South Park Walking Tour

Description

This route explores the constantly evolving neighborhood of South Park, one of the city’s oldest areas. The highlights are a visit to the great community asset, Marra Farm, and beautiful views of the Duwamish River at the Duwamish Waterway Park. This walk is best on a dry day because the paths on Marra Farm can be somewhat muddy and hard to traverse in the rain. This route does not pass through any play areas. However, if you interested in visiting a playground, the South Park Playground is just north of S Cloverdale St on 8th Avenue S.

Start at: S Cloverdale Street & 7th Avenue S
How to get there: Accessible by Metro bus routes 60 and 132. Plan your trip at tripplanner.kingcounty.gov.
Length: 1.78 miles
Estimated Time: 50 minutes
Difficulty: Easy to moderate, one steep hill at beginning but mostly flat
Services: Restrooms at South Park Library
Restrictions: Not ADA accessible
Points of interest: Cesar Chavez Park, “Musical Steles” sculpture, Concord International School, “South Park Vortex”, Marra Farm, Duwamish Trail, South Park Library, “South Park Lights” art piece, Oromo Church, South Park Neighborhood Center, Duwamish Waterway Park
South Park Walking Tour

Directions

1. **Start on S Cloverdale Street and 7th Avenue, there are some bus lines that run on S Cloverdale and nearby. At this intersection there are some interesting sights to check out.**
   On the north side of S Cloverdale St is Cesar Chavez Park, the park features an interactive, musical sculpture called “Musical Steles”, by the acclaimed artist Jesus Bautista Moroles. Just past the park, underneath the tunnel that arches over S Cloverdale St, is a collection of colorful murals. When you are done in this area, head south on 7th Ave S.

2. **Walk down 7th Avenue S for about five blocks. When you pass Trenton St, you should see an old windmill on your left.**
   Continue up the hill and past Concord International School, a dual-immersion, Spanish-English, elementary school that provides a bilingual education for local students.

3. **Continue down the hill to S Director Street, and take a right. You are now at Marra Farm. Proceed to the walking path that parallels S Director Street and keep walking west.**
   On your left will be the “South Park Vortex”, created by artist Horatio Hung-Yan Law from more than 450 snowflakes crafted by community members.

4. **At 5th Avenue S, step onto the woodchip trail just past the garden and farm.**
   Marra Farm is a 4-acre urban farm that provides garden space for local residents, food for community organizations, and educational programs about sustainable agriculture. The farm is named after the Marra family, an Italian family of farmers that owned this plot from the early 1900s to the 1970s, when it was sold to the county. The farm and its many programs are run primarily by volunteers, and more information can be found on their website. As you walk along this path you will encounter many signs with additional information about Marra Farm.

5. **Continue on the woodchip path around the perimeter of the farm, when you are heading south and are near the Children’s Garden you will pass the Hamm Creek Lost Fork. Follow the trail back around, and take the right fork of the trail to cross the footbridge and get back to the street.**
South Park Walking Tour

6. Continue down S Director Street, take a left onto 8th Avenue S, and then a right onto S Henderson Street. Cross the footbridge over the freeway, and notice the mural depicting an underwater scene.
   This was completed in 2010 by local artist Amaranta Ibarra-Sandys, and students from Concord International School.

7. Once you cross the bridge, walk to the right and under the overpass to get onto the Duwamish Trail, a path that connects West Seattle and Georgetown and follows the Duwamish River.

8. Veer to the right on 8th Avenue S, back to S Cloverdale Street. On your right is the South Park Library, on the 8th Avenue side of the building is a projection art piece by Franklin Joyce called, “South Park Lights”.
   The projected images are based on community inspired ideas about the essence and future of South Park. On the opposite side of the intersection is a building that formerly housed Mike’s La Cantina, and was built in 1908 at the end of the streetcar line on S Cloverdale Street.

9. Walk to the right (east) on S Cloverdale Street and then take a left on 10th Avenue S and walk north. This street is mostly residential, but early on you will pass an Oromo Church and a few blocks later, the South Park Neighborhood Center.
   At the intersection of Dallas Ave S and 10th Avenue S, you will come across a small, but charming green space with some benches. Just a bit further up 10th Avenue you will reach the Duwamish Waterway Park.

10. The Duwamish Waterway Park is the terminus of this walk.
    Be sure to spend some time at this spot. There is a good amount of waterfront space with a nice, sandy beach. In addition there are BBQ pits and picnic tables, as well as benches that offer a place to sit as you watch the boats pass along the river. This park is a true gem in the midst of an industrial area.