

Maneet Virk

Transportation

Transportation is very well connected and maintained in the community of West Seattle. There are many resources that facilitate a seamless transit for the citizens of this community, such as taxi services, the metro system, water taxi shuttles, and a light rail system. It is, however, important to note that the indefinite closure of the West Seattle High-Rise Bridge has brought unique challenges to traveling to and from West Seattle and surrounding areas. To combat this, though high bridge routes are being redirected to low bridge routes, the water taxi service is being increased, and plans are being made to maintain the transit system. Furthermore, the taxi service in West Seattle provides an extensive network for commercial hubs and other surrounding areas. Lastly, the light rail project is underway with plans being made to provide commuters with extensions between West Seattle, surrounding areas, and Ballard.



King County Photo by Ned Ahrens



West Seattle Parks and Greenway Spaces taken by Walt Hundley Playfield

Aditi Subramanyam

West Seattle Environment

Sustainable Practices and Projects

The community of West Seattle has invested a lot in maintaining their environment and making sure that while the city grows, the natural areas aren't lost as well. In fact, one of the most recent projects of the neighborhood-Project West Seattle Neighborhood Greenway which is in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Neighborhood greenway residential streets are being closed off from traffic, and just for pedestrian use to walk through and enjoy the greenery while getting exercise and fresh air. Promoting this method of transportation not only promotes a healthy lifestyle but cuts down carbon emissions from other methods of transport. While doing the virtual neighborhood visit, these restricted streets were prominent throughout and many bike lanes and spaces for walkways were also quite common. Another project, the Greenways Initiative, though halted currently by the pandemic, was investing more into local parks and creating more areas that weren't subject to urbanization

but rather areas where people, who are living in a city lifestyle can still connect with nature while preserving those areas and the species and biodiversity they contribute to the city. Studies have shown a positive correlation between increased greenspaces as well as incorporating a multitude of diverse spaces and increased health in a population. Members of this community are actively looking for ways to decrease the carbon footprint of this neighborhood and promote environmentally friendly practices. Several non-profits have been established in West Seattle, whose purpose is to promote sustainable practices throughout the neighborhood. A prominent example of an organization is Sustainable West Seattle. This non-profit hosts events from Green Expo's to Movie Nights all to educate the neighborhood and provide ways that each person can contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.

People of West Seattle

West Seattle is the oldest of Seattle's neighborhoods and has a current population of 79,914 residents. 86.23% of those residents are white collar employees while 13.77% of those are blue collar employees. It is a predominantly white neighborhood

however, the next two biggest racial groups are Asian and Hispanic origins. The median age of a West Seattle resident is 38. In 1851, the first Euro-American settlers arrived on Alki Point but left to move to present-day downtown Seattle. The people of West Seattle are known for being environmentally conscious, politically astute, and proud of their community.

Molly Hines

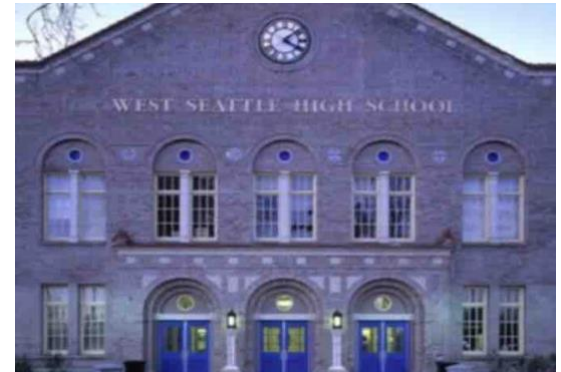
Education in West Seattle

Test Scores and College Success

West Seattle Schools have seen great test scores in this past year, passing the national average. For English West Seattle High School score of 87% meanwhile the national average is 61%. For Math WSHS had an average score of 56% and the national average was at 50%. West Seattle schools have also navigated through doing online schooling during COVID-19. They have created a well-rounded curriculum that can be taught

virtually. The high school, which almost all West Seattle elementary and middle schools feed into, has a 93% graduation rate. They also have a high standardized test scores with SAT being 1200 and ACT being 27. Another strong aspect of the West Seattle school system is that they offer AP classes for high school students. About 28% of students on campus take these AP classes which set them up for college success. Overall, the West

Seattle School System fosters academic excellence and prepares students for higher education.



West Seattle High School creates a supportive academic environment for over 1,000 Seattle residents. The memorable building architecture is well known throughout the Seattle area.



Alki Beach Park in West Seattle taken by Laurel Mercury

Kayla Marinas

Public Parks and Green Spaces

Effects of Nature on Wellbeing

West Seattle contains a wide variety of public parks and recreational opportunities. When I virtually visited the neighborhood, I observed that the beauty of the parks did live up to the way they were described in my background research. I was most surprised by the great expanse of green space that West Seattle Hold. These parks are an asset to the population health of the community because they increase physical activity,

improve mental health by reducing stress, provide a safe space for people to exercise and play, and can reduce air and water pollution. The community of West Seattle has improved access to these public spaces by connecting parks with trail systems, implementing staircases, and various paths. Overall, the wellbeing of West Seattle's residents has been positively affected by the access to nature and public parks.

Daria Ten

Business and Industry

The Neighborhoods of West Seattle and Delridge are located right next to the Industrial Seattle District, putting the areas in proximity with Duwamish Waterway and Elliot Bay nearby. Most of West Seattle is characterized as a part suburban and residential with small businesses found along main streets such as California Ave. Parts such as Alki Beach is lined with cafes and restaurants, while residential areas are adjacent with shopping and small entertainments outlets. Businesses in West Seattle are most likely to present their customers with higher quality service and products, accordingly with the median income of the neighborhood (around \$90,000).

Alki and California Avenue are perfect places if you are looking for a place of entertainment with an unusual twist or a character of its own. It is also a popular spot to invest in discovering locally sourced produce, coffee and home goods. The market for ethically and environmentally conscious products is growing in West Seattle, becoming a leading feature of existing and newly-established businesses around the neighborhood.

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