walkers, and roller skaters/bladers who make their way around the three-mile perimeter path. This has become a very popular area, and rent is nearly as high as the university district. Bus service to UW is good.

North Seattle/Northgate: This major residential area has at its heart one of the Northwest's first indoor shopping centers, Northgate Mall. Rentals are a bit larger and less expensive here with easy bus/highway access to UW.

Queen Anne/Magnolia: Rising 456 feet north of downtown and the Denny Regrade, Queen Anne hill is an historic residential and small business community overlooking the Seattle Center and Elliot Bay. Magnolia's Discovery Park overlooks Puget Sound and has some great views (for which rents tend to be higher)! Metro routes from parts of these areas to UW can be long and may require a bus transfer.

Roosevelt: Located just north of the U-district and east of Green Lake, the Roosevelt neighborhood is largely residential with many of the homes dating from the early 1900's. This is a good area to

shop for antiques and to sample ethnic cuisine. The area offers a number of rentals and good UW access.

University District: This area offers all types of housing, but you definitely pay for it! Rents are high and many units are not well maintained. Parking is also difficult to find. The benefit to living in this area is that it has everything you need (laundromats, shopping, movie theaters, health clubs, restaurants and, of course, campus) within walking distance. Metro bus service in this area is better than in any of the other residential areas.

University Village/Ravenna: Primarily residential, this area offers a small shopping area, easy UW access, and a beautiful park/play area (Ravenna Park). This side east of the UW is a bit quieter than the U-district proper.



Neighborhoods: Beyond Seattle

Edmonds/Lynnwood: The suburbs of Seattle extend some thirty miles north along Interstate 5 and can be considered as a housing option. The rents can be considerably less expensive than within the city limits. Additionally, there is more space devoted to yards, parks and lakes. Keep in mind that rush hour traffic, and some weekend traffic, can be particularly slow.

Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, & Issaquah: Two floating highway bridges—Evergreen Point (520) and the Mercer Island (Interstate 90)—connect Seattle with the busy Eastside communities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, and, further out, Issaquah. A drive east of Lake Washington introduces a wealth of quality shopping and dining opportunities. These bridges back up in heavy rush-hour traffic and are occasionally subject to closure.

