

Activating Daybreak Star

Prepared for the Dabreak Star Indian Cultural Center
University of Washington Department of Urban Design and Planning
Masters of Planning Studio Spring 2025

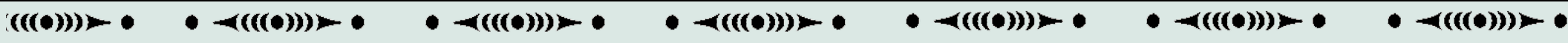


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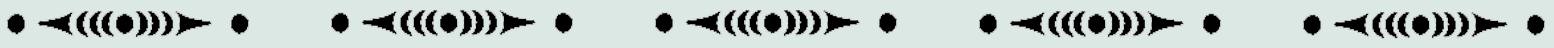
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◀◀◀ Studio Positionality ▶▶▶

Our studio group comprises predominantly white, American-born settlers living in Seattle, pursuing Master's degrees in Urban Design and Planning at the University of Washington. We are working on the unceded lands of the Coast Salish people, specifically those of the Duwamish, Suquamish, Stillaguamish, and Muckleshoot Tribes. We recognize the colonial foundations of our disciplines and the privileges we hold, and we are committed to deepening our understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, and practices. Guided by Indigenous perspectives, we aim to support sovereignty and decolonization efforts through our work.

This project is developed under the guidance of Assistant Professor Dylan Stevenson (Prairie Band Potawatomi descendant), in coordination with the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF), the Daybreak Star Center, and Professor Christopher Teuton (Cherokee Nation). While we have visited the site and engaged with public resources, we do not have direct contact with UIATF; any such engagement would occur under the guidance of our faculty and in accordance with appropriate protocols and cultural practices. Our focus is on the broader Indigenous presence in Seattle and the Pan-Indigenous perspective of the Daybreak Star Center is informed by the work of UIATF, Bernie Whitebear, Lawney L. Reyes, Coll Thrush, and other community resources.

Regarding data handling, collecting, and studio member responsibilities, our project acknowledges and upholds Indigenous Data Sovereignty and the inherent right of the UIATF to govern the collection, ownership and application of data that pertains to their people, lands, and resources (Riedel et al., 2020). All data, information and materials collected throughout the course of this project are the property of the Daybreak Star Center. Unless otherwise stated, the Center retains full rights to all data and materials collected for the purpose of this project. We recognize that we have used colonial mapping methods in line with the existing visualizations on the site but are open to more inclusions of indigenous methods.



◀◀◀Studio Values▶▶▶

We understand that the land we propose to plan on holds layered histories and independent relationships with Native peoples. Our proposed programming aims to elevate these layers and view them not as static histories but as living narratives connected to place, identity, and ongoing stewardship. By centering the physical and cultural features of the site such as: existing artworks, landscapes, and viewsheds, we hope the tours reflect the richness and complexity of Seattle's indigenous relationship to Land and Water. Our Studio, focusing on developing programming for the Daybreak Star Center, is guided by respect for indigenous narratives, knowledge systems, and sovereignty. We have focused on centering indigenous perspectives and values in every stage of the work. In alignment with our values of community engagement and facilitation, we hope that our programming creates experiences that are participatory, inclusive, and meaningful. Where appropriate, we will seek opportunities for collaboration with Indigenous communities. We recognize our positionality as students and settlers and approach this work as learners and in service to the greater indigenous community.

We value a robust historical understanding that acknowledges both the challenges and the resilience of Indigenous people in Seattle, particularly in urban contexts. Our studio team has taken care to ensure that all facets of the proposed programming are accurate, respectful, and rooted in indigenous authority/authorship. We would like to acknowledge that this work is ongoing and is a process. The ongoing nature of this work is what allows us to achieve our collaborative goals.

Finally, the programming will be accessible to a broad range of physical abilities and transportation modes, with attention to clear wayfinding, resting space, and information delivery. The goal is to create an experience that is informative, respectful, and emotionally resonant. We hope to invite visitors to reflect on deeper indigenous histories and futures of the land and water they are existing on.

««Executive Summary»»»

The main goal of the studio tour was to develop a comprehensive, engaging and informative walking tour for Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, which is located in Discovery Park, in Seattle, Washington. In creating this walking tour, the studio hopes to provide the United Indians of all tribes foundation with a lasting tour to engage visitors of the site. The group also hopes to draw in visitors from the greater Discovery Park area. In creating this walking tour, the studio will engage with Indigenous history, the history of Discovery Park, and the greater Seattle area. Before starting, research was done on a variety of topics, including the aforementioned histories, the architecture of Daybreak Star, the conditions of the site, the ecology of Discovery Park, and Indigenous Business and Artworks. Together, the studio conducted site visits, created data-driven maps, reviewed precedents, and created design visions in order to develop the final walking tour.

The studio was then divided into two sub groups in order to create a wider palette of options for the site. These groups each have a section of this booklet dedicated to the final works they produced.

Team 1

Team 1 created a walking tour based on layered histories. The layers are Daybreak Star, Natural World, Settler-Colonial/Fort Lawton, and Indigenous Culture and Storytelling. Each layer is represented by a different color in the groups' maps, where each stop can represent one or multiple histories. Group A connected Daybreak Star to several locations citywide that are of indigenous importance: South Lake Union, West Seattle, Downtown/Pioneer Square, and the University District, along with Daybreak Star level plans, and Discovery Park plans.

Team 2

The broad goal of Team 2 was to create a walking tour based on land and water. Each group member created a vignette, a map, and a narrative for their created route. Routes varied from a kayak tour to an urban hike from downtown Seattle to Discovery Park. Each route highlighted Indigenous businesses, Indigenous Art, and other areas of ecological or historical importance.



Project Community Partners

To identify project stakeholders, we researched relevant groups/organizations who would be affected by or involved in the project in some way. Next, we researched the individual interests of each identified stakeholder, and noted overlap with our studio's overall interests and values. Based on this overlap, we categorized stakeholders into four different groups based on the stakeholder's overall interest in the project and the stakeholder's overall influence. The below graphic visualizes the results of our findings by placing stakeholders on an xy axis based on overall influence and project interest. For further information on the stakeholder analysis process and the groups themselves, see Appendix B.

Stakeholder List

Actively Involved (High Interest/High Influence)

United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Urban Native Community
UIAT Education Coalition
Friends of Discovery Park
Lawtonwood Residents

Keep Satisfied (Low interest/High Influence)

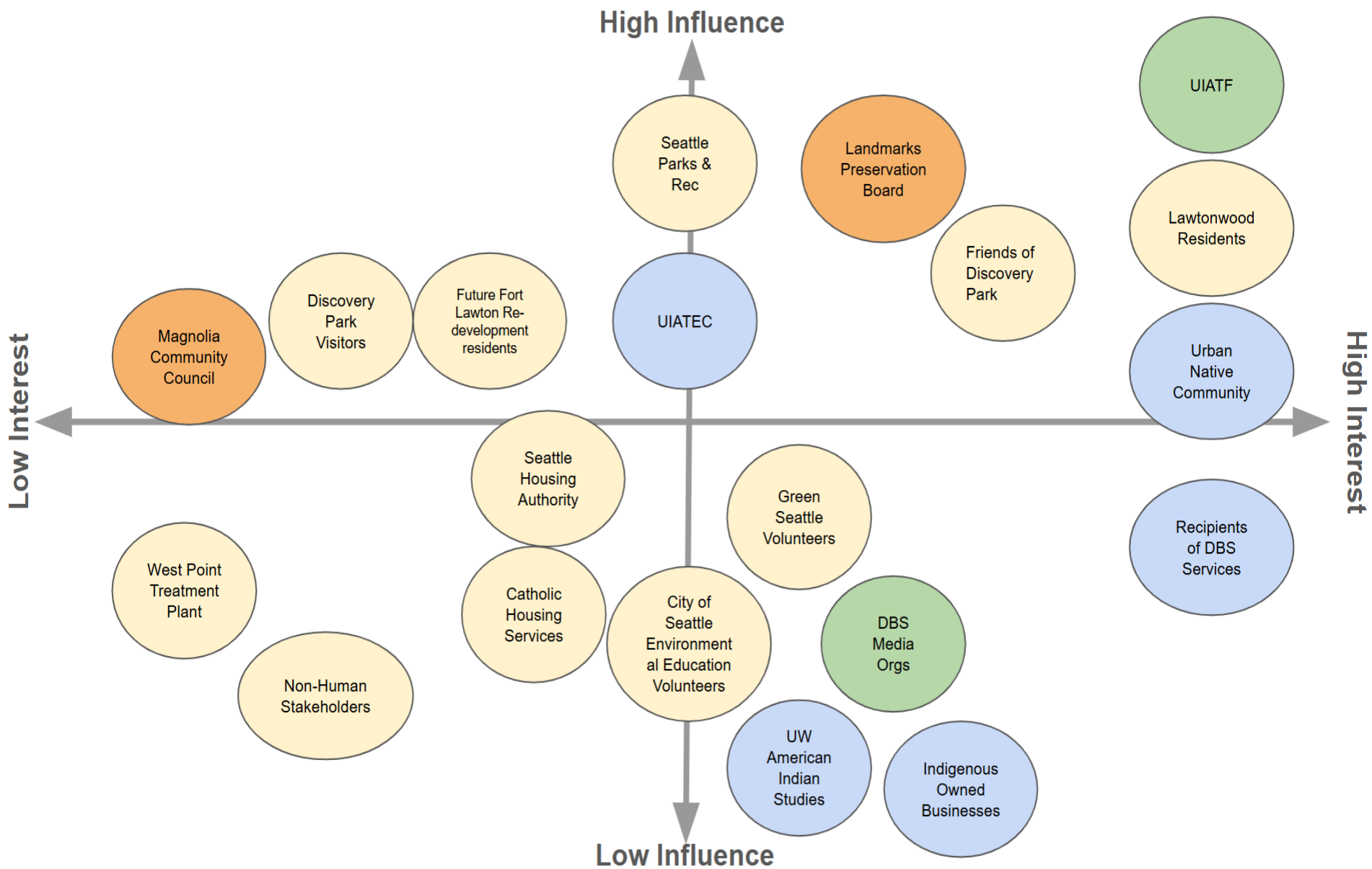
Discovery Park Visitors
Future Fort Lawton Redevelopment Residents
City of Seattle Parks and Rec
Magnolia Community Council
Landmarks Preservation Board

Keep Informed (Low influence/high interest)

DS Media Organizations
UW American Indian Studies Program
Indigenous Owned Businesses
Recipients of Daybreak Star services
Green Seattle Partnership
City of Seattle Environmental Education Volunteers

Monitor (Low interest/Low influence)

Animals, Fish, Birds, etc
Seattle Housing Authority
Catholic Housing Services of Western WA
West Point Treatment Plant



Historical Context



Bernie Whitebear in front of Daybreak Star Center, n.d.

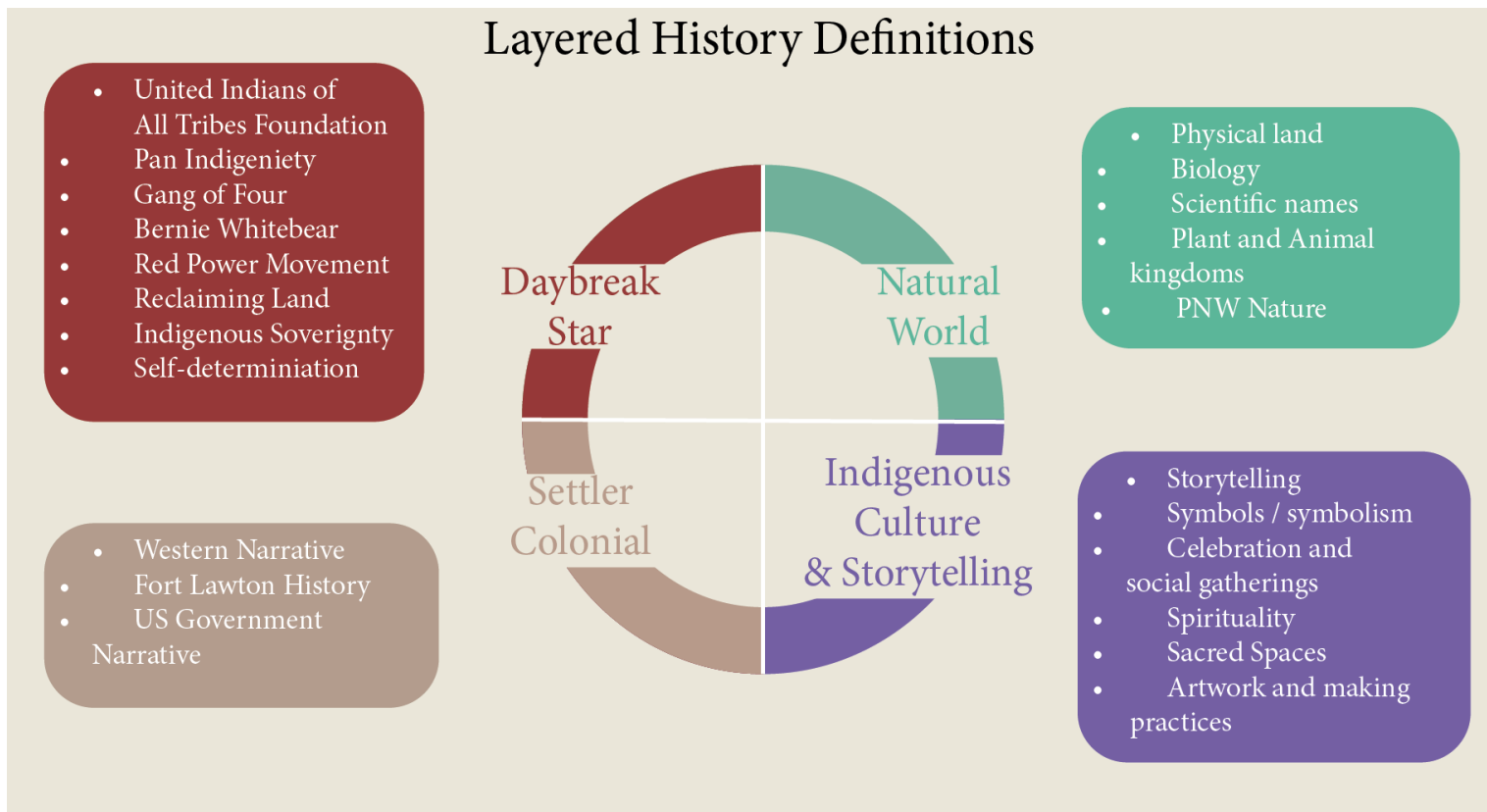


Bernie Whitebear and Pete Schnurman (1938-2020), lawyer for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, at the construction site of Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, 1976.

««Overview»»

In preparation for the studio project, the team conducted a review of book, web, and archival sources to understand the ecological, cultural, historical, and socio-political contexts that surround UIATF and the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center. An additional document titled "Initial Conditions Report" was created and can be provided on request. This review included Lawney L. Reye's *Bernie Whitebear: An Urban Indian's Quest for Justice*, Coll Thrush's *Native Seattle Histories from the Crossing-Over Place*, and Matthew Klinge's *Emerald City*, perspectives from Black Elk (Heháka Sápa of the Oglala Lakota people), and the Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project's oral histories and documents regarding Urban Indians. Our design vision is inspired by an analogy presented by Thrush, likening Seattle to a palimpsest, or a historical artifact possessing evidence of having been altered. In alignment with this analogy, the team identified four interweaving contextual categories to distinguish and honor throughout the two proposals (Cherokee Nation).

Layered History Definitions



Layered History Graphic, made by Maggie Mozayeni, 2025

The natural world and physical dimensions of the site itself were a prominent consideration of both teams. Team 1 emphasized the natural world as one layer in a layered history approach, also interweaving the place-stories of local Indigenous communities, acknowledging the drastic influence of settler colonial processes, and the emergence of urban and pan-indigeniety that precipitated the development of the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center.

The unique context between these four elements (natural, PNW Indigenous, settler colonial legacy, and Pan-Indigenous) informed our site analysis, designs, and policy proposals. Team 2 proposed this as a thematic relationship between land and water, drawing connections between these elements as not only physical, but as cultural, political, spiritual, and relational elements that interrelate with Indigeniety, acknowledging how the relationship has persisted over time across oppressive settler colonial histories and transformations of land.

◀◀◀Discovery Park Elements and History▶▶▶

Discovery Park is the largest city park in Seattle, composed of 534 acres of natural park area. The park is situated on the Magnolia Bluff overlooking the Puget Sound, with views of the Cascades and Olympics mountain ranges. Natural elements of the park include 2 miles of protected tidal beaches, sea cliffs, open meadow lands, forest groves, dunes, thickets, and streams, with 270 species identified (Discovery Park, 2025).

Originally inhabited by Coast Salish peoples since time immemorial, this site was acquired by the US military under exploitative measures of the Treaty of Point Elliot. The site was used as a military base under the name Fort Lawton for nearly 50 years during the Korean War, World Wars I and II before being decommissioned. In 1938, the City of Seattle declined to purchase the park due to maintenance concerns, and nearly 30 years later the military base was decommissioned, leaving room for Congressman Brock Adams to introduce a bill to develop a park using 450 acres of land (Discovery Park, 2025) property, with boating access, and the West Point Treatment Plant.



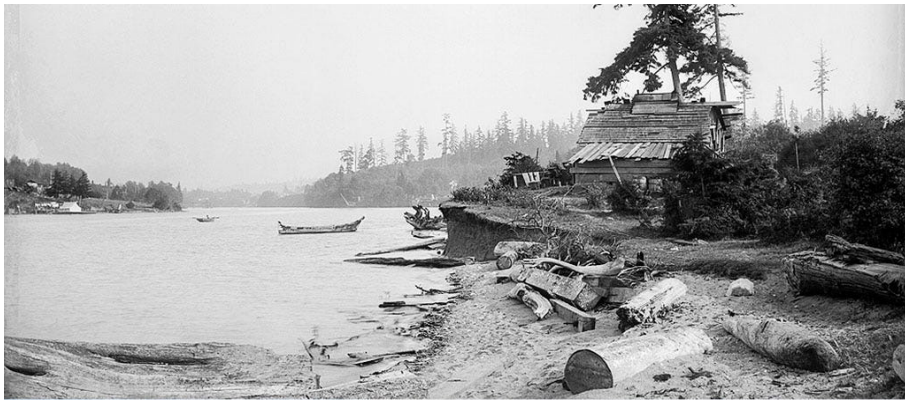
Sea grass and driftwood on Discovery Park's South Beach, 2025

In regards to user experience, the park has 11.81 miles of walking trails between its 7 trails that improved with accessibility considerations in 2017 to create a more accommodating experience, though improvement opportunities remain as mentioned in the Daybreak Star Usage Limitations and Site Visit Observation sections (Discovery Park, 2025). A bus stop serves the site on Texas Way alongside the Discovery Park North Parking Lot. The park offers a temporary poetry walk along Texas Way with poetic quote signage along the trails, engaging visitors and allowing them to contemplate while walking through the site. Overall the park provides an open space of quiet and tranquility, a sanctuary for wildlife, and an outdoor classroom to learn about the natural world

Being a historical site, there are 26 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places that remain. The former Fort Lawton Army base, established 1897, has multiple landmarks on site, including the Historic Guard House, Band Barracks, Post Exchange, Parade Ground, and Chapel on the South side of the property. These barracks held 1400 German and Italian prisoners during World War II (Discovery Park, 2025). Other notable landmarks include West Point Lighthouse, established in 1881, located to the west of the property, with boating access, and the West Point Treatment Plant.

◀◀◀The Natural World◀◀◀

Daybreak Star and the greater Discovery Park contain a multiplicity of natural habitats, from beaches and tidepools to wetlands and forests. The forests provide homes to many birds, including multiple species of chickadees, warblers, birds of prey, hummingbirds, and all sorts of ducks can be found in the trees, grassy fields, and freshwater ponds that populate Discovery. The trees in the park are primarily Red Alders and Big Leaf Maple, with some remaining Western Red Cedars, making a mixed deciduous-coniferous forest (Williams, 2015). Just as the arboreal makeup of the park has been altered by humans, the plant ecosystem is now dominated by invasive species, primarily Scotch Broom, Timothy Grass, and Himalayan Blackberry (Horwedel, 2022). These plants often choke out native plants and destabilize the Discovery Park ecosystem.



Salmon Bay Charlie and Madeline on present day Shilshole Bay, 1905, and Photograph of Shilshole bay, 2024.

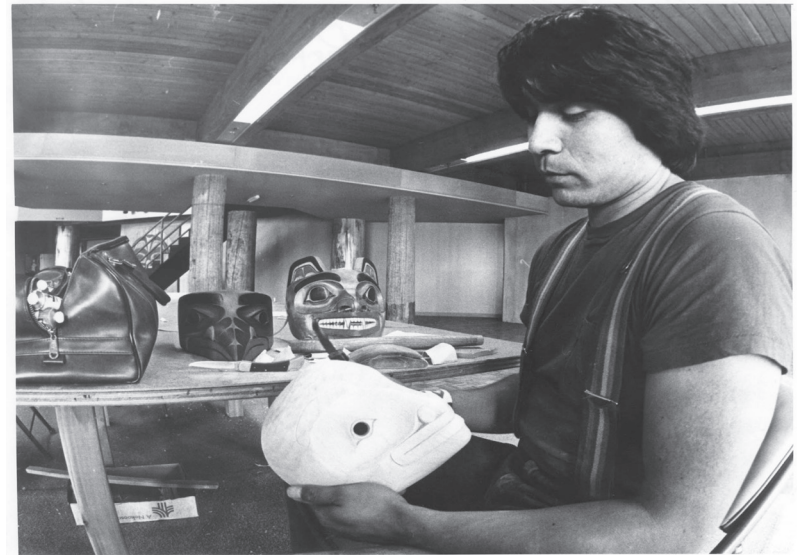
The aquatic regions are home to many types of fish, and varieties of anemones, starfish, and crustaceans. Harbor seals are the most common marine mammal spotted in the water, but porpoises, orcas, and other cetaceans can be seen. Grebes, loons, and the increasingly endangered Murrelets can be seen fishing and diving off the beach (Horwedel, 2022). For millennia, local Coast Salish peoples, including not limited to the Duwamish, Suquamish, Shileshole, and the tribes that are now united within the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, traversed the region's lakes and inlets by canoe. Along present day Ballard lived the Shilshoolabsh peoples or the Shileshole people for time immemorial.

The legacy of Seattle's transformation from a decentralized network of indigenous villages into a colonial maritime trade society is especially visible in engineering projects like the construction of the Lake Washington Ship Canal and the Fremont and Montlake Cuts. These projects unified Lake Washington and Puget Sound and reshaped the city and region's landscape and economy. Lake Washington stood 29 feet above sea level, Lake Union about 20 feet, while Salmon Bay was a tidal inlet. The Ballard Locks were constructed to overcome these high differences. The canal project ultimately lowered Lake Washington by nine feet and transformed Salmon Bay from a tidal inlet to a freshwater reservoir.

This transformation of land and water came at an ecological and cultural cost. The canals that enabled Seattle's rise to the international stage were carved through indigenous homelands and spiritual geographies. Indigenous communities that had once used the waterways for sustenance and ceremony found themselves displaced, both physically and symbolically, by the cadence of industrial progress (Williams, 2017).

««Pacific Northwest Indigenous Presence and Cultural Continuity»»»

Indigenous peoples have lived in and shaped the Pacific Northwest for over 10,000 years, creating interconnected communities, languages, and place-stories spanning from the Columbia River to Vancouver Island. Each Tribe maintains distinct languages, spiritual rituals, symbolism, and cultural practices including but not limited to the Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, and Duwamish tribes and that the lands touch the shared waters of an innumerable amount of Coast Salish peoples. The Coast Salish people are reflected through language signage, canoe traditions, and deep relational connection to land, water, and sky.



During a workshop at the Daybreak Star Cultural Center, Nez-Perce carver Alex Williams shapes a piece of alder wood into a totem mask, 1978.



Cheshiahud (or Chesheeahud), Duwamish chief and guide to the rivers and lakes around present day Lake Union, crossing Lake Union in a Coast Salish canoe, 1855.



Duwamish canoe with traditional longhouse in the background, 1893.

◀◀◀ Pan-Indigeneity ▶▶▶

Though there is some debate over the “pan-Indian” identity within the Indigenous community, the postwar, termination period is typically considered a time of cross-cultural exchange and the emergence of a shared urban identity instead of, or in addition to, distinct tribal affiliations. Pan-Indianism in Seattle was supported and upheld by the leadership of Bernie Whitebear during and after the founding of the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center.

During the nationwide rise of activist organizing throughout the Civil Rights Movement, the Red Power Movement of the 1960s coincided with Intertribal Activism in the Pacific Northwest, facilitating a period of advocacy and activism for honoring treaty rights and Indigenous sovereignty. Outside of Seattle, the Fish-In protest campaign in the Pacific Northwest was staged in collaboration with tribal groups and national organizations, pushing to honor fishing and hunting treaty promises that were being violated by conservation and regulatory policies. It was at these demonstrations that Bernie Whitebear and Bob Satiacum became involved in Indigenous activism and were eventually motivated to harness Indigenous collective organizing at the decommissioned Fort Lawton site within modern day Discovery Park. Native activists from many Tribal nations participated in the occupation of Fort Lawton, inspired by the 1971 Indian American occupation of Alcatraz. This was a pivotal moment in coalescing pan-Indigenous power in organizing and the momentum continued as their protest proved successful. Bernie Whitebear and his fellow activists developed the Daybreak Star Center to be a hub for Native peoples and all urban Indians living in and around Seattle (Reyes, 2006)



The Gang of Four: Roberto Maestas, Bernie Whitebear, Jim Robideau, and Larry Gossett speaking at a rally in solidarity with the American Indian Movement, 1974



Bernie Whitebear presenting with a blanket during the dedication ceremony for the land use agreement to Mayor Wes Uhlman, 1971.

◀◀ Legacy of Settler Colonialism ▶▶

Settler colonial narratives attribute Seattle's "founding" to the arrival of the Denny Party on Alki Beach in 1851, finding Indigenous peoples seemingly not established with the land, due to smaller communities attributed to processes of western expansion, ecological transformation, and waves upon waves of epidemics that weakened Indigenous communities before, during, and after the Denny party's arrival. As the newly established Seattle became increasingly industrialized and urbanized, Indigenous communities were vital participants in the emerging industries and communities, intermingling language, artworks, customs, and relationships with colonial settlers. Native homesteading in Seattle was a legal means of creating independence and economic stability, but fear mongering and settler colonial sentiments persisted and led to increasing animosity, land dispossession, and violence. The rights and land uses of the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott were not honored, and policies such as the 1855 Color Act and 1866 legislation attempted to void mixed marriages.



Canoes and tents of Indigenous settlers displaced to Ballast Island, 1895.

Notably, an 1893 fire started by white villagers destroyed Indigenous longhouses in West Seattle, now the site of the heapus Village Park, sited near the contemporary Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center. In present-day Downtown Seattle, Native Seattle residents were dispossessed to floating Ballast Island due to white unwillingness to share land, codified by municipal ordinance that expelled Indigenous peoples from the City, as well as the burning of longhouses to discourage Indigenous settlements. Despite these social and legal attempts at dispossession, Native residents continued to make lives for themselves in the growing Seattle Illahee.



Tlingit Totem Pole, carved in 1790 in Alaska and stolen by Seattle vandals as a gift to the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, then mounted in Pioneer Square, 1912.

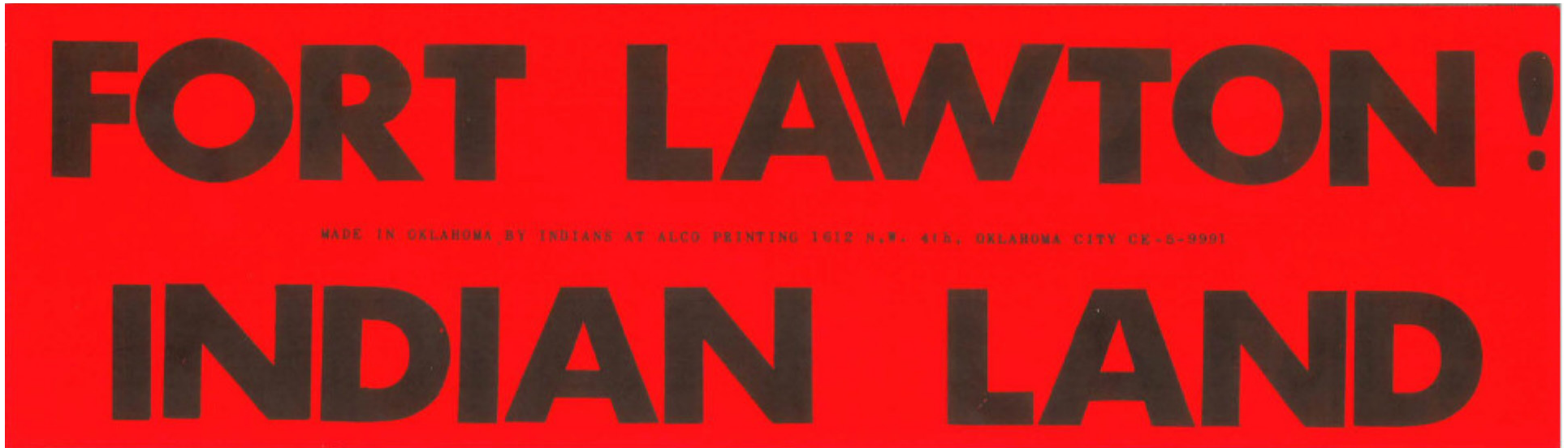
According to Thrush, the 1900s marked the end of a truly Indigenous Seattle, of Indigenous cultures' ability to thrive apart from settler constraints. Drastic transformations of land such as the Denny Regrade, Montlake Cut, Ballard Locks, and the straightening of the Duwamish River were all underway. The 1909 Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition can be considered the first step towards shared native identity within the lens of settler-colonialism. While the event commodified Indigeneity, the event brought together networks of Indigenous groups from Alaska, Oregon, and further afield, leveraging the opportunity for financial gain and cultural visibility, cultivating a growing sense of shared identity among Native peoples.

Interweaving of Indigenous identities in urban Seattle became more pronounced during the postwar period, coupled with increasing dispossession due to state and federal relocation and termination policy by the mid-1950s. As the urban Native population grew fivefold over the following decades, the growing community was isolated to tight quarters, such as Skid Row in contemporary Pioneer Square, with restricted resources and services, and high rates of poverty. The first Native-led and serving organization emerged as the American Indian Women's Service League (AIWSL) was founded out of necessity for providing critical services, becoming an important service partner, news outlet, and ally to future urban Indigenous activist movements. Promoted visibility for Urban Native service needs and attracted federal and state funds that eventually fueled the service center needs of other Indigenous organizations to come, such as the Indian Health Board and the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center.

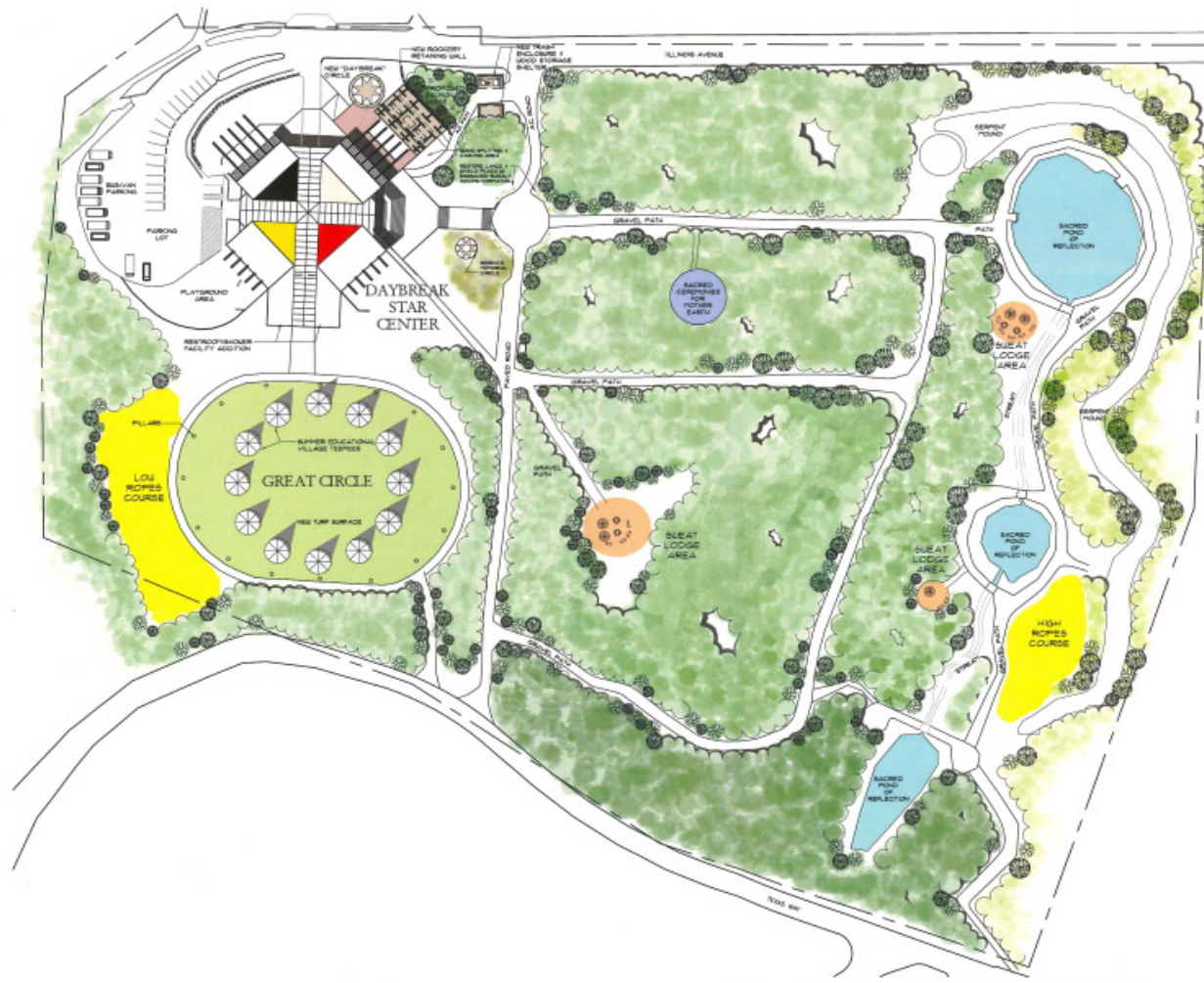
◀◀◀Daybreak Star Site History◀◀◀

In 1970, Bernie Whitebear of the Sin-Aikst Tribe, and Bob Satiacum of the Puyallup Tribe, led a 4-month peaceful occupation of the unused Fort Lawton Army base. The movement eventually grew to encompass over 1,000 Indigenous people from over 40 tribes, and its success led to the founding of Daybreak Star Center (Madsen, 2020). The United Indians People's Council made a claim on Fort Lawton, citing rights based on US Treaties from the late 17th and 18th centuries.

The people formed the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and began negotiations with federal and local agencies to build both a social services center and a cultural center to serve about 17,000 Indigenous people in the greater Seattle area (City of Seattle, 2025). Eventually, DS opened to the public on May 13, 1977, and is composed of 20 acres of land overlooking Shilshole Bay (City of Seattle, 2025).



Fort Lawton bumper sticker, 1970.

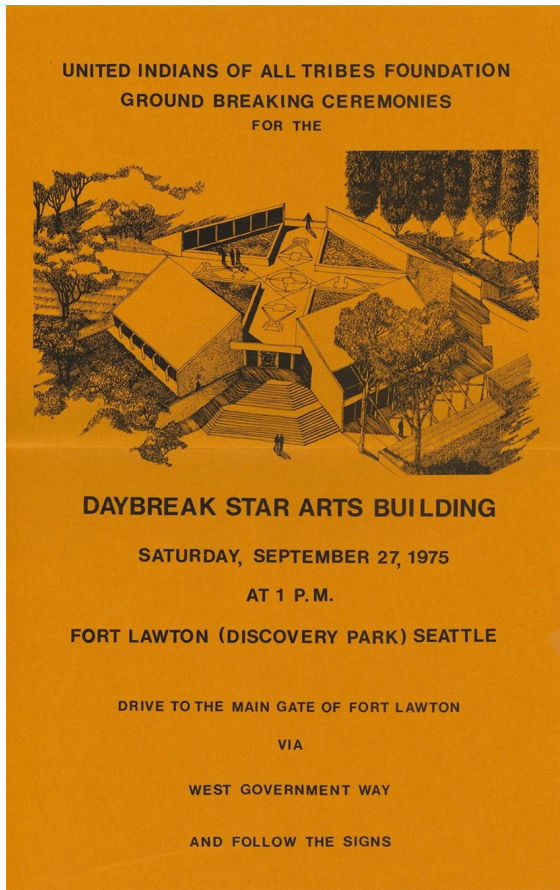


UIATF DISCOVERY PARK - MASTER PLAN
UNITED INDIANS OF ALL TRIBES FOUNDATION

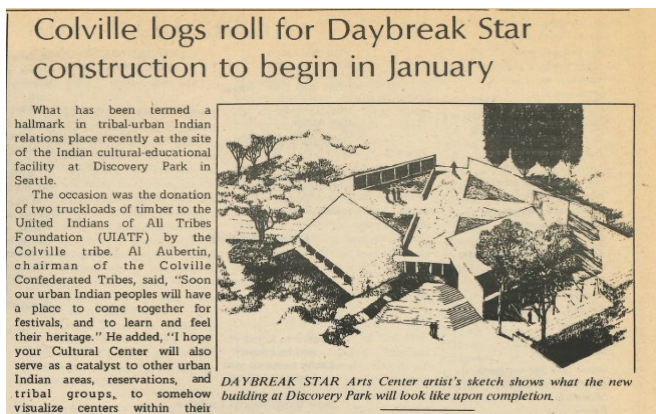


United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Master Plan for Discovery Park, 2005.

Daybreak Star is intended for intertribal communities and is known as a “beacon of hope” and an “urban base for Native Americans in Seattle. It’s built as a home and safe place for urban Indigenous people, a community hub, an education center, and a gallery, and it offers services to address the needs of the Indigenous community. The center’s essence was described as “Indian in spirit, simple and honest in design, to enrich and to be in harmony with the natural setting and uses of a city park.” Built in tandem with the city’s plans for a park, the city agreed to help provide funds for the project, with design proposals subject to city approval (Kelleher, 2016).



Groundbreaking flyer, 1975.



NW Indian News Article, 1974.

The building design team utilized natural northwest materials to fit in with the nature of the area, specifically utilizing local wood types, such as timber donated by the Colville Tribe.. There's an overlook with wooden benches and elevated platforms to view the Shilshole Marina and Puget Sound. Input from individuals and Tribes were carefully considered and incorporated in the building and site design (Seattle Channel, 2022). Lawney Reyes is credited with choosing the name for the Center, though the name and design are also directly informed by Black Elk's quote:

Then as I stood there, two men were coming from the east, head first like arrows flying, and between them rose the daybreak star. They came and gave a herb to me and said: 'With this on earth you shall undertake anything and do it.' It was the daybreak star herb, the herb of understanding, and they told me to drop it on the earth. I saw it falling far, and when it struck the earth it rooted and grew and flowered, four blossoms on one stem, a blue, a white, a scarlet, and a yellow; and the rays from these streamed upward to the heavens so that all creatures saw it and in no place was there darkness (UIATF, 2024).

The four geometrical roof forms of the Center were intended to reflect the four blossoms of the daybreak star herb. It's possible that the wooden beams sprouting from the ground to the roof symbolize the shining "rays of light from soil to heavens" mentioned and the Center itself acting as "an eagle landing" (PCC, 2023). According to the dissertation by Craig Phillip Howe, Architectural Tribalism in The Native American New World, Daybreak Star is designed as a three-dimensional manifestation of tribally encoded messages, communicating their culture and cosmic and mythic order.

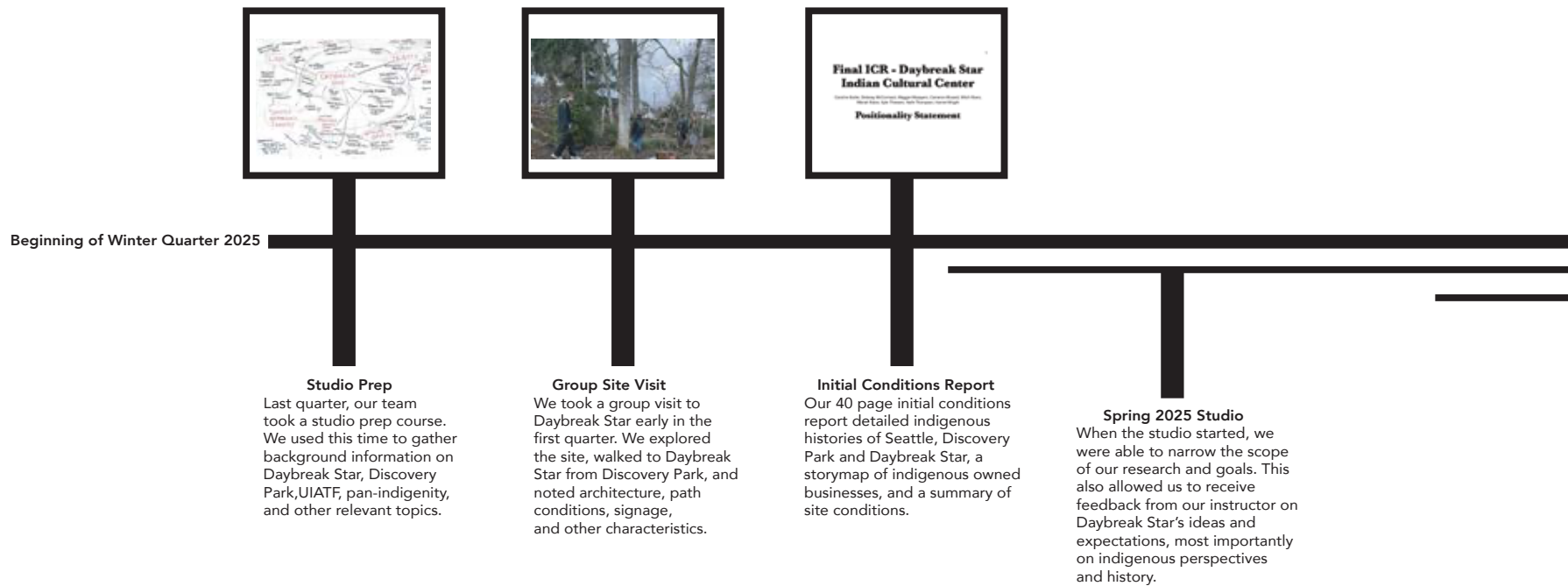
In September 2017 an Architectural and Engineering Evaluation Study of the Center was conducted by INNOVA Architects, to assess the architectural and structural integrity in the building and usage impacts and offer recommendations. Due to the Center's establishment before the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, they specifically focused on the accessibility of the building and pedestrian access. It was found that some pathways were 3.5' in width compared to the ADA's 5' requirement and some ramps exceeded the 5% path slope (INNOVA, 2017). The Center offers parking lots and pathways that are both ADA compliant and non-compliant. The biofiltration swale near the northwest entrance requires maintenance to prevent water accumulation, and the catch basin at the northeast corner is not properly set, which can lead to standing water and potential hazards. The building itself faces reasonable weathering, though was assessed to be in good condition (INNOVA, 2017).

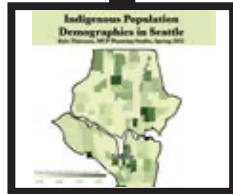
Services offered by DS include Family Services (Foster Care, Home Visit, Traditional Medicine, Our Strong Father), Community Services (Labateyah Youth Home, Homelessness Prevention and Tenant Services, Benefits Navigation Program, Native Workforce Services Program, Native Veterans Program, Elders, GED Assistance), Daybreak Star Preschool (Marching Toward The Future), and the United Indians of All Tribes Education Coalition. Numerous events are held at DS, including the Sacred Circle Book Club, 2025 Seafair Indian Days Powwow, Indigenous Peoples' Day, United Indian Native Art Market, and United Indians Gala (UIATF, 2024). The Center has a large community open space on the ground floor that has flexible partition walls to adjust to a range of events, such as the Indigenous Film Showcase. The Sacred Circle Gallery and Permanent Art Collection in the Center display a robust collection of Indigenous-made artwork and an exhibit documenting the construction and building process of the center. In particular, the Seafair Powwow, held annually and usually on the third week of July, represents revitalization. They represent as many Tribes as they're able to and have vendors from many tribal backgrounds. Besides in-person community events, DS has methods of building connections "on and off the rez" through multiple social media outlets and DS Radio. The radio aims to "Indigenize the airways" and spread their spoken word nationally and globally. They play genres ranging from hip-hop to native music (Daybreak Star Radio, 2023).

Studio Methodology



This timeline, starting with the beginning of Winter Quarter in January 2025, details the process that this Studio has undertaken over the past two quarters. Some of our major projects and deliverables have been highlighted. All of this work has contributed in some way to the content of the final booklet.





Individual Site Visit
Our individual site visits helped us make detailed and specific observations. Each group member took extensive time to explore the site to their personal preferences, and each studio member took away different things.

Map Making
Group members collected relevant data to our studio work and each produced seven maps to graphically visualize this information.

Precedents
Each group member found a different precedent that connected to the indigenous walking tour. Precedents varied from an indigenous campus in Vancouver, B.C. to Riverfront Park in Spokane.

Midterm
Now split into two teams, our midterm allowed each group to identify overarching themes, values, design goals, and weaknesses to produce two distinct deliverables.

Final Booklet
The studio teams worked both within their groups and as a whole to compile the work of the last quarter into booklet form.

Existing Site Conditions

Our site-level walking tours aim to leverage existing infrastructure to the fullest extent possible. At the beginning of this project, we conducted a site-level analysis with documentation. Each member of our team conducted a site visit and noted the characteristics of the site that represented opportunities and constraints. Some common themes around opportunities and constraints emerged between team members as described in the following section.



View of Shishole Bay



Plant label in the Native Plant Garden



Picnic table at Reflection Pond 1



Sign board

Opportunities that we leveraged in the site walking tour:

- Three Reflection Ponds throughout the eastern portion of the site
- Paved path between the bus stop in the North Parking Lot and the Center
- Signposts and light posts throughout the site that could be leveraged to post additional signage about the walking tour
- Abundant parking in North Parking Lot and at the Center
- Picnic tables at Reflecting Pond 1 provide respite and a space for rest
- Multi-language plant labelling signage in the garden
- Views of Shishole Bay and trail outlook
- Fire pit
- Native plant garden
- Gravel and paved paths exist throughout the site



Nearest bus stop to the Center



The path leading from the Center to the first Reflecting Pool

Constraints that we took into consideration in the site walking tour:

- The site is disconnected from rest of city
- Bus stop far from center, lacking accessibility
- Wayfinding signage is lacking
- Broader signage and changes in Discovery need approval by SPR
- Trail conditions, steep inclines lead to accessibility challenges
- Flooding

◀◀◀Site Considerations◀◀◀

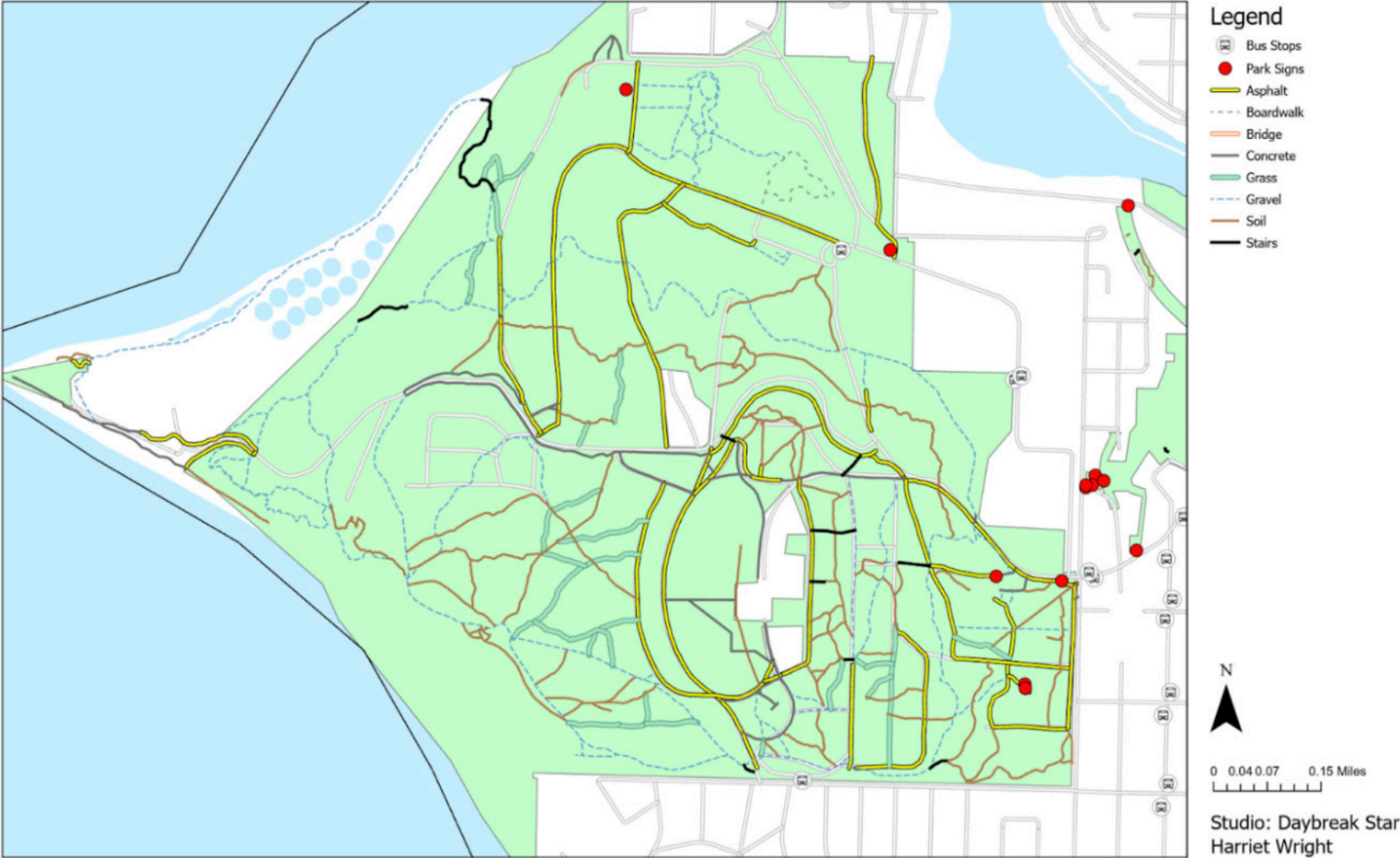
We were able to integrate the opportunities from our site-level analysis into our walking tour path and programming. We designed the stops to highlight the existing opportunities on the site including the Reflecting Ponds, fire pit, Native plant garden, the trail outlook, and the Center itself. Our walking tour begins at the Center which can be accessed by the bus stop and parking lots on and near the site. The path follows the existing paths to the furthest extent possible and paved paths in particular when available. The path follows gravel paths when paved paths are not available to connect the stops. The tour's programming further highlights these opportunities in its narrative.

We considered the constraints that we observed during the site visit when designing our walking tour. We recognized that the site is disconnected from the rest of the city, and wanted to ensure that the tour could be as accessible as possible by bus, bike, and car. The start of the tour, in the Center, can be accessed using paved paths that connect to the nearest bus stop, parking lots, and roads.

We also recognize that existing signage is limited, and wayfinding on the site could benefit from additional signage. We propose using the signage we have developed, and have signage location suggestions, to address this constraint. We recognize, however, that signage may require approval from Seattle Parks & Recreation prior to being posted.

The trails vary in condition throughout the site, and some paths include inclines that may pose a barrier to some visitors. The route we've suggested uses paths that minimize inclines, as well as wider paths to increase accessibility. Some of the trails on the site are more prone to flooding than others, especially the paths adjacent to the Reflection Ponds. This will be an ongoing constraint until further water management can be implemented.

Trail Conditions - By Type to Daybreak Star Center
Data collected from [Seattle GeoData](#)

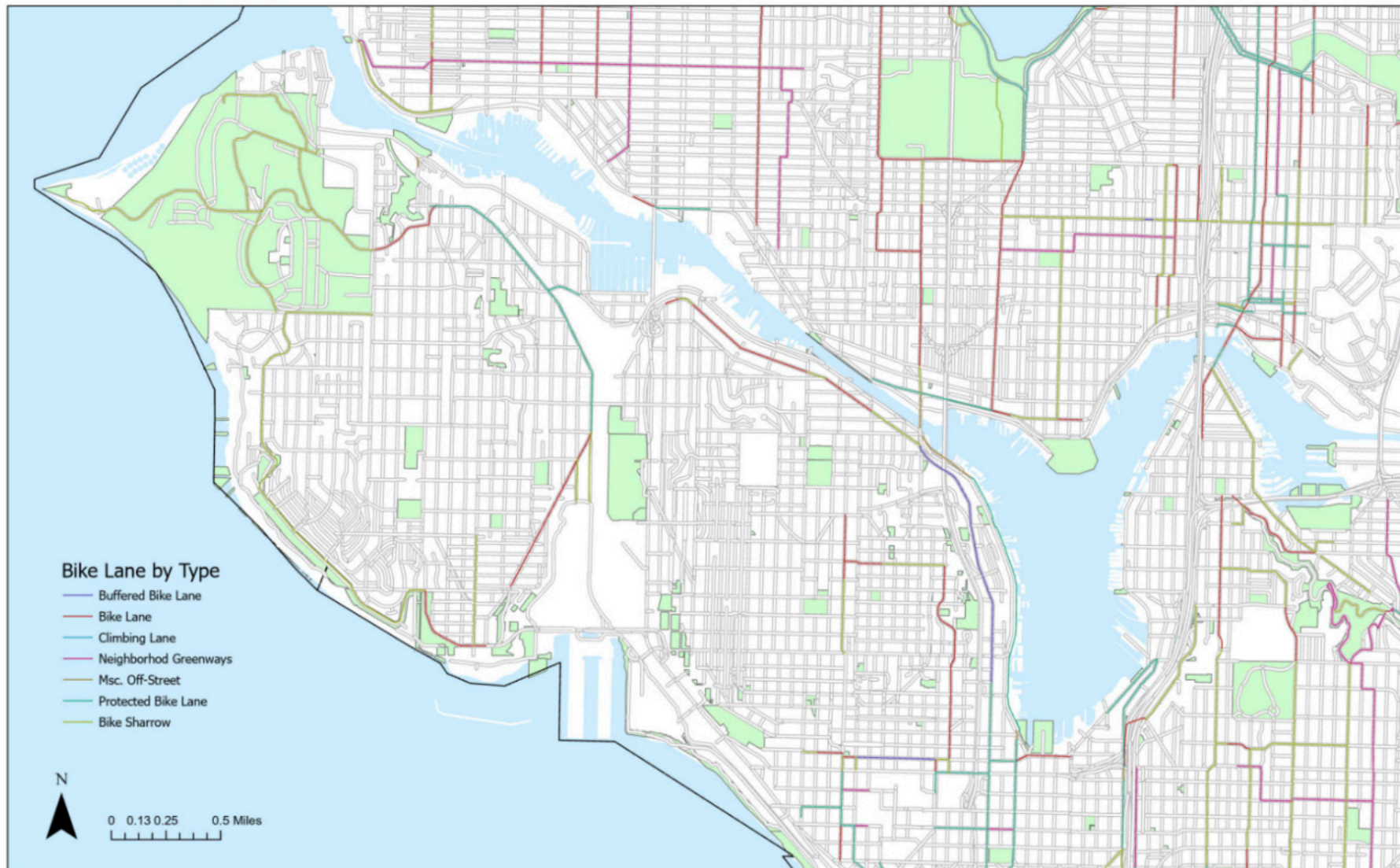


Trail Conditions Map (Wright, 2025)

Road Connections - Bike to Daybreak Star Center

Data collected from [Seattle GeoData](#)

Studio: Daybreak Star, Harriet Wright

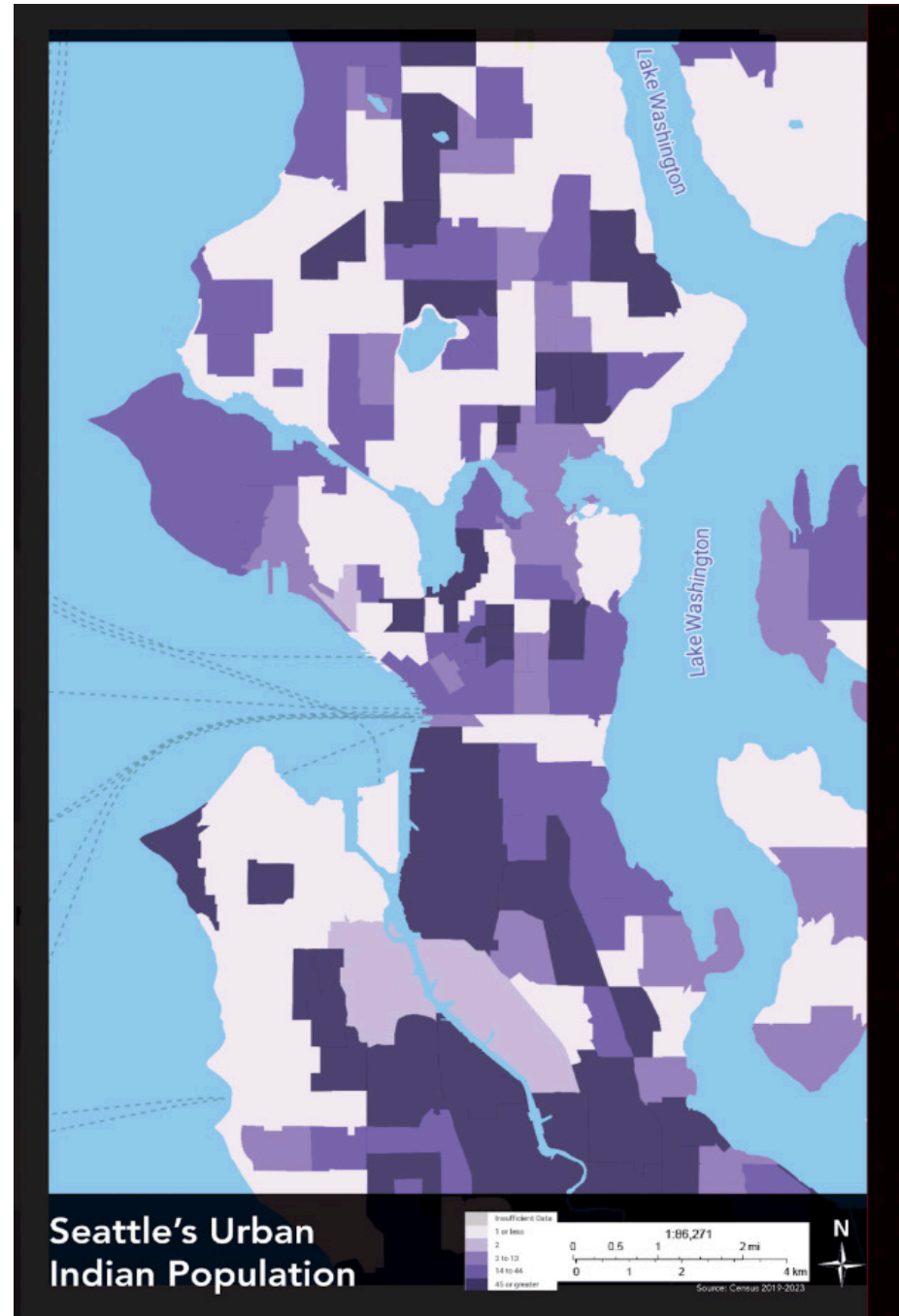


Bike Road Infrastructure Map (Wright, 2025)

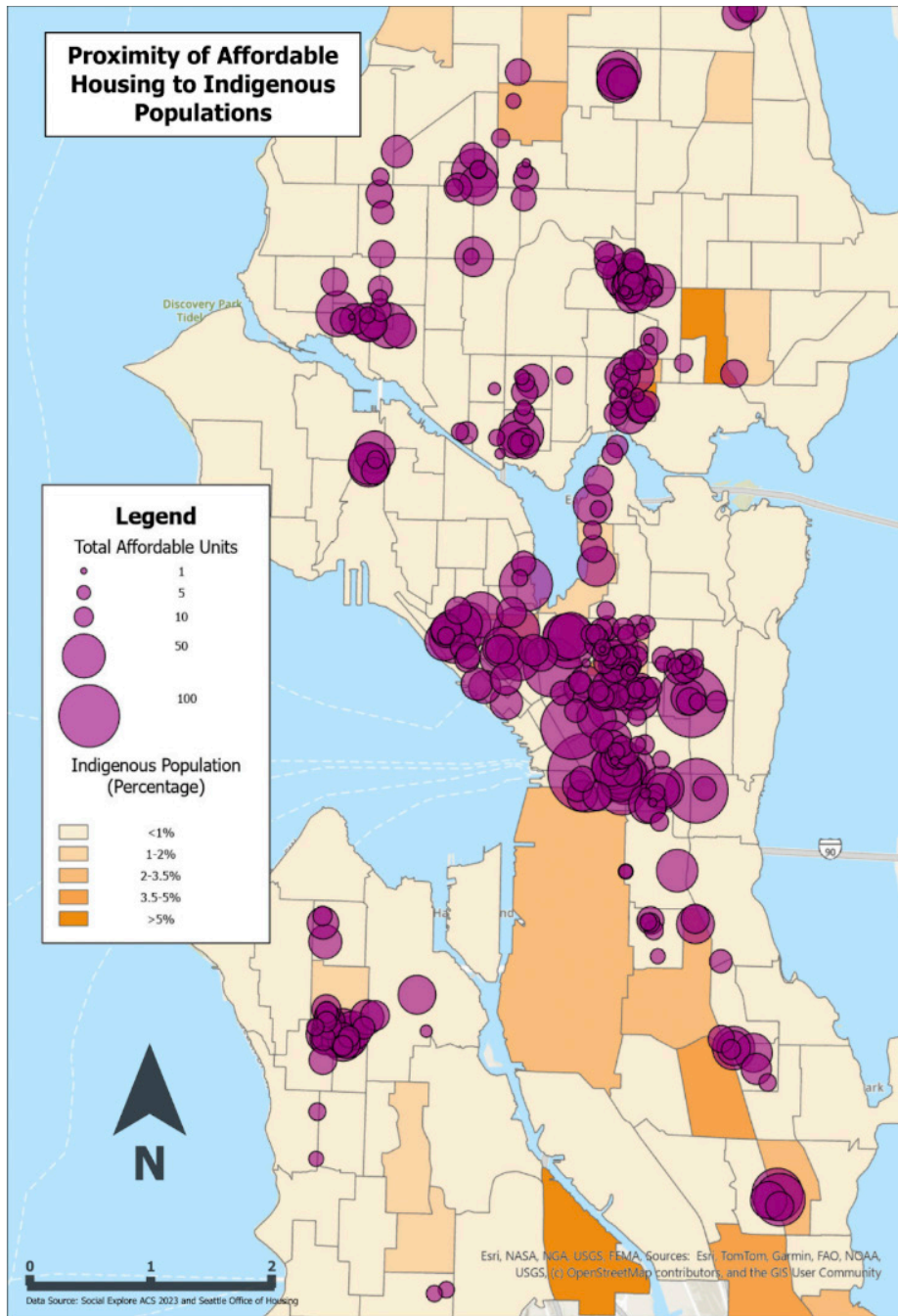
«««Data Informed Design»»»

In the following section we have included some of the maps created by our studio that showcase data that helped in the formation of the studio project and suggested programming on the city-level scale.

The map to the right showcases where Seattle's Urban Native population lives by census tract. We thought it was important to note where most of Seattle's indigenous population lives in order to ensure that any accessibility improvements, marketing, programming, or services is reaching as many members of the Seattle urban native community as possible.

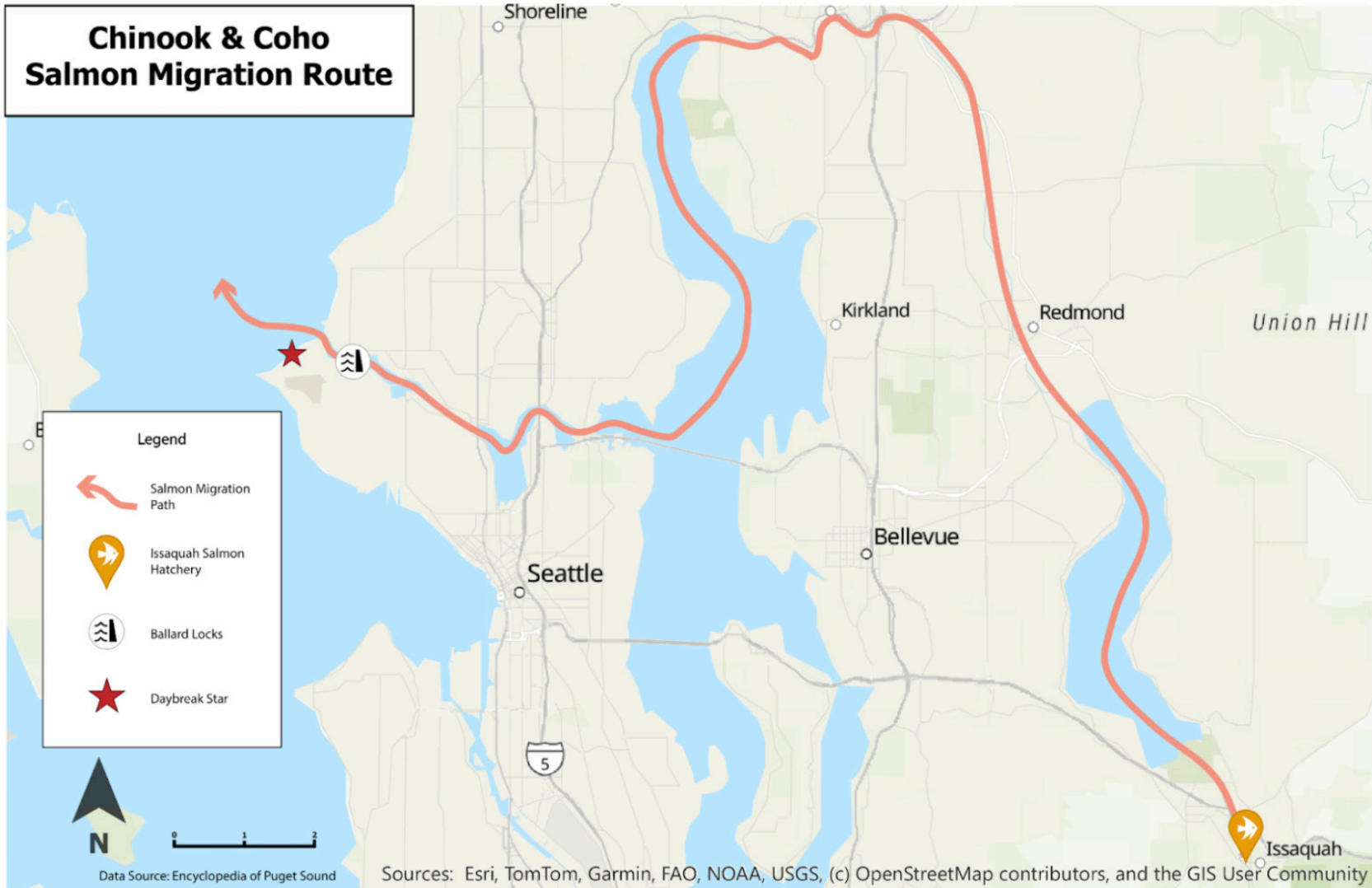


Urban Indian Population Map (Mozayeni, 2025)



This map shows the location of affordable housing units within the City of Seattle, and shows how they align with existing Native populations. This map is notable to showcase what areas likely are in need of more affordable housing options to cater to the existing native community, but also highlights the lack of affordable housing and small percentage of native people in the Magnolia neighborhood and Discovery Park area. This map illustrates the existing gap in affordable housing near Daybreak Star. This also shows how the Fort Lawton redevelopment project could help address this gap in affordable housing near Daybreak Star, ultimately creating an opportunity to help Native people to live closer to the services that Daybreak Star offers.

Affordable Housing Location Map (Thompson, 2025)



Salmon Migration Map (Roers, 2025)

This map showcases the migratory route of Chinook and Coho Salmon, a route that they travel at the end of the summer/early autumn. Notable in this map is how the Salmon migration path goes by the University of Washington, near South Lake Union, and right past Daybreak Star Center, which are all hubs of indigenous art, businesses, and culture in Seattle. The alignment of the migratory route with these hubs should be noted for future potential programming related to the salmon, water, and natural environment.





Team 1- Layered History

Delaney McCormack, Magnolia Mozayeni, Mitch Roers, Halle Thompson

Design Framework



Daybreak Star
& Indigenous
Resistance



Indigenous Culture & Storytelling



Settler Colonial- Fort Lawton



Natural World

Vision

Our vision is to create a walking tour that celebrates the site's layered history. There are four layers: Daybreak Star history and Pan-Indigeneity, Indigenous Culture and Storytelling, Settler-Colonial Fort Lawton, and the Natural World. Each layer showcases a different aspect of Daybreak Star and demonstrates both the background and importance of the site. Primarily, this walking tour is intended to align with the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation mission "to provide educational, cultural and social services that reconnect Indigenous people in the Puget Sound region to their heritage by strengthening their sense of belonging and significance as Native people." In service to this mission our walking tour envisions a distinct sense of place that welcomes and celebrates the Urban Indigenous community, while creating opportunities to incorporate member voices and stories into the tour programming. In support of this vision are goals to improve wayfinding through signage, maps, and distinguished trails.

Goals

- Align with UIATF mission (education, home for urban indians)
- Balance programming for Indigenous & non-indigenous users
- Improve wayfinding
- Cultural Sensitivity and Connection to Pan-Indigeneity
- Distinct Sense of Place
- Integration of Urban Indigenous / Daybreak Star voices
- Feasible interventions
- Highlight accessibility gaps using data

Values

- Belonging (including accessibility for different group)
- Community and Connection (creating and strengthening relationships)
- Land as Connection
- Sovereignty and Resilience
- Indigenous Leadership and Stewardship

Symbols & Design Inspiration

Website



Fonts:

UNITED

INDIANS

OF ALL

Tribes

FOUNDATION

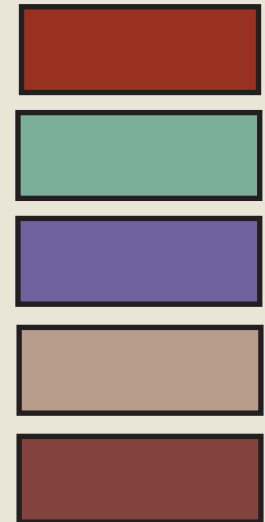
Posters & Flyers



Gift Shop



Site Elements



Site Scale

The Daybreak Star Indigenous walking tour is centered around Pan-Indigenity and Daybreak Star's existing attributes. The entire route is slightly less than a mile and starts and finishes at the center. Our map hopes to provide information on landmarks, distance, importance, and road accessibility. The route follows a counter-clockwise path that stops at the powwow fields, the reflecting ponds, walks along the serpent mound, and has multiple additional stops. The tour hopes to create a sense of place and encompasses four "layers" of history: Daybreak Star, Natural World, Settler Colonial, and Indigenous Culture and Storytelling. Together, all these components create a Layered History walking tour that tells the story of Daybreak Star.



(Mozayeni, 2025)

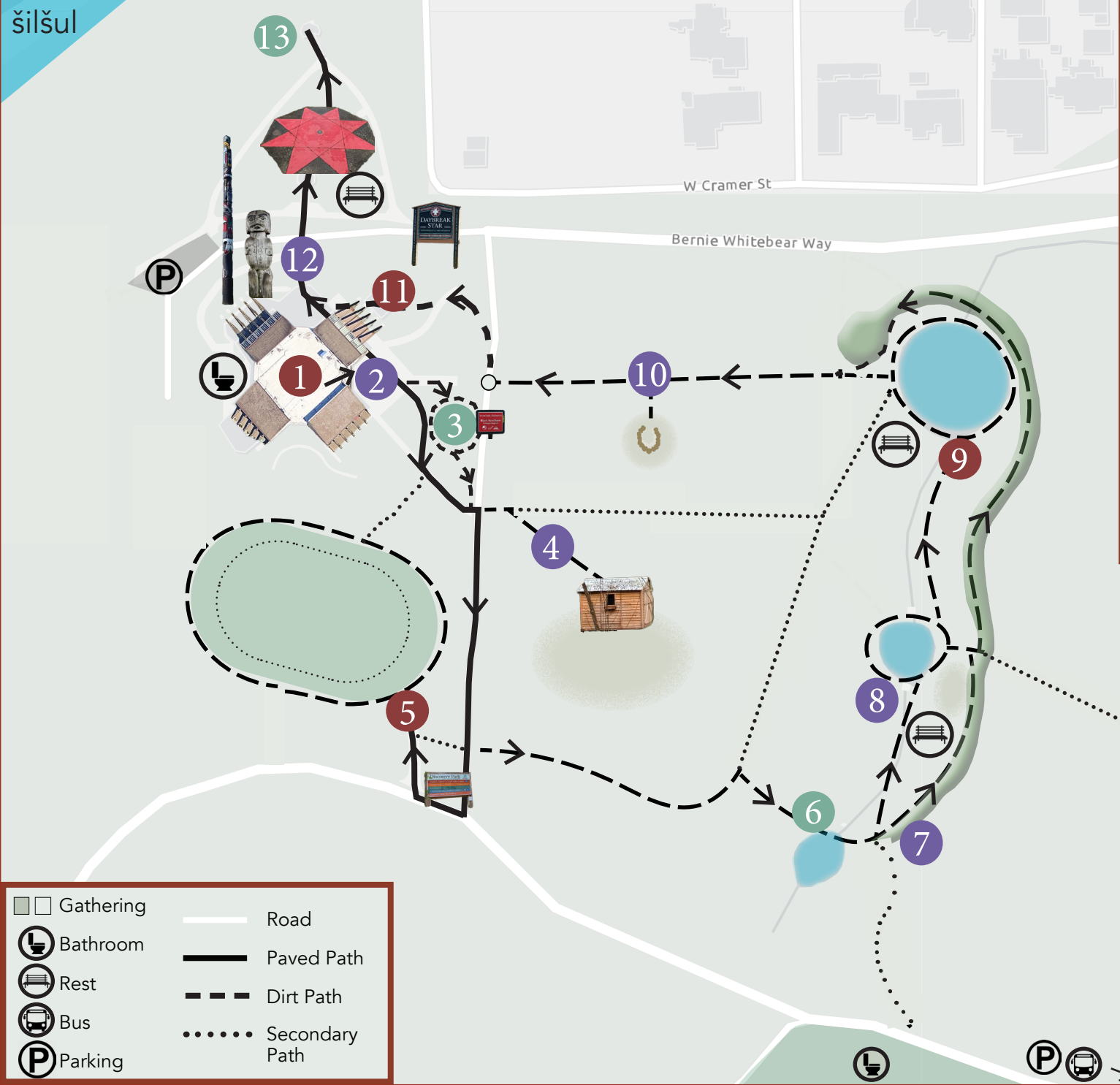
šilšul

0.9 miles ~1 hour		Layered History Stops
1 min	1	Daybreak Star Center
2 min	2	Mural
2 min	3	Bernie Whitebear Memorial & Garden
5 min	4	Sweat Lodge
10 min	5	Great Circle
4 min	6	Reflection Pond 1
2 min	7	Reflection Pond 2
2 min	8	Serpent Mound
5 min	9	Reflection Pond 3
5 min	10	Burning Pit
3 min	11	Salmon House
5 min	12	Totem and Motif
5 min	13	Outlook

	Gathering		Road
	Bathroom		Paved Path
	Rest		Dirt Path
	Bus		Secondary Path
	Parking		



Daybreak Star Center Layered History Walking Tour



Layered History Site Stops

Layered History Definitions

- United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
- Pan Indigeneity
- Gang of Four
- Bernie Whitebear
- Red Power Movement
- Reclaiming Land
- Indigenous Sovereignty
- Self-determination

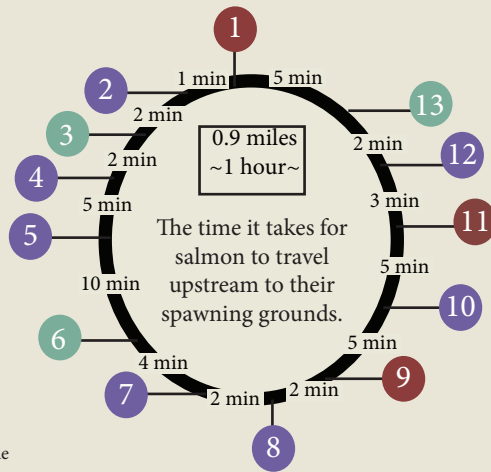
- Western Narrative
- Fort Lawton History
- US Government Narrative



- Physical land
- Biology
- Scientific names
- Plant and Animal kingdoms
- PNW Nature

- Storytelling
- Symbols / symbolism
- Celebration and social gatherings
- Spirituality
- Sacred Spaces
- Artwork and making practices

Walking Tour Duration

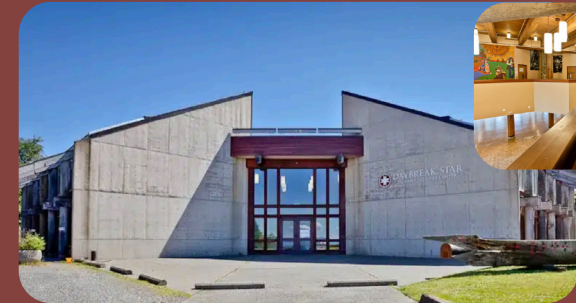


time it takes from low tide to high tide

time it takes to tell the story of the salmon people

time it takes the sun to move _____

Daybreak Star Center



Daybreak Star's mission is to provide educational, cultural and social services that reconnect Indigenous people in the Puget Sound region to their heritage by strengthening their sense of belonging and significance as Native people.



Mural



A mural by Andrew Morrison (Tulalip) covers the walls outside of Daybreak Star's south entrance. The artwork features animals important to North American Indigenous populations, such as bison, orca, and salmon, amongst a blend of natural spaces.



Bernie Whitebear Memorial & Ethnobotanical Garden



The Bernie Whitebear Memorial Garden is filled with plants important to Indigenous communities. The garden features plants from Thimbleberry to Ocean Spray, and each sign provides information on how these plants might've been used.



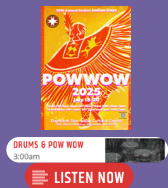
Sweat Lodge



This sweat lodge is a modern take on the traditional medicinal sweat lodges used by Indigenous communities. Sweat lodges hold cultural significance as spiritual cleansers among Indigenous communities and are operated by pouring water over hot stones, so steam is formed.



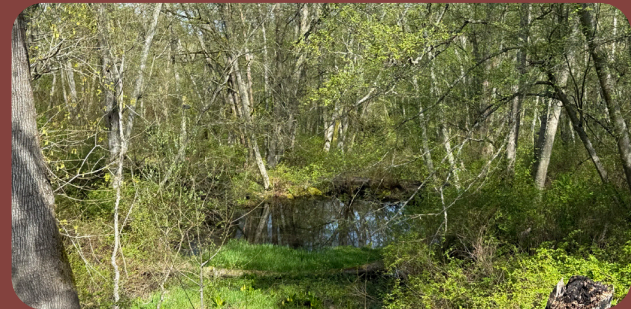
Great Circle



The Great Circle, or the Powwow Grounds, is where Daybreak Star's annual Powwow is held. The cultural ceremony includes song, dance, food and music.



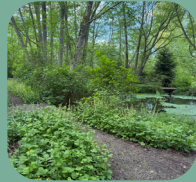
Reflection Pond 1



Hear birds,

The reflecting ponds at Daybreak Star offer a moment to stop and immerse yourself with the natural world. This reflecting pond offers a quiet spot to sit and listen to birds, frogs and observe the trees, ferns and water that create an ecosystem.

Reflection Pond 2



The second Reflecting Pond is more open, but provides a similar experience. One can stop, take a breath, and surround yourself with nature.

Reflection Pond 3



Birds,
ducks,
mushrooms

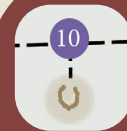
The third reflecting pond is the biggest, and provides a habitat for ducks, turtles and frogs. You can stop and sit, while enjoying the sites and sounds of the area.

Serpent Mound



This serpent mound is modeled after the Serpent Mound of the Ohio Valley. Little is known about the meaning of the original serpent mound, but it is undoubtedly of spiritual and cultural significance. The Serpent Mound at Daybreak Star offers a reminder of pan-indigeneity and creates a sense of place and belonging.

Burning Pit



The burning pit offers a gathering place on Daybreak Star's campus that serves ceremonial purposes for urban Indians. Different tribes have different uses for burning, and the burning pit is a reminder of pan-indigeneity at Daybreak Star. Photo on right is of axis view of DS.

Salmon House

11



Salmon houses are used in the Pacific Northwest Indigenous Cultures to prepare salmon for consumption. Salmon are of cultural, religious and spiritual importance amongst Northwest Native Tribes, and many political battles have been fought with colonial governments over salmon.

Totem and Star Motif

12



Totem poles are traditional artworks made by Pacific Northwest Coast Natives. Each part of a totem pole represents a different object or animal, and each animal holds significance. The motif is Daybreak Star's symbol, and references the Daybreak Star herb, the site's namesake.

Outlook

13



The final walking tour stop, the outlook, provides a view over Puget Sound. Wildlife can be spotted swimming, flying, and eating. Daybreak star stands on and overlooks the traditional homes of the Duwamish and Coast Salish tribes. Daybreak Star stands as a living reminder of the presence of Urban Indians, and the culture and history that exists with them.



Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors to Daybreak Star use a wooden boardwalk to stay off muddy trails, and children use interactive trails experiences. Signage helps patrons navigate the site. (McCormack, 2025)



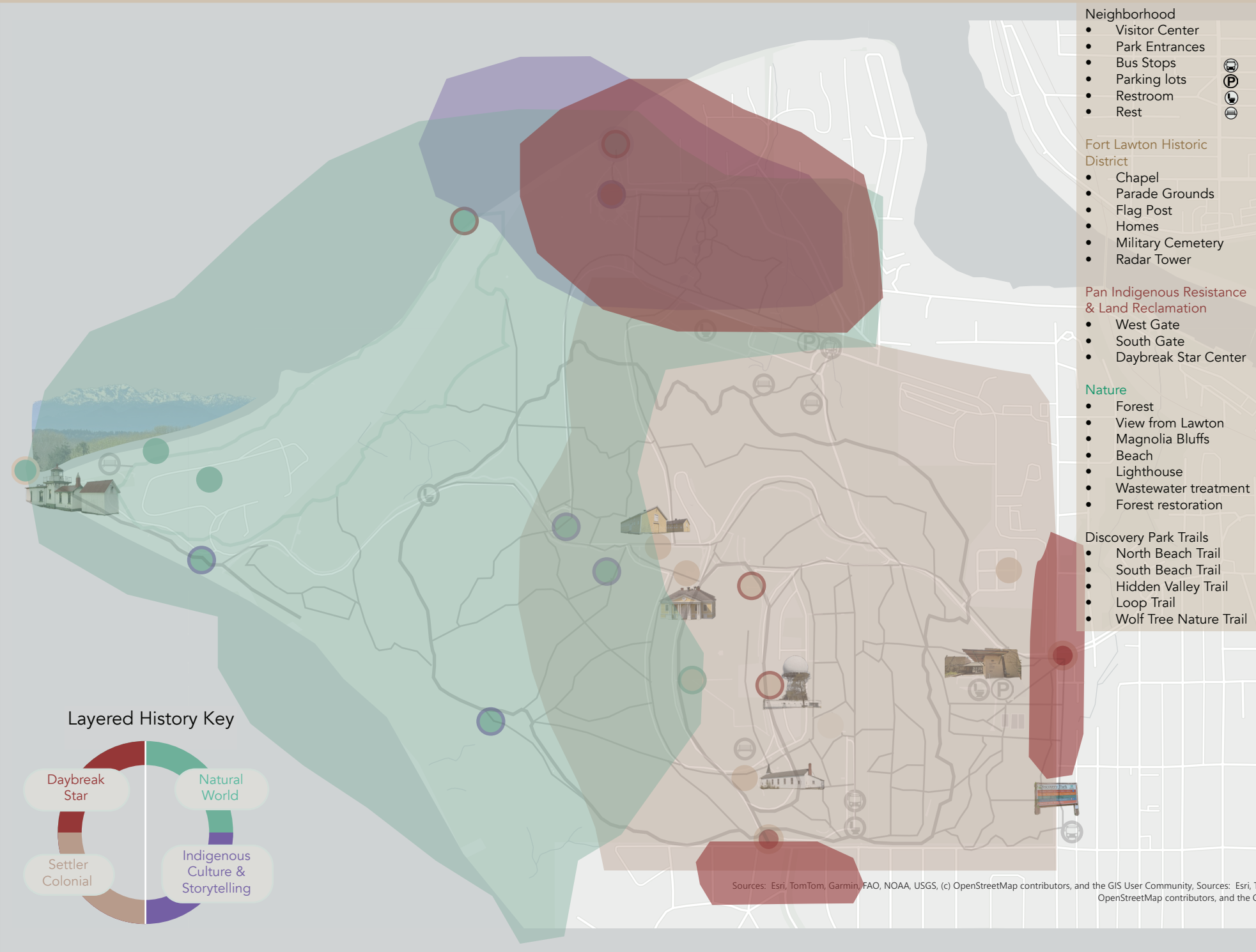
Second proposal with gravel pavement, hand-crafted wooden bench and mosaic stepping stones as a playful wayfinding path for all ages. (McCormack, 2025)

Neighborhood Scale

Our walking tours for the neighborhood scale encompasses the entirety of Discovery Park, and the expanse of trails in the park. The Fort Lawton tour circulates the historic Fort Lawton military base, and centers on the militarization of the park, and the settler colonialism that comes along with the use of the park. The nature walk goes through Discovery Park's beaches, forests, and wetlands, and connects these areas back to pan-Indigeneity. The Indigenous Resistance walk follows the path of Bernie Whitebear and his occupation of Fort Lawton, and through Daybreak Star, a standing reminder of his triumph. Together, these tours create a layered history that tells the expansive, complicated and important story of Daybreak Star.



(Mozayeni, 2025)



- Neighborhood**
 - Visitor Center
 - Park Entrances
 - Bus Stops
 - Parking lots
 - Restroom
 - Rest
- Fort Lawton Historic District**
 - Chapel
 - Parade Grounds
 - Flag Post
 - Homes
 - Military Cemetery
 - Radar Tower
- Pan Indigenous Resistance & Land Reclamation**
 - West Gate
 - South Gate
 - Daybreak Star Center
- Nature**
 - Forest
 - View from Lawton
 - Magnolia Bluffs
 - Beach
 - Lighthouse
 - Wastewater treatment
 - Forest restoration
- Discovery Park Trails**
 - North Beach Trail
 - South Beach Trail
 - Hidden Valley Trail
 - Loop Trail
 - Wolf Tree Nature Trail

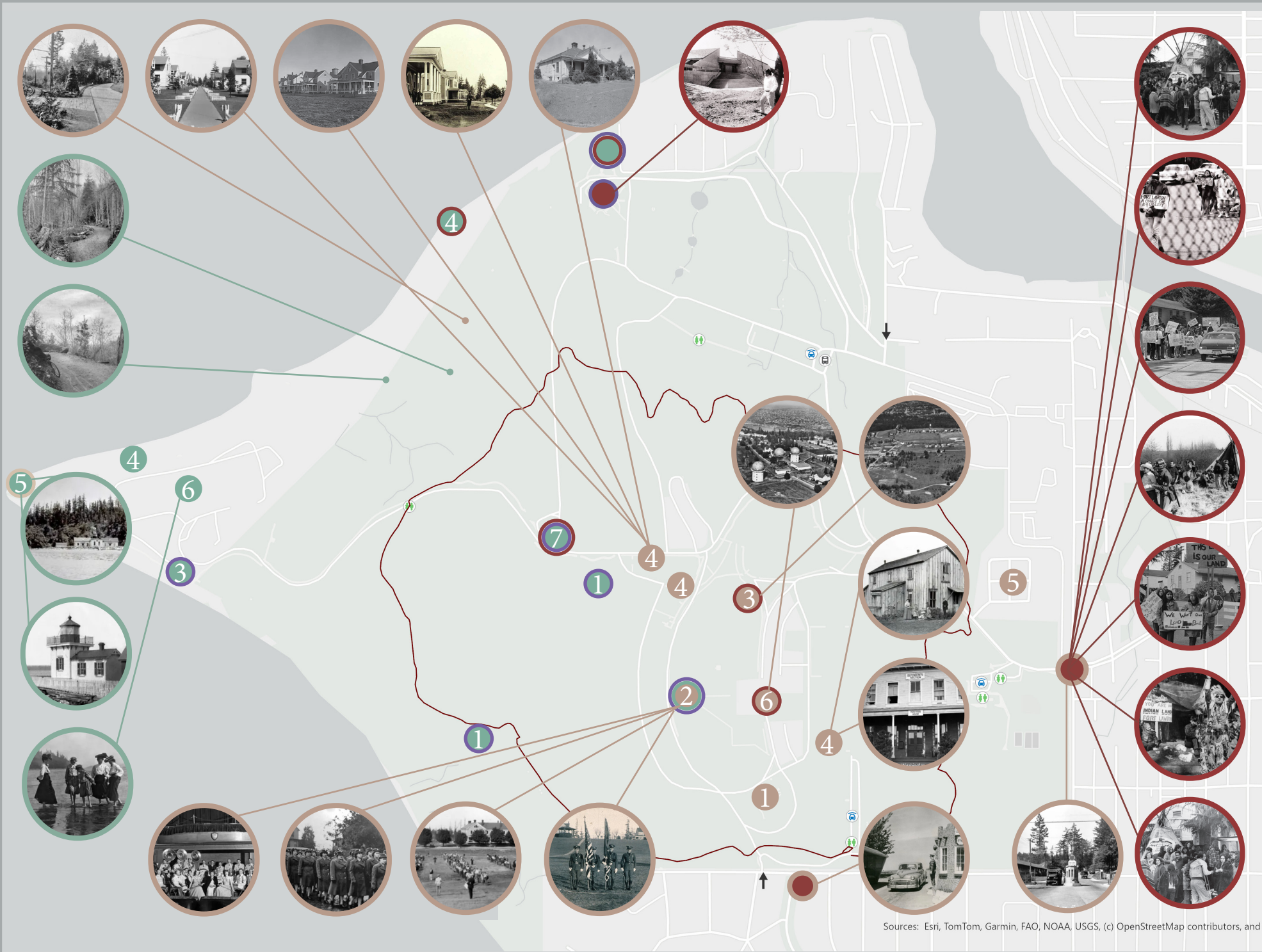
Layered History Key



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Discovery Park Layered History Site Diagram

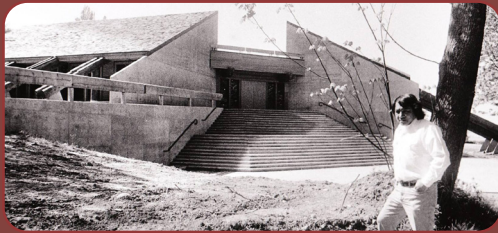




Discovery Park Layered Historical Photos on 2025 Map



Daybreak Star & Indigenous Resistance



Bernie Whitebear standing in front of Daybreak Star Center.



Indigenous protestors getting arrested (78 total).



Indigenous land back protest outside of Fort Lawton main entrance, March 15th, 1970.



Indigenous protestors outside of Fort Lawton housing.



Indigenous protestors holding signs outside of Fort Lawton gate.



White Buffalo's Indian chief Frank Mann (Hankpapa Sioux Indian) performing sacred prayer to protect the demonstrators, March 19th, 1970.



Indigenous protestors outside of Fort Lawton entrance.



Indigenous occupation of Fort Lawton, November 14th, 1971.

Settler Colonial-



Fort Lawton housing.



Fort Lawton housing.



Fort Lawton's barracks after they were constructed in 1942.



Aerial of WW2 barracks on the right and the Nike missile site on the left.



Road to Fort Lawton with trolley tracks on the left, 1934.



East aerial view of Fort Lawton, 1936.



East entrance of Fort Lawton during WWII when visitors were required to stop at the gate.



The Kiehl's home (two-story board-shack) - the first colonial building at Fort Lawton circa 1850.



See more information on Jean Sherrard's website.



Soldiers lined up on a field, 1925.

Fort Lawton



ing.



Fort Lawton housing.



arracks on the
e Missile Center.



Elks Band performing at Fort
Lawton on October 15th, 1948.



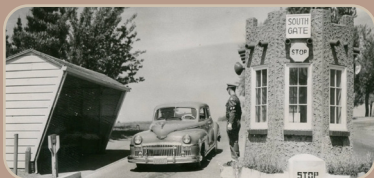
ver Fort Lawton,



Fort Lawton Hostess House.



and office-
and-batten
construction at
1899.



South Gate entrance of Fort
Lawton.



at parade



Soldiers lined up at parade
grounds.

Natural World



Bike trail in Magnolia neighborhood.



West Point Lighthouse pre Fort Lawton and
neighborhood development.



The Kiehl women at West Point, 1908. Photo
taken during the last year of large scale
construction at Fort Lawton, until WWII's
construction.



Magnolia peninsula bike path, developed as part
of the 1890 bike paths system development.



West Point Lighthouse, 1970.

Layered Neighborhood Diagrams

Combined Layers



Natural World

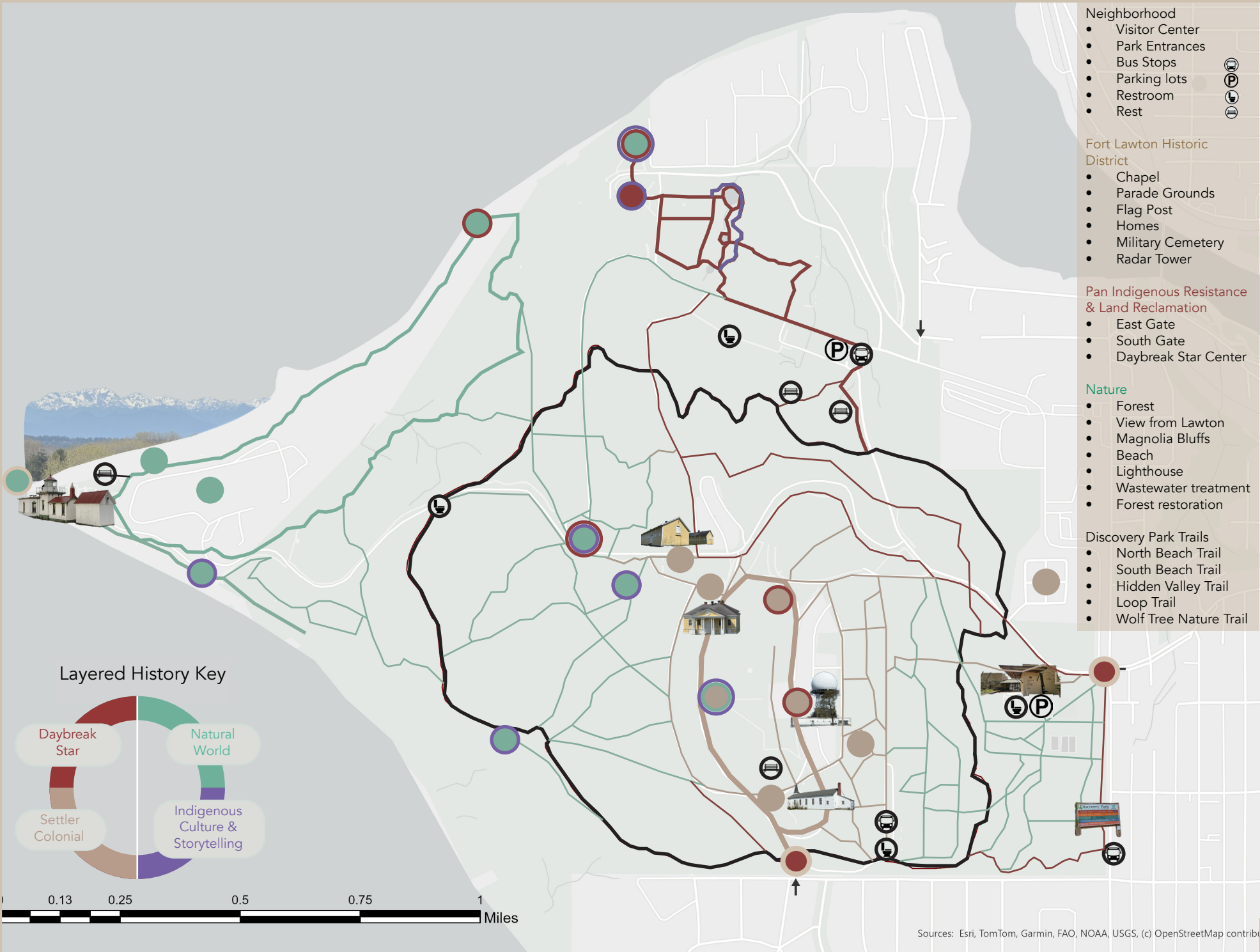


Daybreak Star & Indigenous Resistance



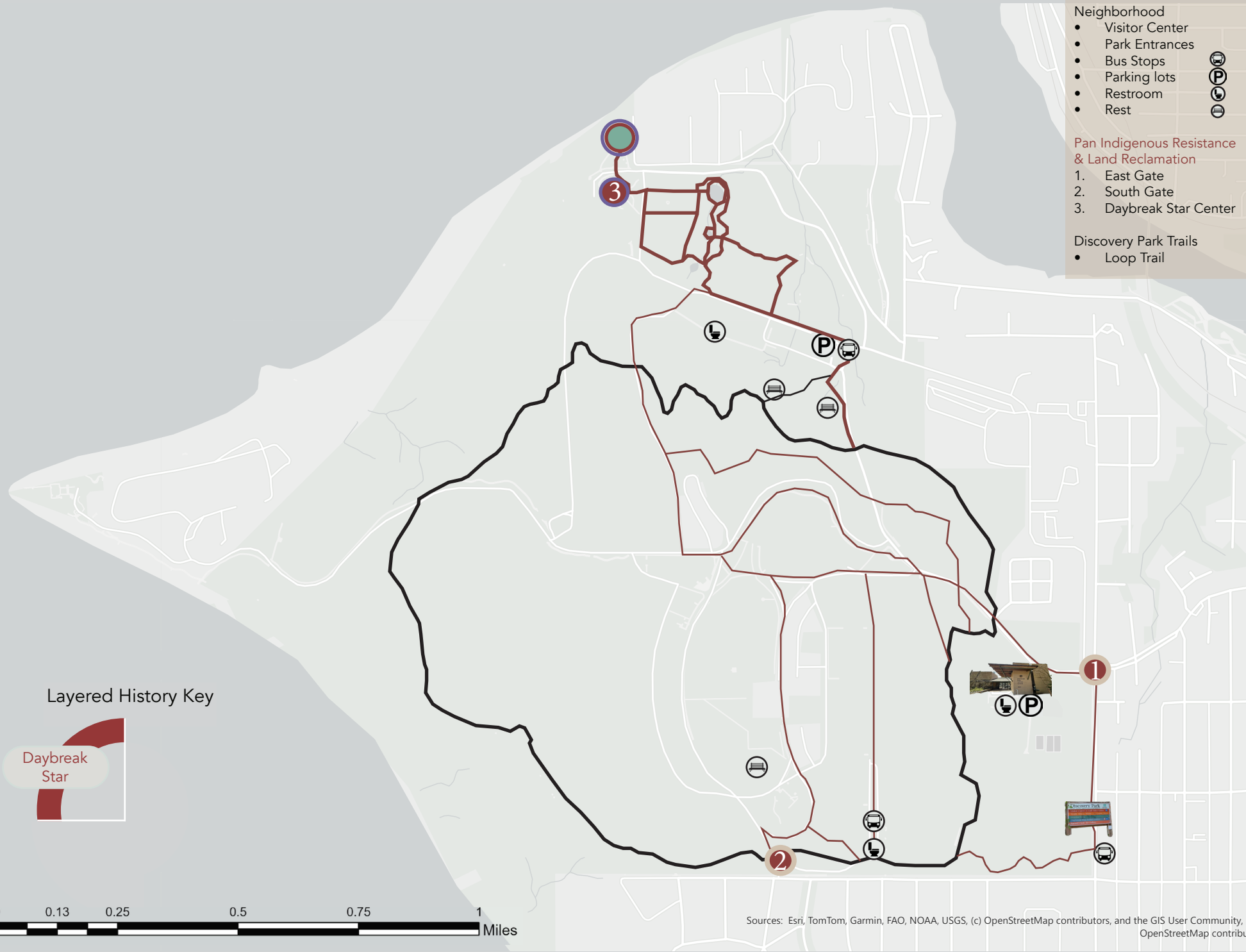
Settler Colonial





Discovery Park Layered History Site Map

- Neighborhood
- Visitor Center
 - Park Entrances
 - Bus Stops
 - Parking lots
 - Restroom
 - Rest
- Pan Indigenous Resistance & Land Reclamation
1. East Gate
 2. South Gate
 3. Daybreak Star Center
- Discovery Park Trails
- Loop Trail



Layered History Key

Daybreak Star



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, OpenStreetMap contribu

Discovery Park Indigenous Resistance Walk

Pan Indigenous Resistance & Land Reclamation Walk

Daybreak Star Center



Following the protests, the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation was established, thus leading to the development of Daybreak Star Center, opening on May 13, 1997. The building was designed by Bernie Whitebear's brother, Lawney Reyes, Arai Architects, and Jones & Jones Architects, using a Native American Architectural style and Colville cedar.

Daybreak Star is inspired by the daybreak star herb, the herb of understanding, that fell to earth from the heavens and bloomed four petals, one black, yellow, red, and white.

Daybreak Star's mission is to provide educational, cultural, and social services that reconnect Indigenous people in the Puget Sound region to their heritage by strengthening their sense of belonging and significance as Native people. The campus is a result of Bernie Whitebear's occupation of Fort Lawton and the reclamation of Native land.

East Gate

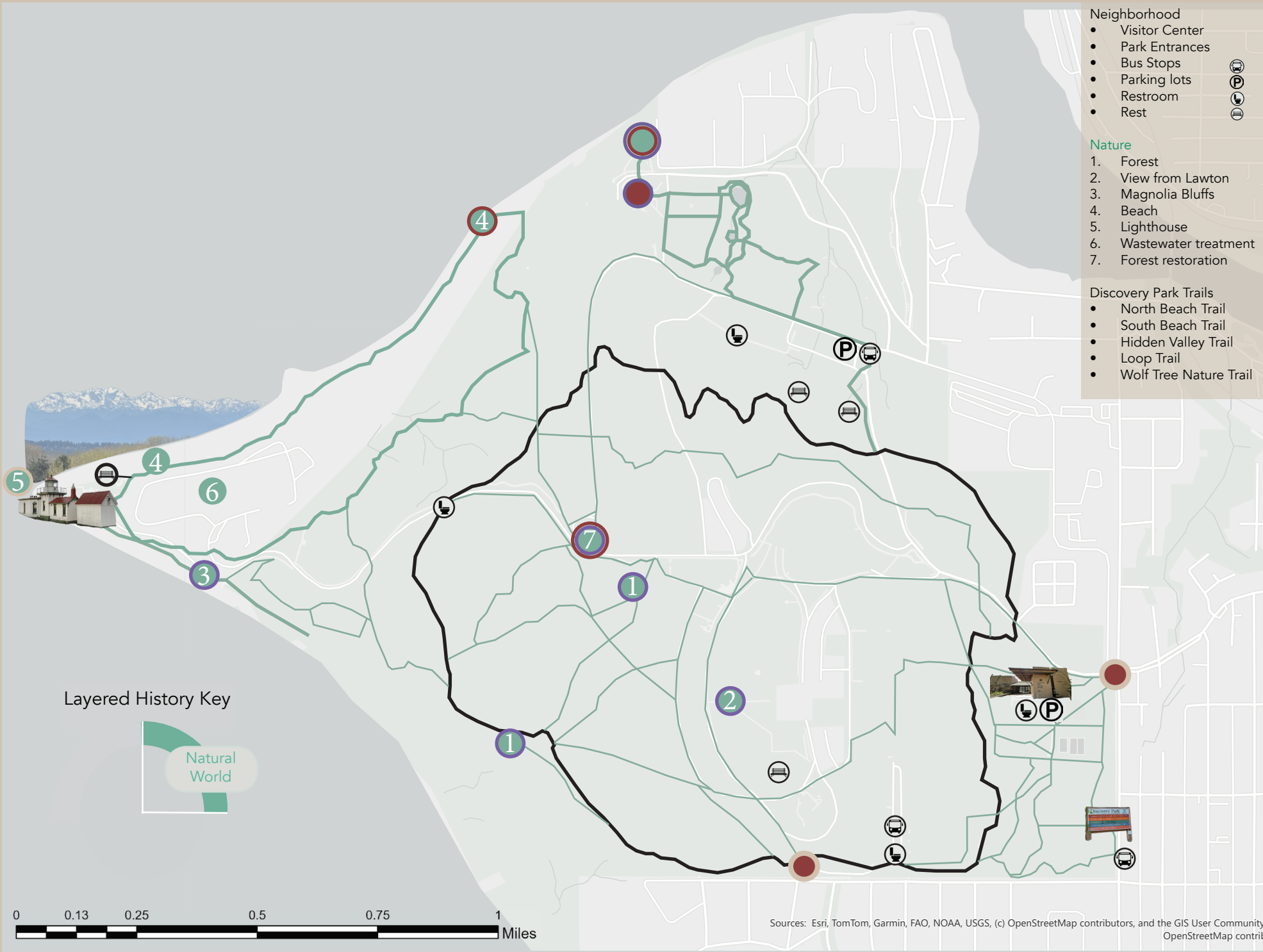


When Bernie Whitebear led the takeover of Fort Lawton, they stormed the Fort from three entrances, including the East Gate. This was the beginning of the occupation, and the beginning of Daybreak Star

South Gate



The South Gate at Discovery Park was another of the three entrances used by the Indigenous people during the occupation of Fort Lawton.



- Neighborhood**
- Visitor Center
 - Park Entrances
 - Bus Stops
 - Parking lots
 - Restroom
 - Rest
- Nature**
1. Forest
 2. View from Lawton
 3. Magnolia Bluffs
 4. Beach
 5. Lighthouse
 6. Wastewater treatment
 7. Forest restoration
- Discovery Park Trails**
- North Beach Trail
 - South Beach Trail
 - Hidden Valley Trail
 - Loop Trail
 - Wolf Tree Nature Trail

Layered History Key



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
OpenStreetMap contri

Discovery Park Natural World Walk

Natural World Walk



Forest

The forest in Discovery Park is filled with birds, squirrels, deer, and other forest creatures. It is the largest green space in the city of Seattle, and here you can see animals that hold immense significance for Indigenous people, such as hummingbirds, eagles, and Orcas.



View from Lawton

The view from Fort Lawton shows the former military base with Puget Sound as the backdrop. Part of the reason the fort was placed here is because of its panoramic views.



Magnolia Bluffs

The view from Fort Lawton is a stunning, panoramic look at Puget Sound. From here, you can see the land that the Duwamish and Coast Salish tribes call home.



Beach

The beach at Discovery Park offers a look at the sea creatures that inhabit the Puget Sound. In the tidepools, starfish and anemones can be spotted. Shorebirds skitter on the shore, and loons and cormorants dive into the water to fish, just one part of the complex ecosystem that exists in the area, and the environment that is of value to PNW Indigenous communities.



Wastewater Treatment

The West Point wastewater treatment plant cleans over 90 million gallons of wastewater per day, more than any other plant in Washington.



West Point Lighthouse

View:
Shilshole bay
Mt Rainier
Cascades



Lighthouse Friends 2011-2025

West Point Lighthouse is one of 18 remaining lighthouses in Washington. From here, you can look over onto Bainbridge Island, the home of the Suquamish tribe, and watch the seals, whales, and birds that populate the waters in between.



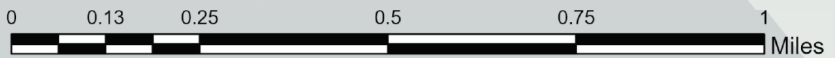
Forest Restoration



Discovery Park's Capehart forest restoration was started in 2010 and continues today. Native shrubs, trees, and other plants are being planted to revitalize the area after much of the biodiversity was squashed during the militarization of the area

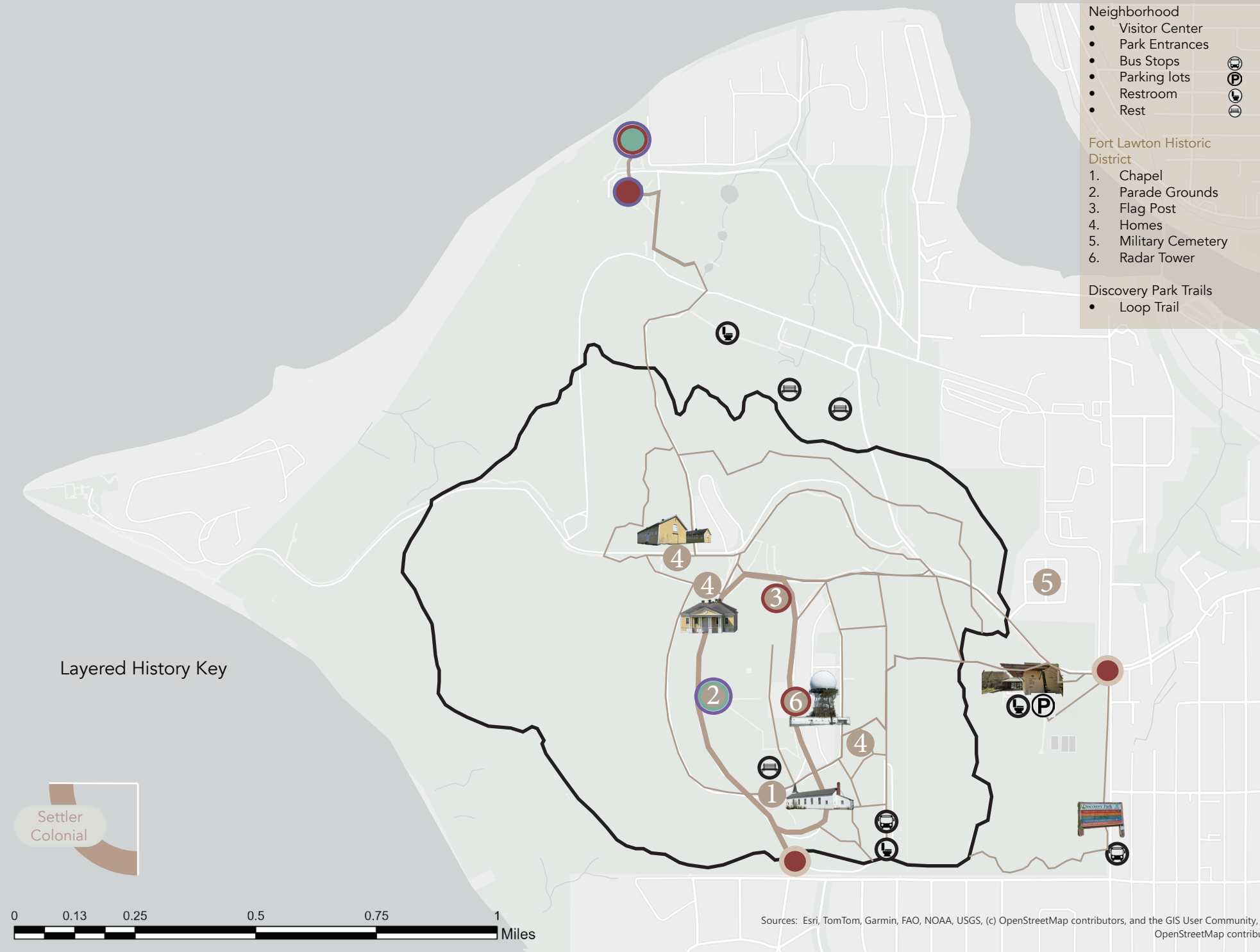
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Layered History Key



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, OpenStreetMap contribu

Discovery Park Settler Colonial History Walk



Settler Colonial History Walk



Flag Posts

The flag post at Fort Lawton is standard for a military base. A sign provides information on Fort Lawton and some of the history of the site.



Homes

There are 26 historic homes at the former military base, between Officers Row and Montana Circle. The homes were where the Fort Lawton Officers lived while the base was still active. There will be a Fort Lawton Development that will include affordable housing over the next few years.



Military Cemetery

Fort Lawton military cemetery was established in 1900 for military members and their families. Although it is not taking new burials, the cemetery is still active.



Radar Tower

The radar tower was established in the sixties, when Fort Lawton was being used as an Air Force base. Today is still used by the Federal Aviation Administration and is part of a nationwide aviation security program.



Chapel



The parade grounds at Fort Lawton were used for military ceremonies and big events. Now, they provide a grassy area for parkgoers to sit, play, and relax.



Parade Grounds



The chapel at Fort Lawton is a reminder of the legacy of the Christian influence upon settler colonialism in Seattle. This chapel was also one of the first places stormed during the occupation, and was done so during a service. The chapel is a historic landmark, and weddings are held there periodically.



Indigenous and non-Indigenous Discovery Park visitors walk by the lighthouse, and people stop to read informational signs. (McCormack, 2025)

City Scale

The city of Seattle is located on traditional Duwamish and Coast Salish land, and as such contains its own rich layered history regarding the natural world, colonial history, Indigenous culture, and indigenous social activist movements. Across Seattle, there are four distinct areas of present day Seattle that deserve special recognition: West Seattle, Downtown, The University of Washington, and South Lake Union. All of these areas have ties to indigenous history, and serve as hubs that contain clusters of indigenous art, businesses, community services, and future projects that serve the Urban Native community. Our goal surrounding the larger Seattle scale in this project is to spotlight the historical and existing points of interest among these hubs, and to emphasize the interconnectivity of these hubs by showcasing transportation routes (road, bus, train, bike, pedestrian, and water routes) that bring these hubs together.



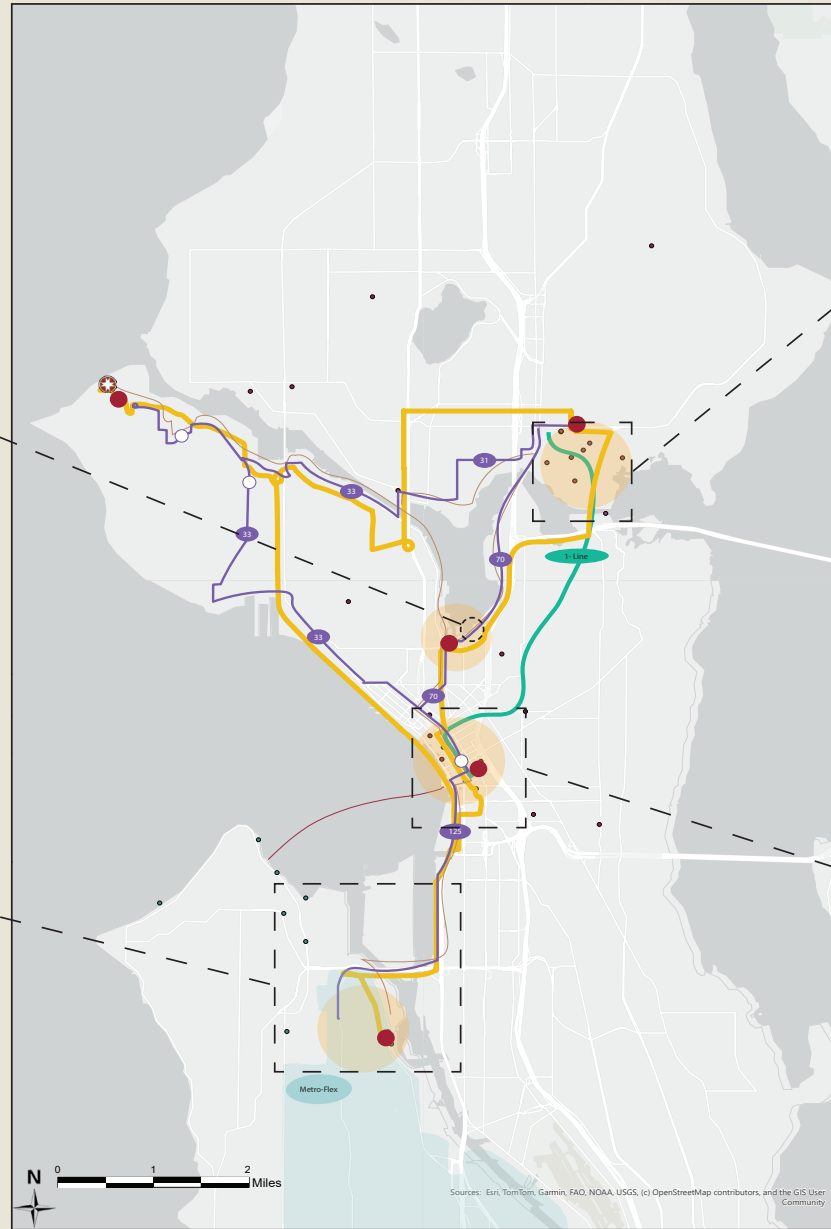
(Mozayeni, 2025)

Seattle Context

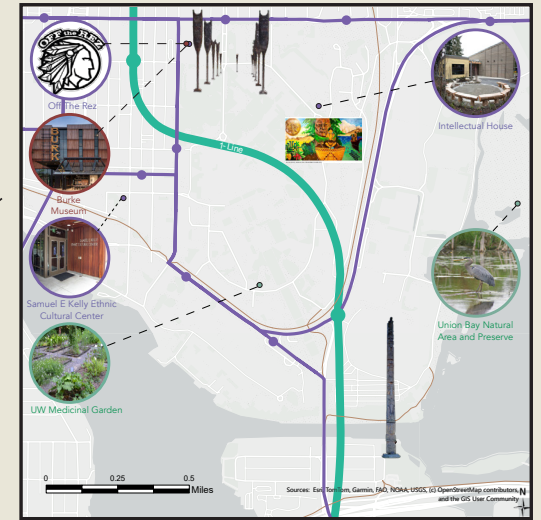
South Lake Union
Canoe Carving Center



West Seattle

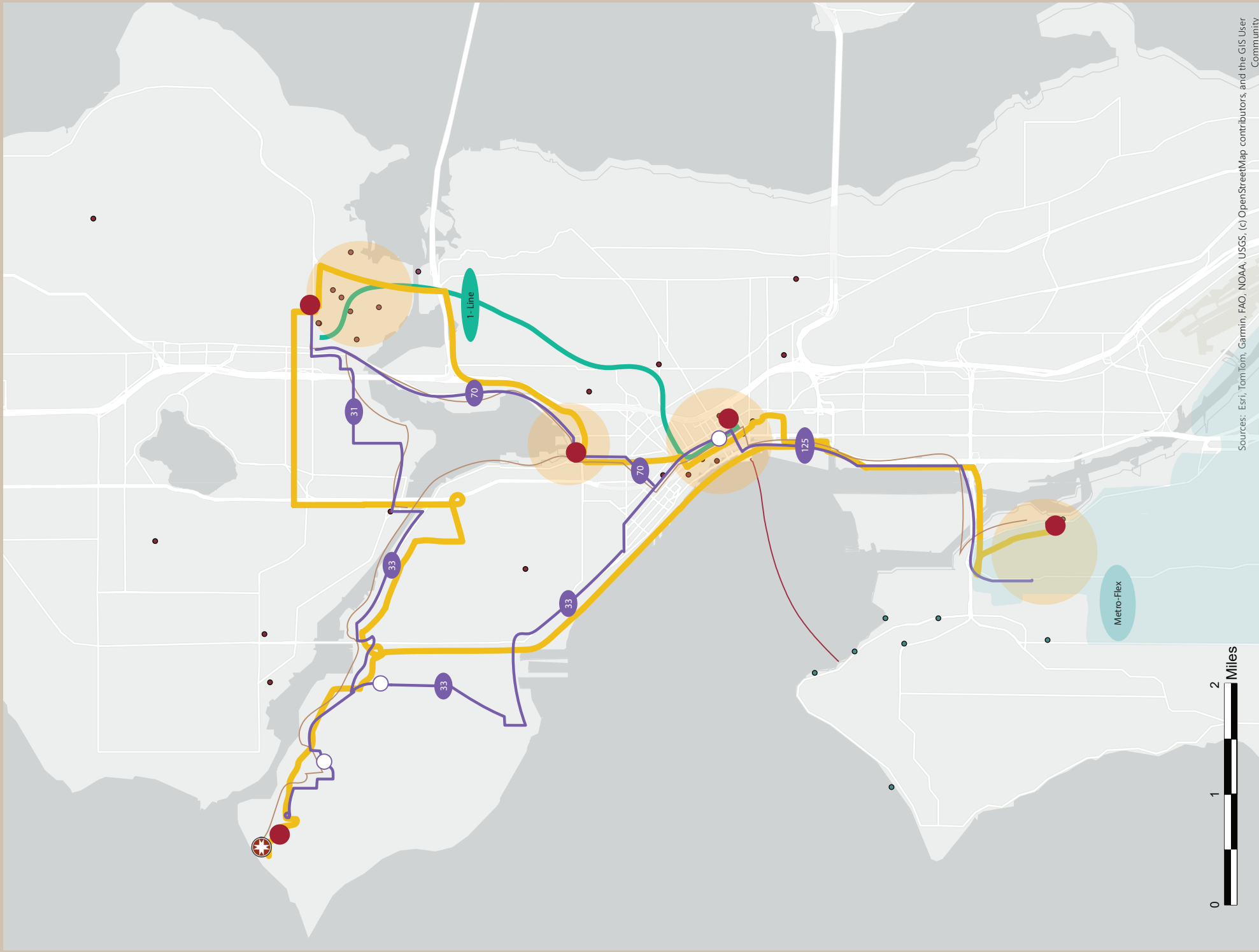


University of Washington



Downtown





Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

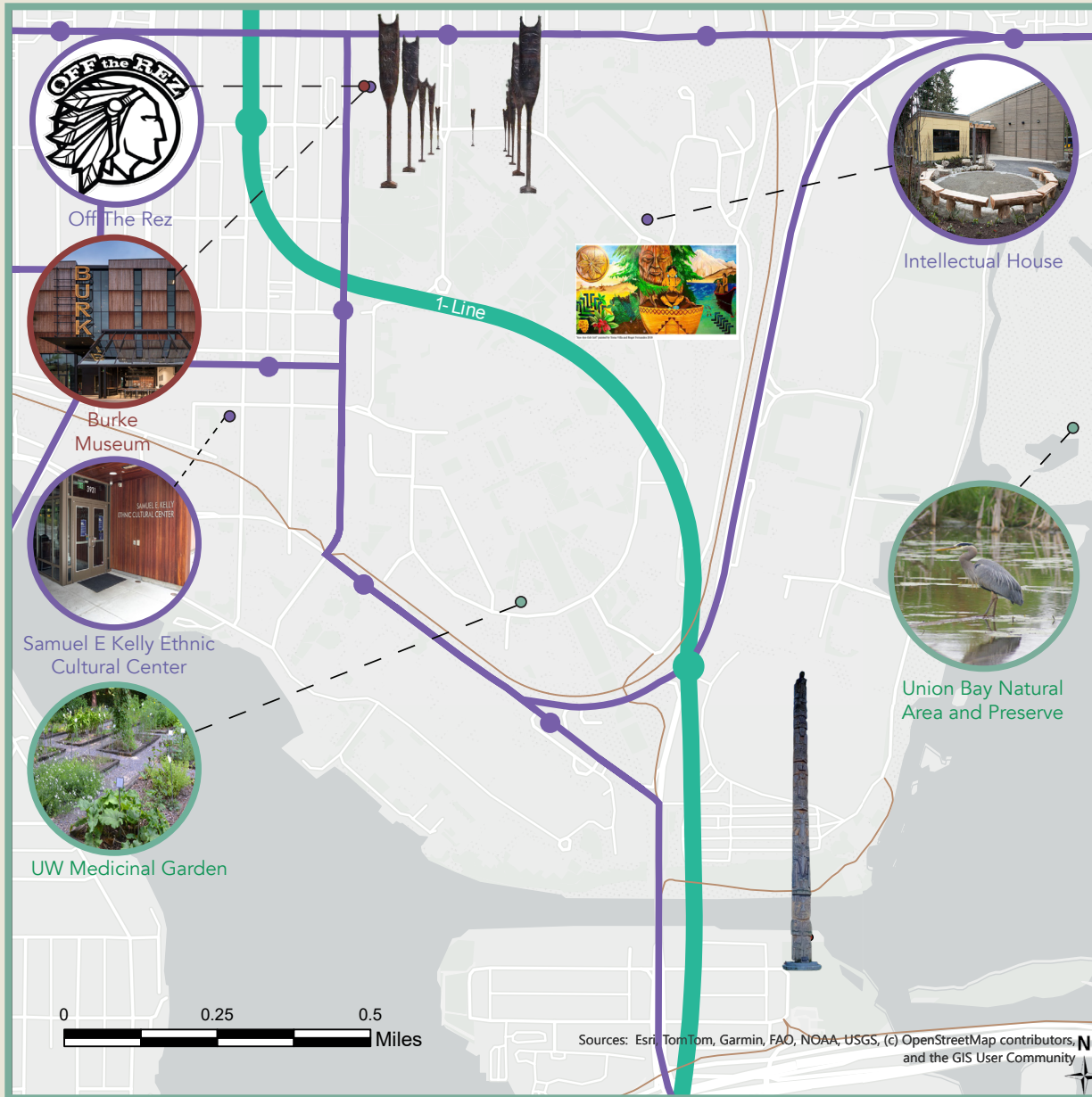
Seattle Multimodal Transit to Daybreak Star

Downtown Seattle

Downtown Seattle contains clusters of Indigenous art and business, with most of the Indigenous businesses in Seattle located within this hub. The downtown neighborhood of Pioneer Square, Seattle's oldest neighborhood, contains many layers of Native American heritage. Two villages were once located in the vicinity, and the Lushootseed name for the area translates as "a little place where one crosses over." Today, a bust of Chief Seattle stands in Occidental Square that serves as a reminder of the indigenous history of the area.



University of Washington



The University of Washington is a hub of indigenous artworks, as well as a space that emphasises Indigenous connection to the land and water of the Seattle area. The area is home to the Burke Museum, a place where the natural and indigenous cultural histories of Seattle are highlighted. It is also home to the wətəbʔaltxʷ Intellectual House, a longhouse-style facility that a gathering space for Indigenous staff and students. It also has a notable history as the cite of the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, where Duwamish culture was highlighted, and is still the home to various native artworks. The area's location adjacent to Portage Bay also hosts a nature preserve that emphasizes the importance of relational ecological stewardship and connection to the natural environment.

West Seattle

West Seattle is an important area of Seattle that has deep ties to Duwamish and settler colonial history, and has served as the site of Duwamish settlements for time immemorial, as well as the site of violence during colonization. Today, the Duwamish Longhouse is located here, positioned across the street from Heʔapus Village Park, the site where one of the largest Duwamish villages was burnt by settlers in 1895. The area is dotted with signs of indigeneity, such as the story pole at Belvedere Viewpoint which was carved by Michael Halady, a descendant of Chief Seattle. Adjacent to both Elliot Bay and the Duwamish River, it serves as an important connection to the waters of Seattle, with several points for canoe launching located along its shores.



South Lake Union

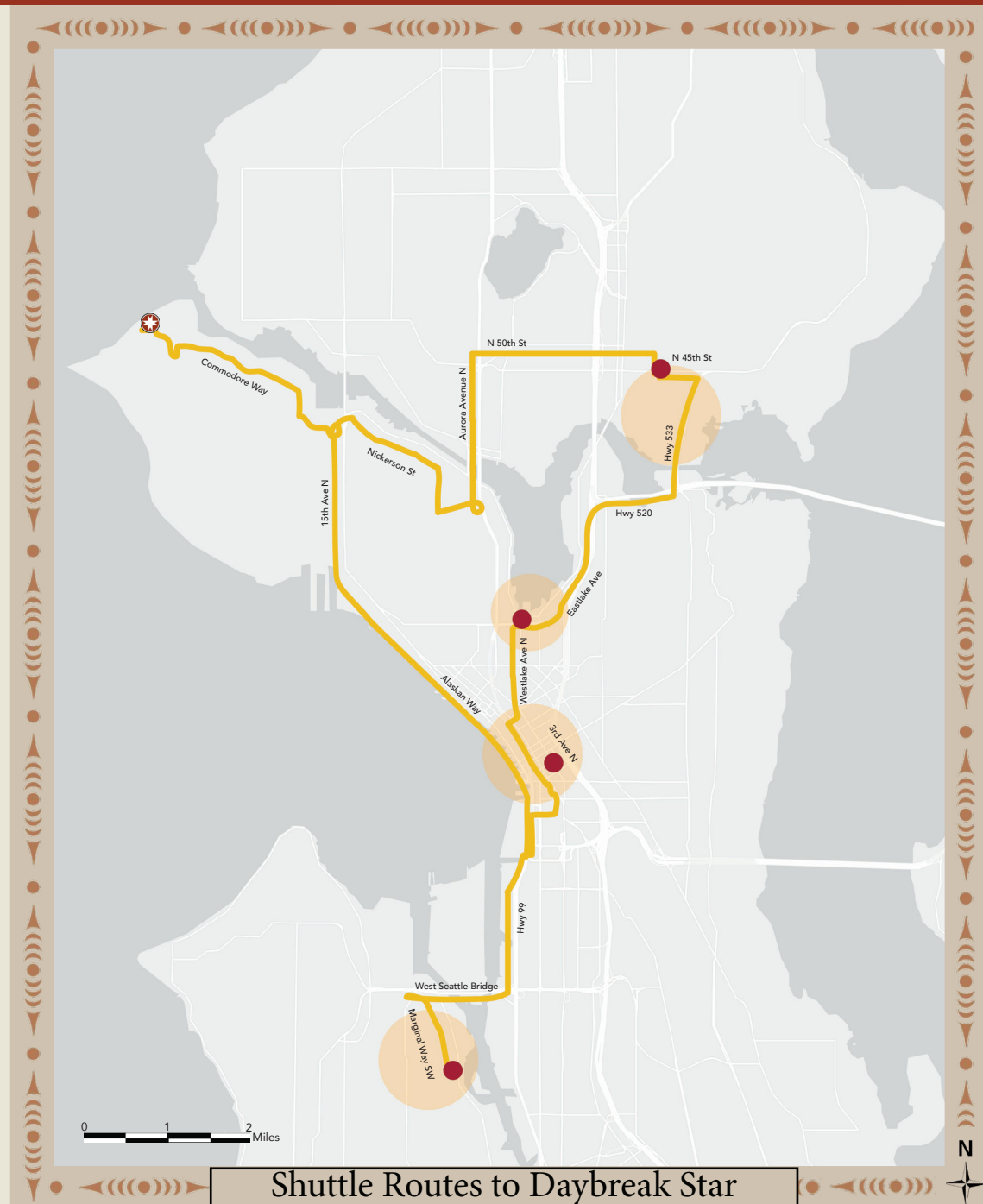


Prior to colonization and its use as the first source for colonial Seattle's urban water system, the shores of South Lake Union was once the location of a Duwamish Settlement, and an important hub for fishing, canoeing, and general transportation for First Nations peoples. In the last 50 years, Indigenous people, spearheaded by UIATF, have worked to revitalize canoe culture in the PNW. With the success of the Intertribal Canoe Journey that takes place every summer, the need for a central place to land in Seattle. The proposed Canoe Carving Center would serve as a space for the Indigenous community to gather, and where practices that have been present for centuries can have a tangible home to be witnessed and practiced.

Shuttle Routes

These maps outline a circular shuttle route between Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center and 4 other identified hubs of cultural and historical significance for the Urban Indigenous community. In the U-District, the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture was selected as the shuttle route destination as a high traffic hub of Indigenous and ecological art that hosts a well connected parking lot. Along the north side of the University of Washington campus, this location is well connected to transit and hosts the first stop in the UW Indigenous Walking Tour. The future Canoe Center site was selected as a shuttle route due to its cultural significance and central location along South Lake Union bus lines and walking trails. Pioneer Square was selected as a downtown shuttle destination due to its rich, layered history and artwork in addition to its central location where many transit networks intersect, including the West Seattle Taxi and the Light Rail. In West Seattle, the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center was chosen as a shuttle due to its historical and contemporary significance.

Each of these hubs is a major attraction for urban Indigenous community members and tourists alike, and are nestled among other important Indigenous artworks, services, businesses, and general hubs of urban activity that promise a high flow of user traffic. To promote flexibility for program design and usability, this route is intended to be circuitous, multi-directional, and aligned with existing multimodal trail and transit networks. The route is well situated for additional stops as desired for seasonal tourism or specific events, such as Powwows, cruise line traffic along Pier 66, or World Cup patrons at Lumen Field.



Shuttle Routes to Daybreak Star

Daybreak Star to Burke Museum

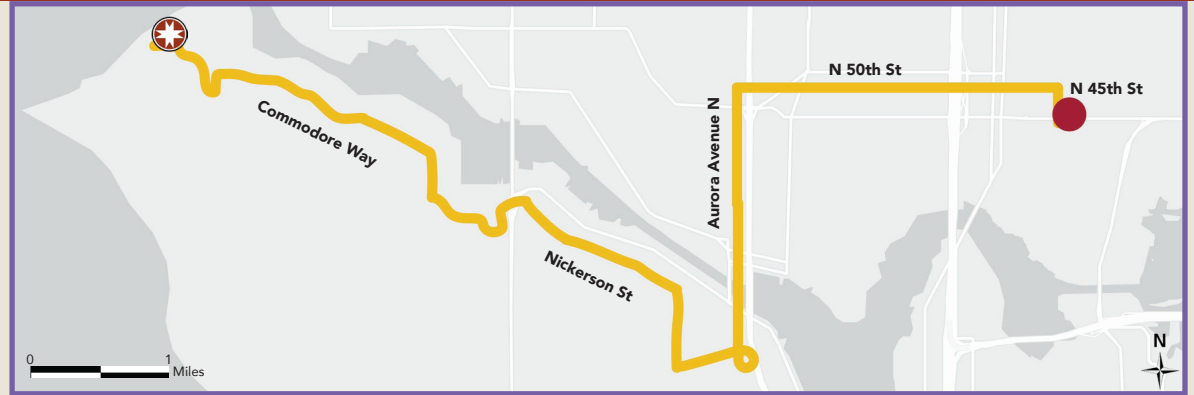
Synergy with:

- Transit Lines
- South Ship Canal Trail
- UW Indigenous Walking Tour

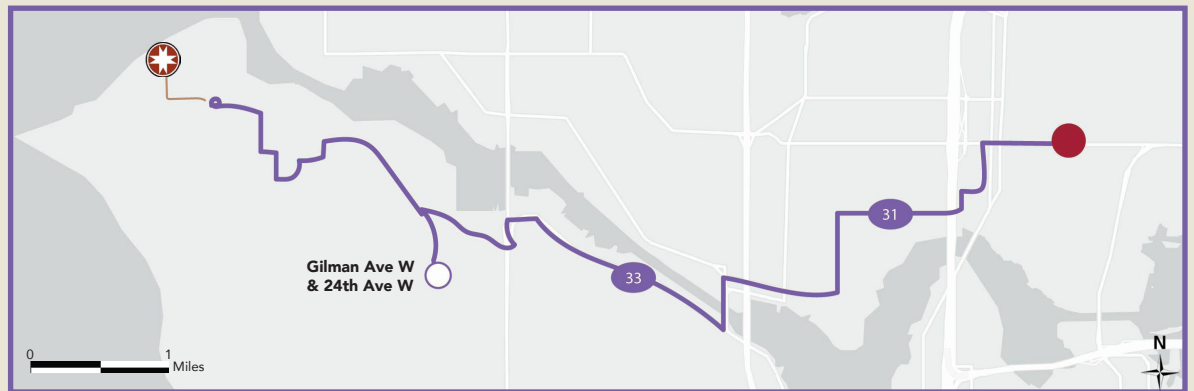
The shuttle exits Discovery Park along Commodore Way, following along the south side of the Ship Canal and Shilshole Bay before crossing via the Aurora Bridge and following along 50th street towards the U District. This route is expedient while providing opportunities for views and avoiding heavy traffic in the Ballard area.

This driving route is intended to follow along the predominant transit routes, creating opportunity for additional stops where it is convenient to pick up multimodal travelers. Transit-goers will be looking for a bus connection between the 33 and the 31 bus lines, creating a pickup opportunity if desired.

Multi-modal travelers can follow along the water for most of the route, using the well-maintained Burke-Gilman trail before passing along the Fremont Bridge. The walking route follows closely with transit routes to give travelers additional flexibility. From the Burke Museum, visitors can experience the UW Indigenous Walking Tour including an 8 minute walk (.4 miles) to the wəṭəbʔaltx Intellectual House.



Shuttle Route 22-40 minutes 7.2 miles



Transit Route 1 hour 7 minutes .8 miles of walking



Walking/Multimodal Walking Route 2.5 hours, 6.9 miles
Option for transit stops along the 31 Bus Line

Burke Museum to Pioneer Square

Synergy with:

- New Northwest Native Canoe Center
- Cheshiahud Lake Union Trail
- Transit Routes 1-Line Light Rail

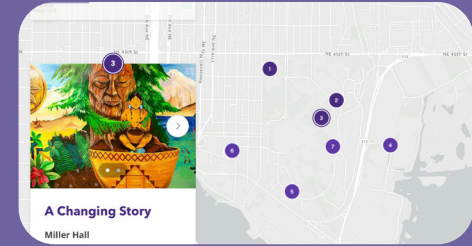
The Shuttle Route avoids highways and congestion by heading east and passing along University Bridge. This route also provides an opportunity for an additional pickup spot by the Union Bay Natural Area, a stop on the UW Indigenous Walking Tour, and the University of Washington Stadium, the site of annual spring Powwows.

Visitors have multiple options for traversing between the routes. The 70 bus line is accessible from the UW campus, taking travelers all the way to Pioneer Square while stopping right at the Northwest Native Canoe Center. The 1-line is also a convenient alternative for travelers heading directly between the Burke Museum and Pioneer Square.

Multimodal travel between these points of interest is possible along several well-established routes which provide viewpoints and opportunities for rest. Across the University Bridge, travelers can follow the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop to the canoe center, before cutting south towards downtown and Pioneer Square.



University of Washington Indigenous Walking Tour



Along the UW Campus, visitors can purchase a booklet or access a free, online self-guided Indigenous Walking Tour to seven points of interest. This tour was developed by Owen L. Oliver, from the Chinook People of the Lower Columbia River and the Isleta of the Southwest Pueblos, who graduated from UW in 2021. The tour emphasizes Indigenous education and Place-learning.



Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop



The Cheshiahud loop is a 6.5 mile mixed use trail that encircles Lake Union. Its namesake, Cheshiahud (Cheshiahood), was a Duwamish chief and guide to the lakes and rivers of present day Seattle during the early 20th century. Duwamish Tribes stewarded the shores of Lake Union in large Salish-style canoes. Today, the trail connects to 35 pocket parks and waterways, enabling visitors to follow the edge of the lake to appreciate the City's history.

Shuttle Route
(30 minutes,
5.3 miles)



Transit Route
(15-40 minutes)
70 Bus Line or
Light Rail



Walking Route
(2 hours, 5 miles)



Daybreak Star to Duwamish Longhouse

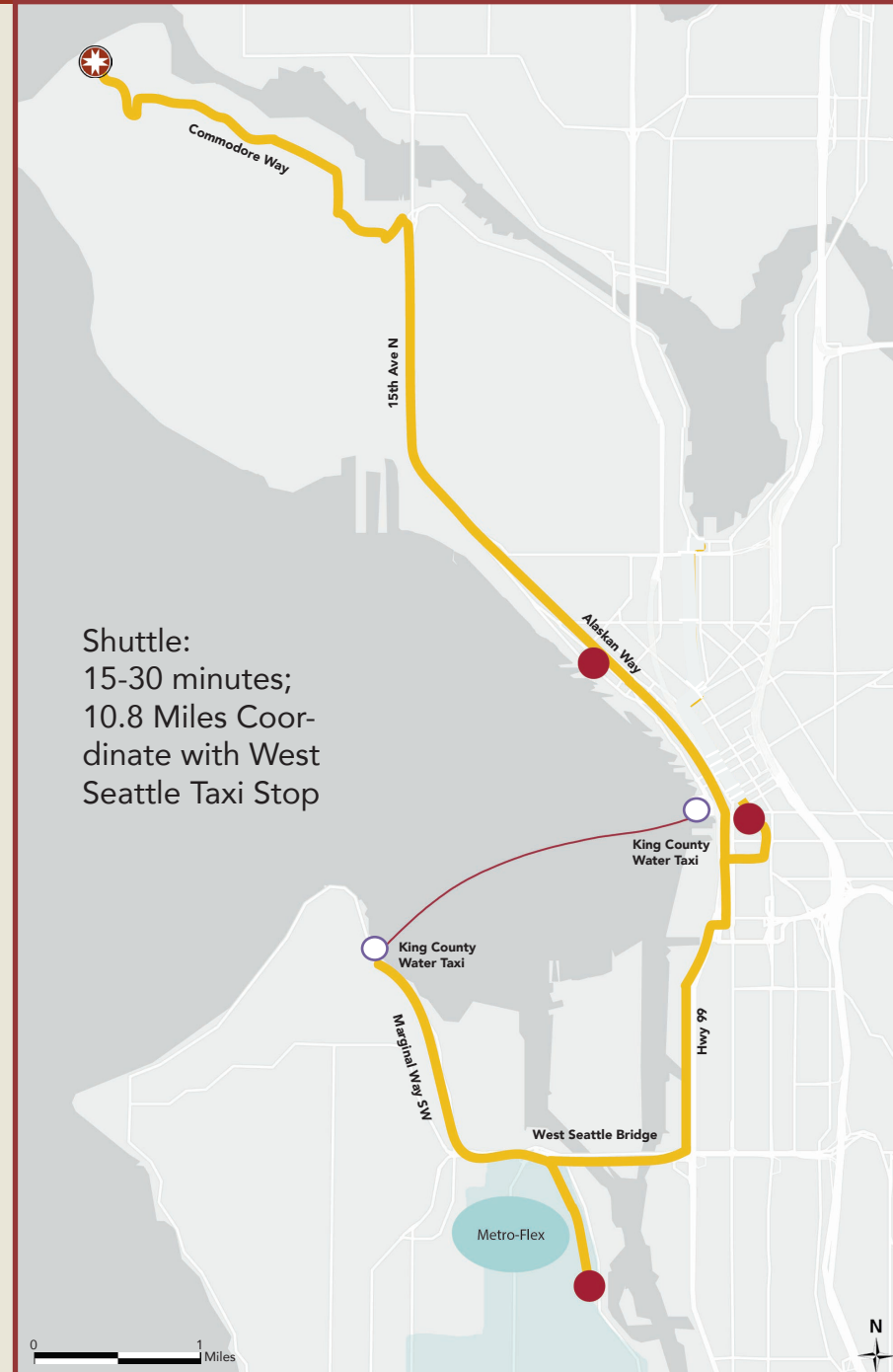
Synergy with:

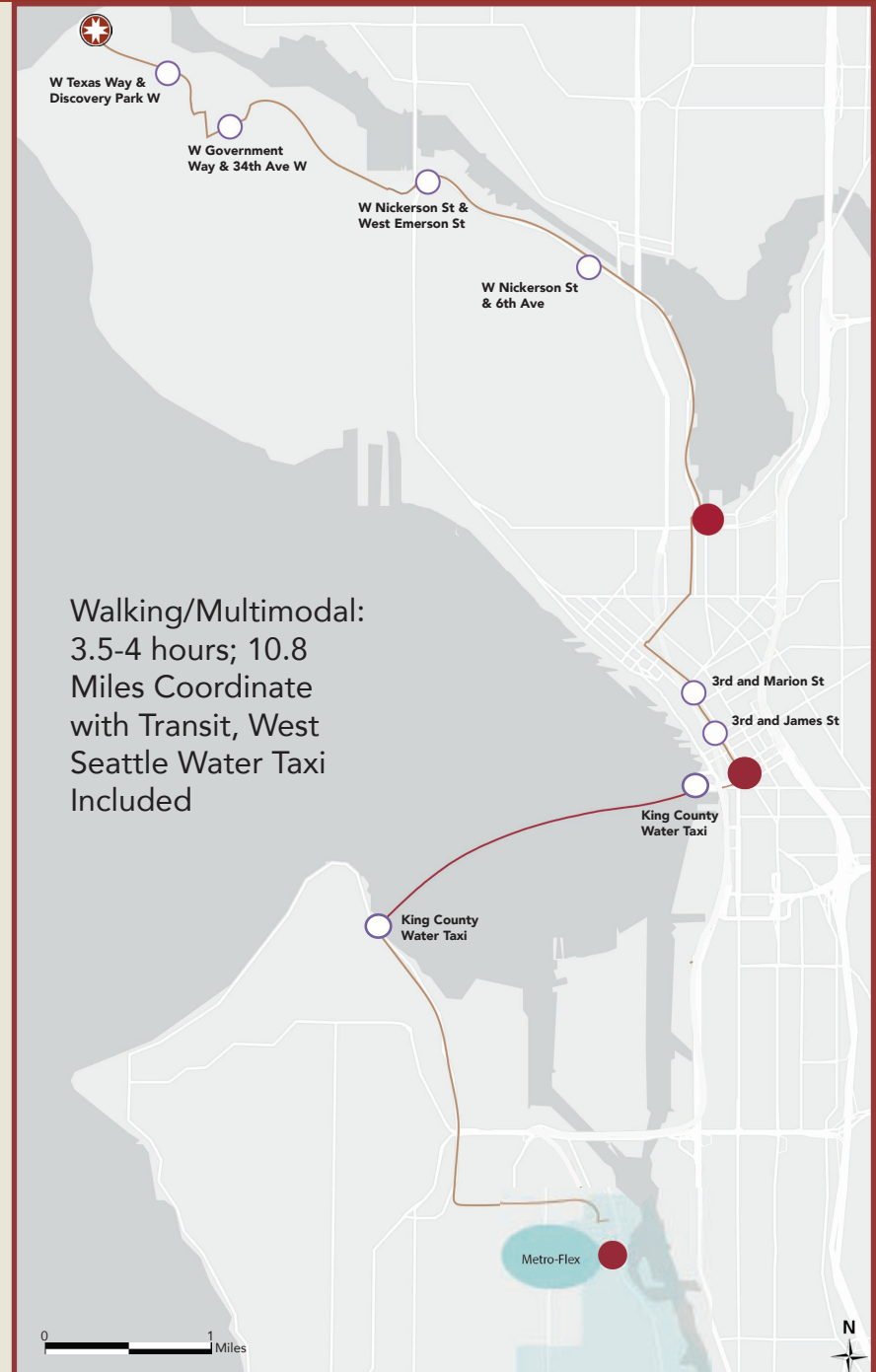
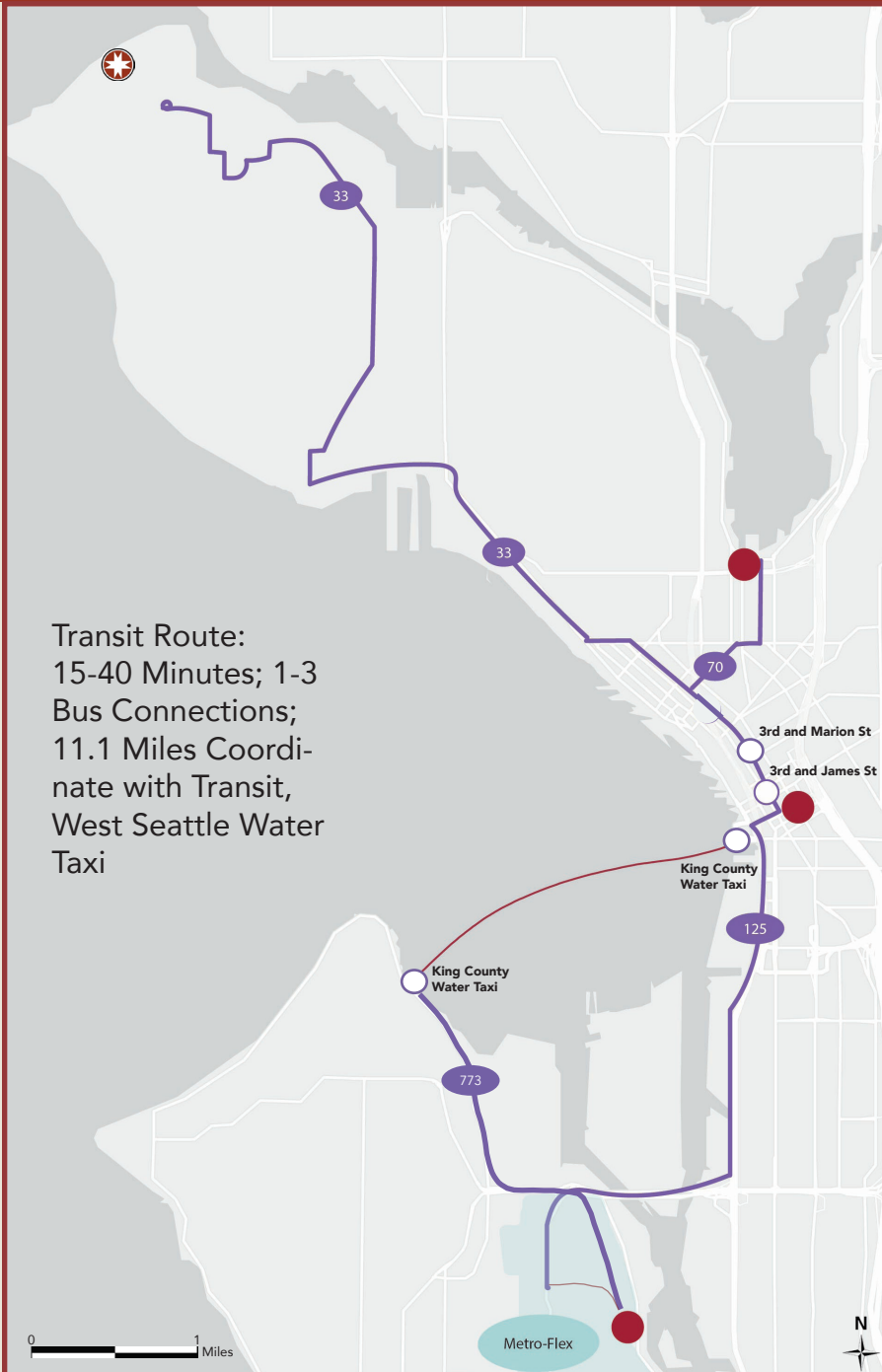
- Cruise Lines at Pier 66
- World Cup Patrons at Lumen Field
- Transit Routes
- West Seattle Water Taxi

Between Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center and Pioneer Square are many opportunities for visibility of other Indigenous points of interest. The route naturally passes through Pioneer Square and downtown points of interest, making a scenic shuttle route along Alaskan Way to pick up Cruise-goers along Pier 66, and coordinate to pick up World Cup patrons near Lumen field.

The shuttle pathway can be closely mirrored by existing transit networks, including an alternate opportunity to coordinate a scenic route along the West Seattle Water Taxi.

The walking/multimodal pathway is most challenging for this portion of the shuttle route, due to the longest distance (11.8 miles) between Daybreak Star and Duwamish Longhouse. Supplementing this trail route with water taxi opportunities and transit, there are still many enjoyable opportunities for patrons to walk along the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop and South Ship Canal Trail.

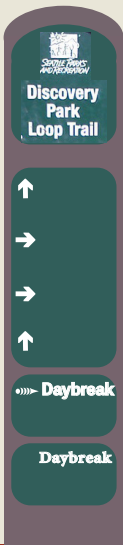
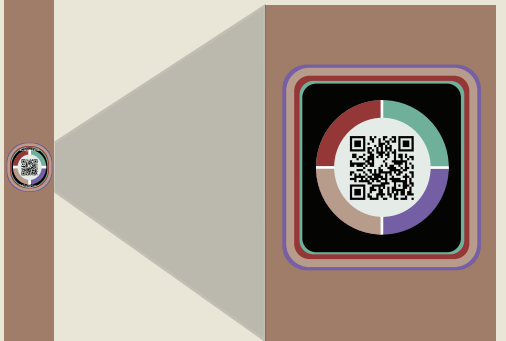
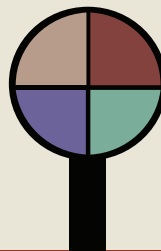
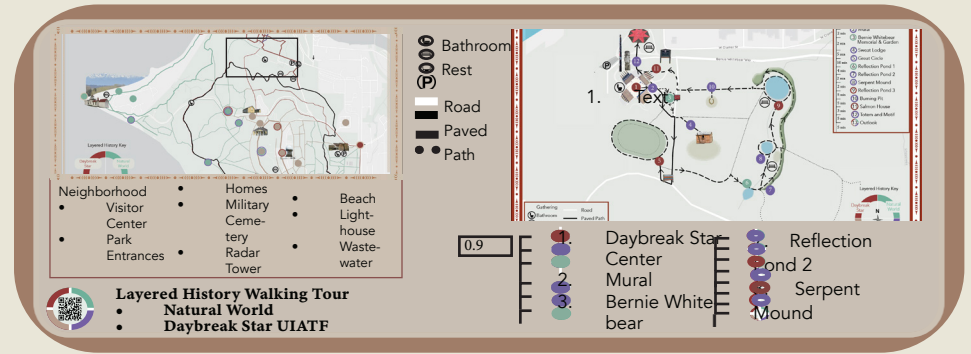
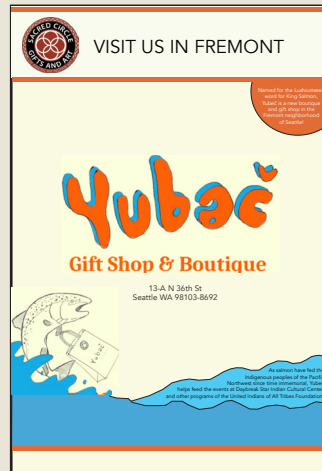






People wait in line at the Burke museum to take the Daybreak Star shuttle. (McCormack, 2025)

Signage Design



QR Codes

Layered History QR

- Leads to maps and information about each stop



For themed walks



Materials

Signage Materials:

- Cedar
- Metal

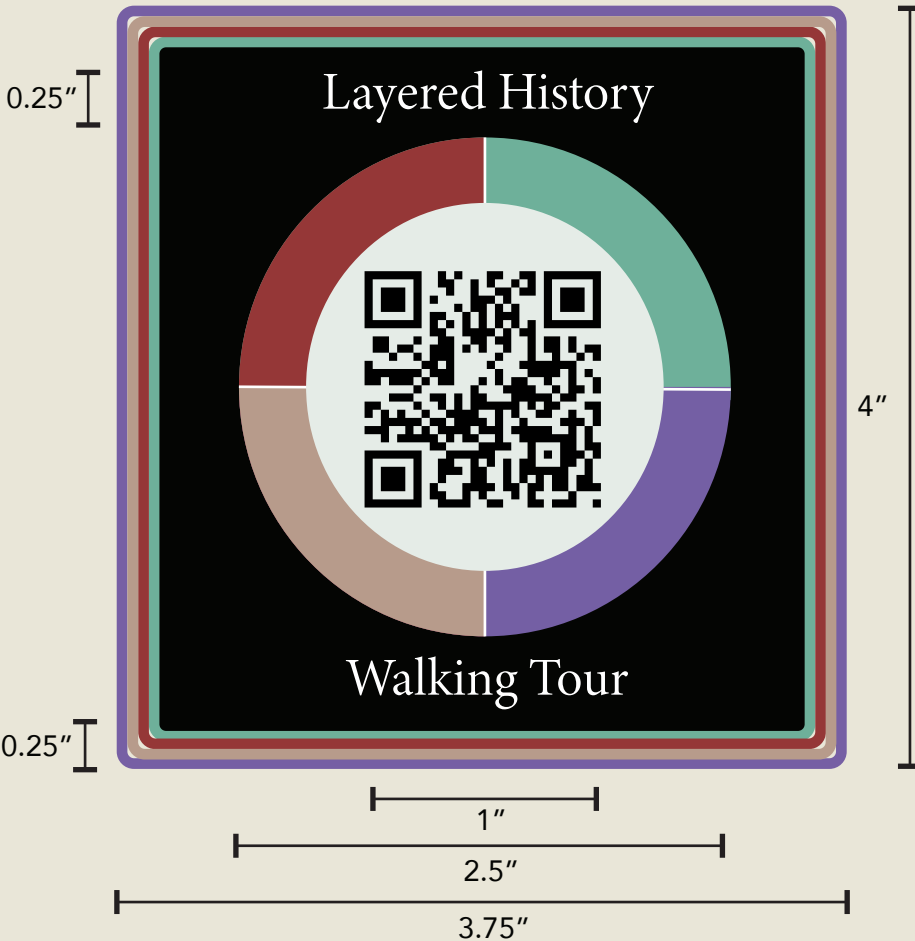
Text: Minion Variable Pro

- Paint
- Carved
- Printed

Hex Codes

- Red- 84433f
- Brown- b79a8b
- Purple- 6d639b
- Green- 7dae9a

Thickness: 0.15"



Ground Signage



Materials

Signage Materials:

- Cedar
- Metal
- Plastic for colored portion

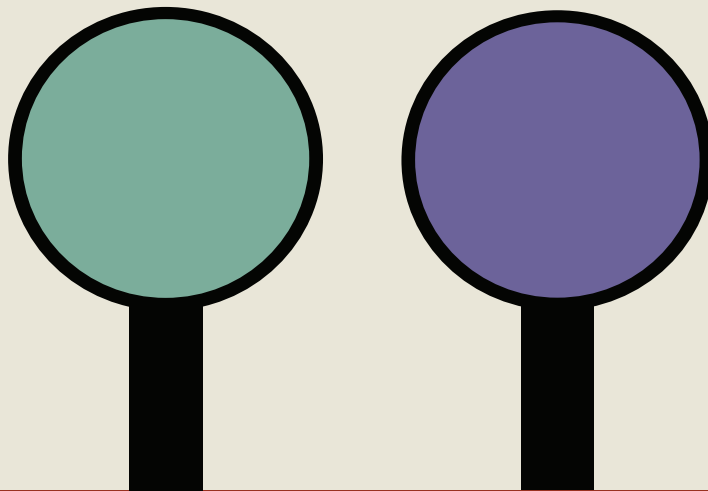
Text: Minion Variable
Pro and Avenir Roman

- Paint
- Engraved
- Printed

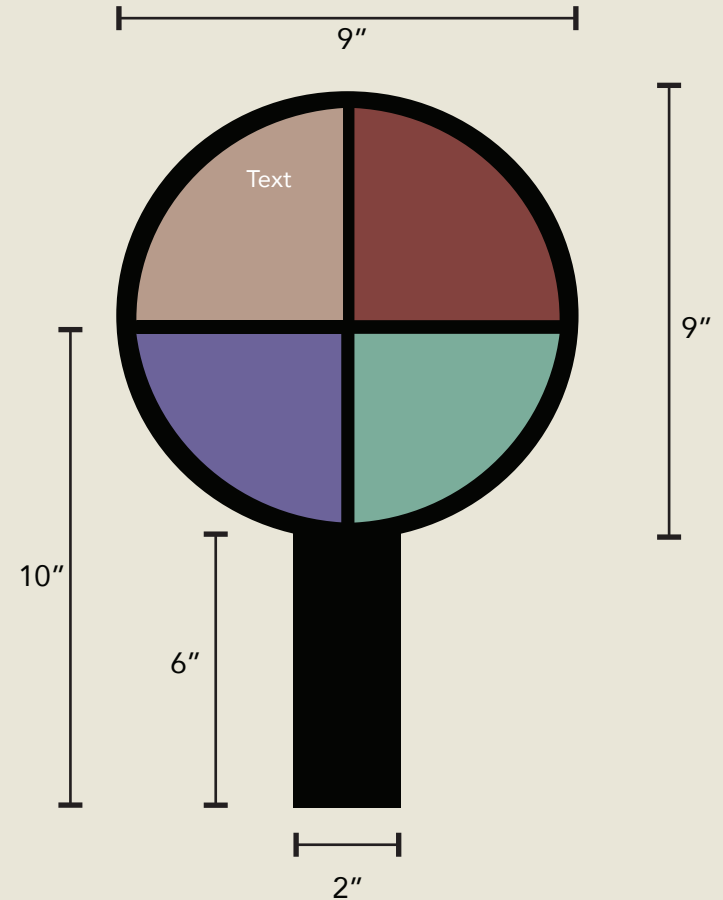
Hex Codes

- Red- 84433f
 - Brown- b79a8b
 - Purple- 6d639b
 - Green- 7dae9a
- Thickness: 0.25"

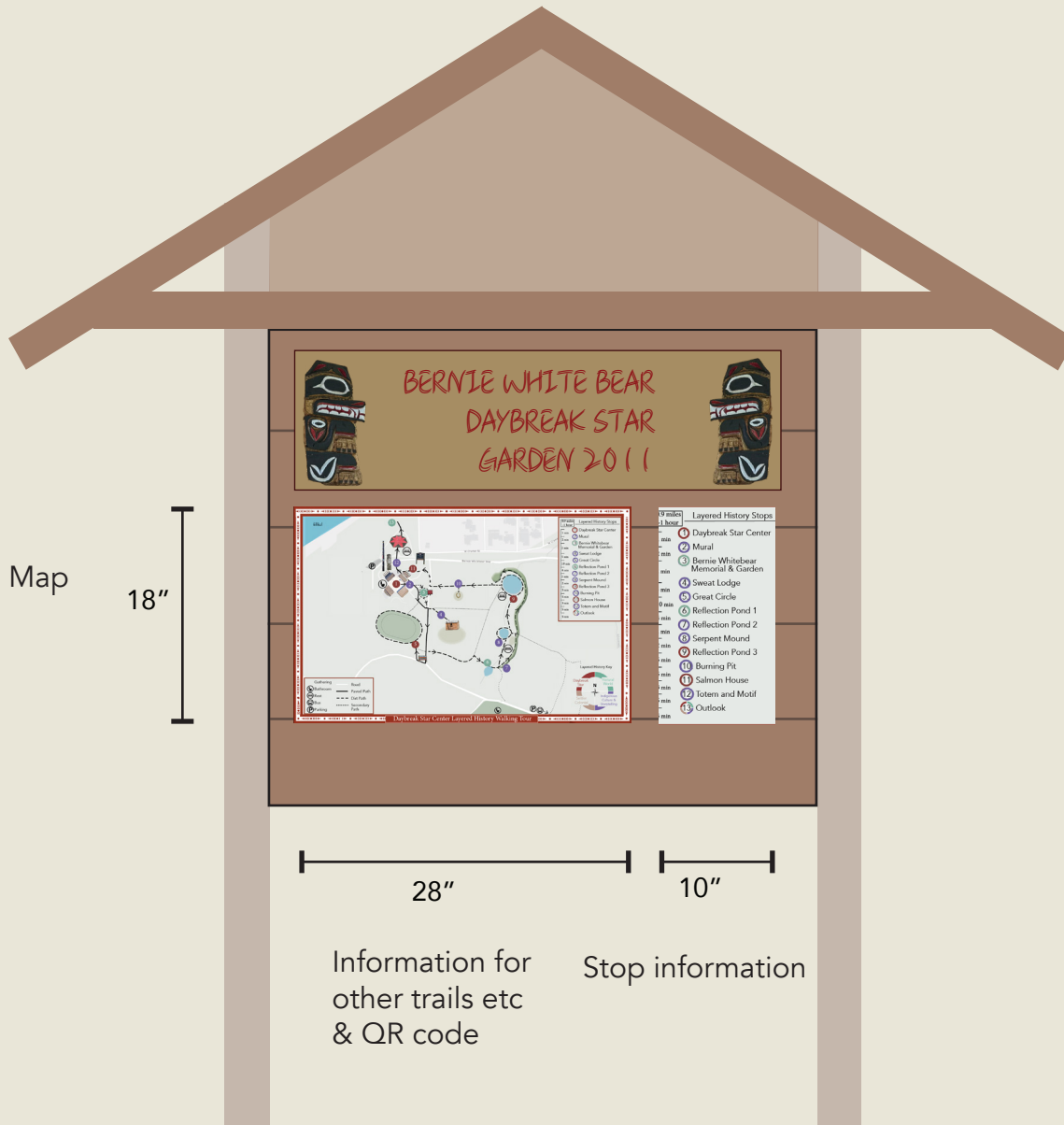
For themed walks



Layered History Ground Signage



Existing Wooden Signage



Materials

Signage Materials:

- Laminated paper map
- Carved map

Text: Minion Variable Pro and Avenir Roman

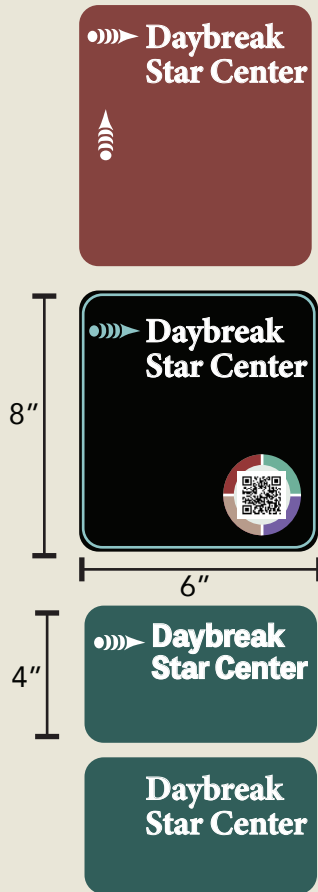
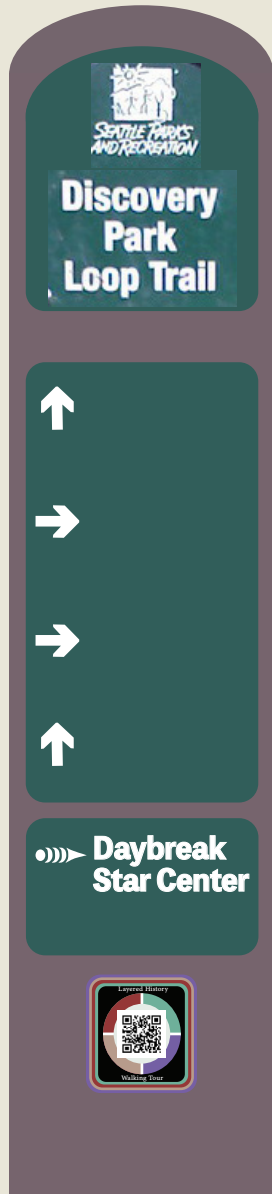
- Paint
- Carved
- Printed

Hex Codes

- Red- 84433f
- Brown- b79a8b
- Purple- 6d639b
- Green- 7dae9a

Thickness: 0.25"

Existing Discovery Park Signage



Materials

Signage Materials:

- Cedar
- Metal

Text: Minion Variable Pro

- Paint
- Carved
- Printed

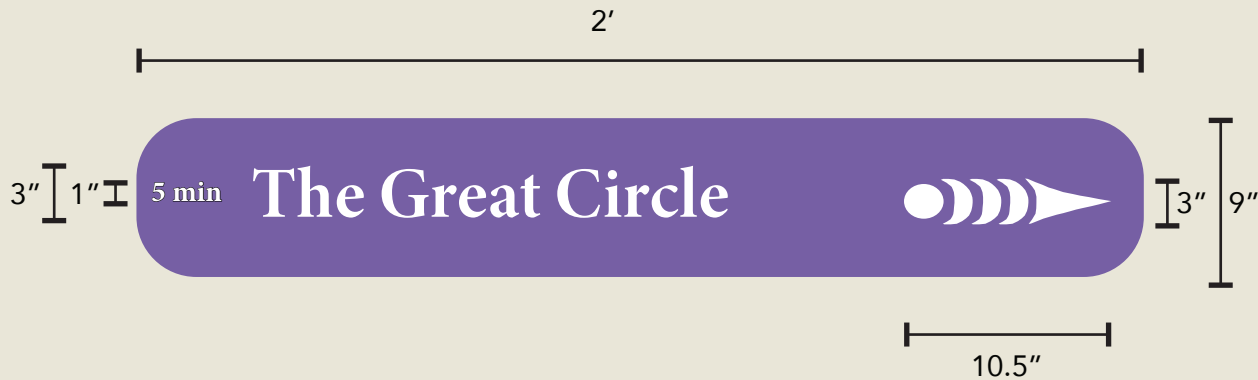
Hex Codes

- Red- 84433f
- Brown- b79a8b
- Purple- 6d639b
- Green- 7dae9a

Thickness: 0.15"



Wooden Wayfinding Post & Board



Materials

Signage Materials:

- Cedar
- Metal

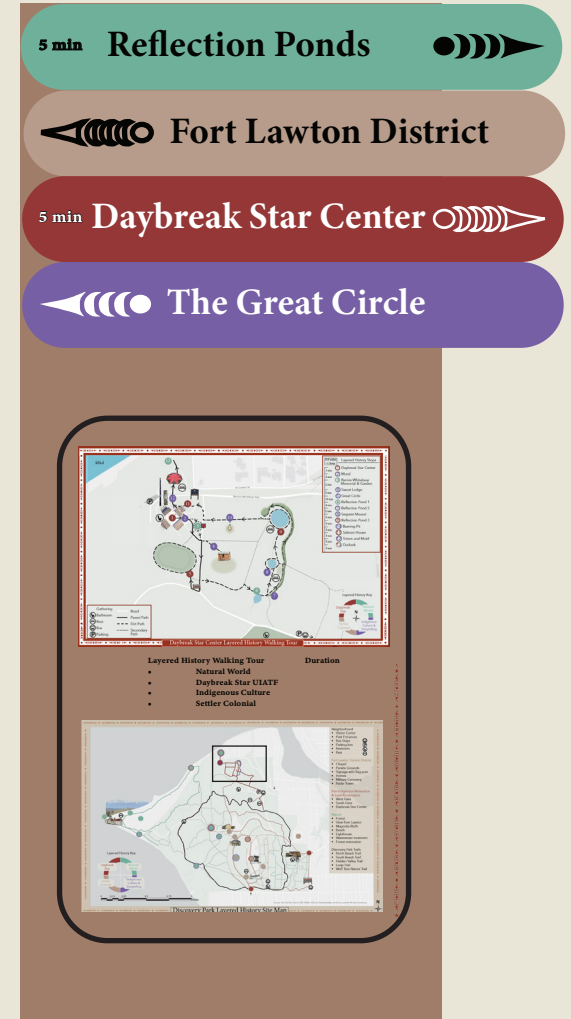
Text: Minion Variable Pro

- Paint
- Carved
- Printed

Hex Codes

- Red- 84433f
- Brown- b79a8b
- Purple- 6d639b
- Green- 7dae9a

Thickness: 1"



7' 8"

4"

Fort Lawton District 5 min

The Great Circle 5 min

2'

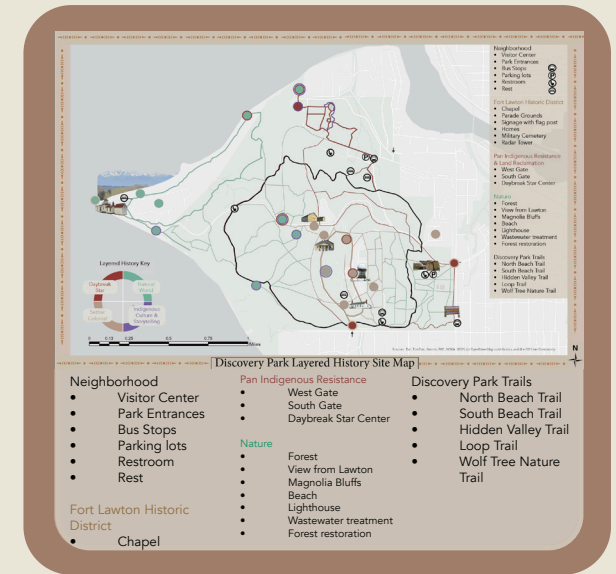
5 min Reflection Ponds

5 min Daybreak Star Center



Wayfinding Map Plaques for Posts & Boards

Plaques for boards



Materials

Signage Materials:

- Cedar
- Metal

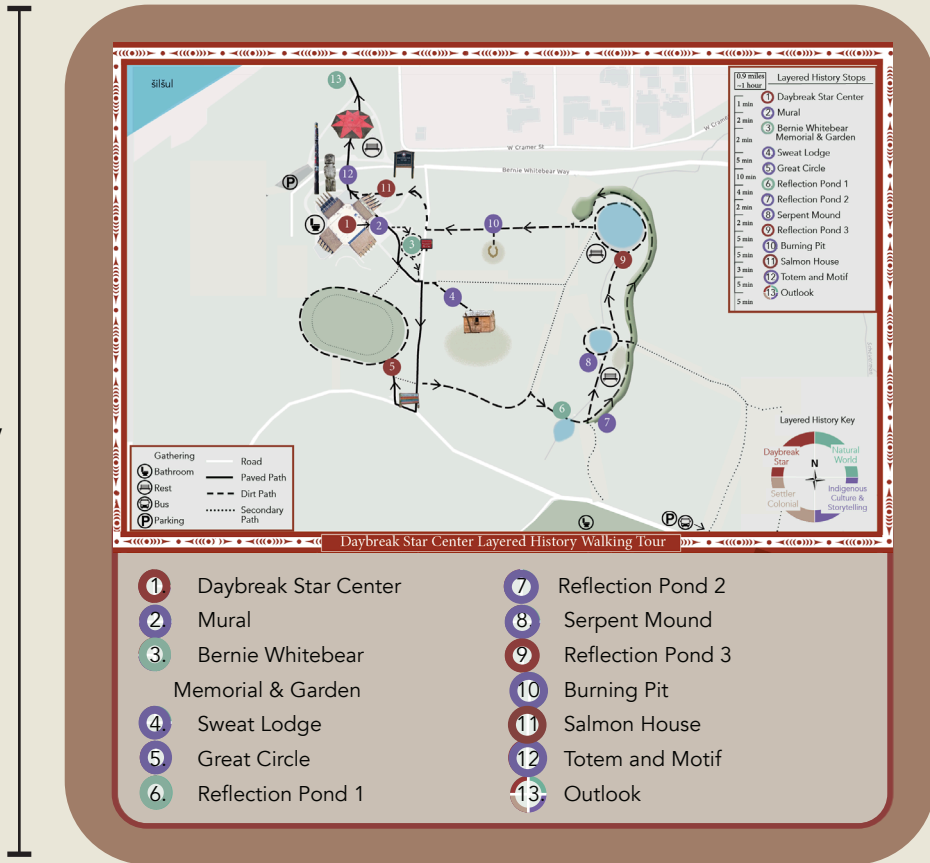
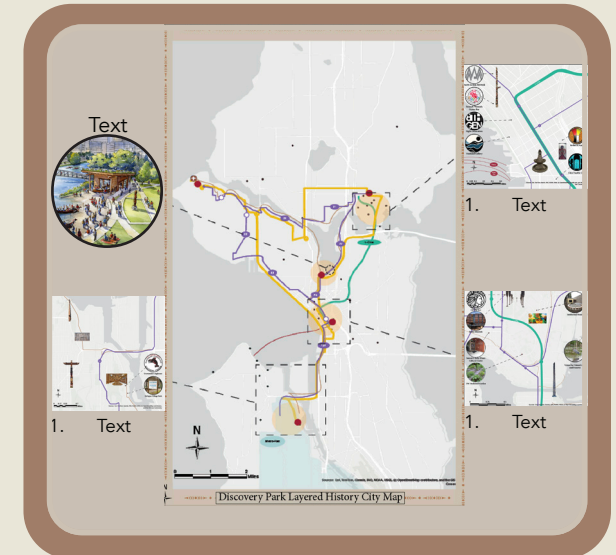
Text: Minion Variable Pro

- Paint
- Carved
- Printed

Hex Codes

- Red- 84433f
- Brown- b79a8b
- Purple- 6d639b
- Green- 7dae9a

Thickness: 0.25"



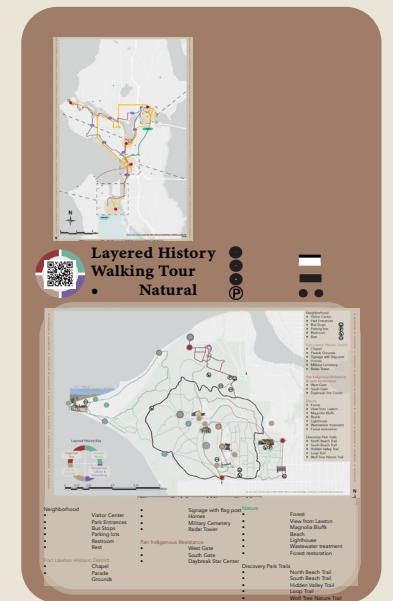
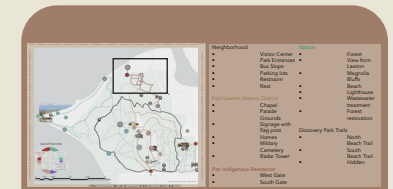
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Daybreak Star Center | 7 Reflection Pond 2 |
| 2 Mural | 8 Serpent Mound |
| 3 Bernie Whitebear Memorial & Garden | 9 Reflection Pond 3 |
| 4 Sweat Lodge | 10 Burning Pit |
| 5 Great Circle | 11 Salmon House |
| 6 Reflection Pond 1 | 12 Totem and Motif |
| | 13 Outlook |

18"

16"

18"

Horizontal & Vertical Signage Boards



18"

Neighborhood

- Visitor Center
- Park Entrances
- Bus Stops
- Parking lots
- Restroom
- Rest

Fort Lawton Historic District

- Chapel

Legend

- Bathroom
- Rest
- Bus
- Parking
- Road
- Paved Path
- Dirt Path
- Secondary Path
- Path

Daybreak Star Center Layered History Walking Tour

0.9 miles
~1 hour

1 min	1	Daybreak Star Center	4 min	7	Reflection Pond 2
2 min	2	Mural	2 min	8	Serpent Mound
2 min	3	Bernie Whitebear Memorial & Garden	2 min	9	Reflection Pond 3
2 min	4	Memorial & Garden	5 min	10	Burning Pit
5 min	4	Sweat Lodge	5 min	11	Salmon House
10 min	5	Great Circle	3 min	12	Totem and Motif
4 min	6	Reflection Pond 1	5 min	13	Outlook

Layered History Walking Tour

- Natural World
- Daybreak Star UIATF
- Indigenous Culture
- Settler Colonial

28"

Materials

Signage Materials:

- Cedar
- Plastic

Text: Minion Variable Pro

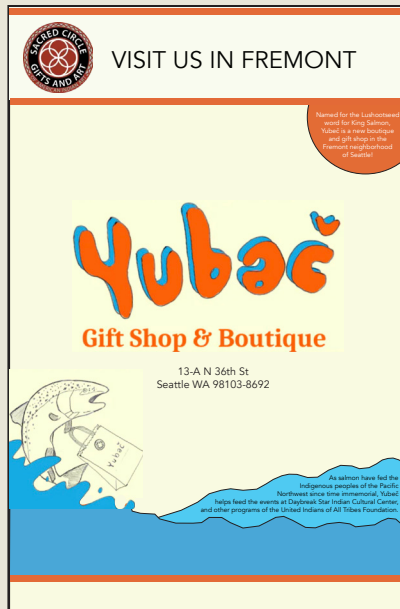
- Paint
- Printed

Thickness: 0.25"

Team 1 <<<< 78 >>>>

Poster Boards

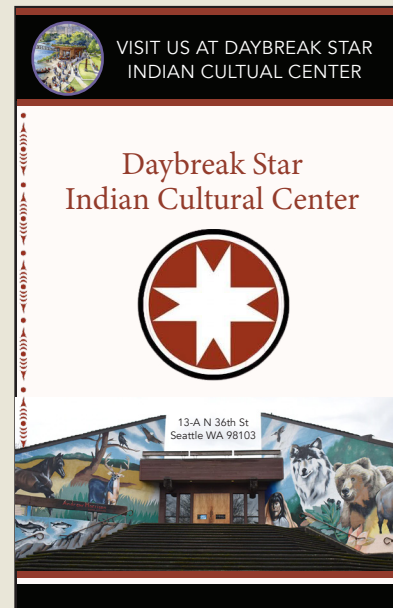
11" x 17" Posters or A-Frame 24" x 36" Inserts



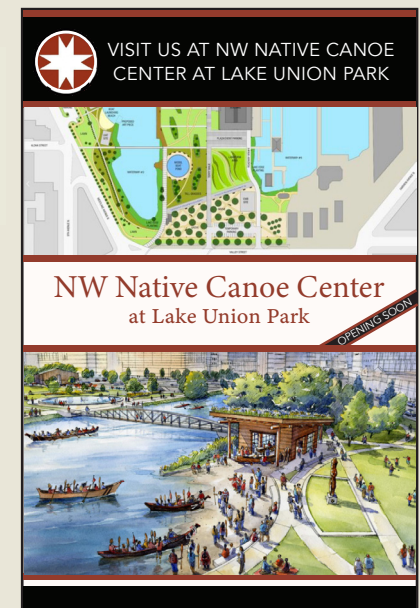
Placed at Sacred Circle Gift Shop- advertising Yubeč



Placed at Yubeč- advertising Sacred Circle Gift Shop



Placed at Canoe Center- advertising Daybreak Star



Placed at Daybreak Star- advertising Canoe Center

Materials

Signage Materials:

- Poster paper
- Plastic board

Text: Avenir



Acknowledging the layers of the past, present, and future...



DAYBREAK STAR
INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER





Team 2 -
Routes *To and Through*
Daybreak Star

Mariah Rubin, Caroline Butler, Kyle Thiessen,
Cameron Musard, Harriet Wright

Walking - Site



Stops:

1. Route stops
2. Daybreak Star Center
3. Mural
4. Bernie Whitebear Memorial & Garden Sweat Lodge
5. Great Circle
6. Reflection Pond 1
7. Reflection Pond 2
8. Serpent Mound
9. Reflection Pond 3
10. Burning Pit
11. Salmon House
12. Totem and Motif
13. Outlook

Distance and Time to Complete

Total distance: 0.90 miles **Total time:** 1 hour **Total elevation:** 80 feet

Visitor Information

A map of this route could be provided on a sign at the start of the tour, through brochures at the Center, and online via QR codes.

Route Introduction

This site level walking tour route leverages existing trails and infrastructure to the furthest extent possible to expand accessibility and support visitors with various mobility needs. The walking tour highlights the various natural and built features throughout the site, and tells the story of Daybreak Star's history, significance, and ongoing purpose.

A map of the route and information about the walking tour could be provided on a sign in the DS Center at the start of the tour, through brochures at the Center, and online via QR codes on signs across the site.

Narrative Elements

Land and Water - connections to the ecological history of the site, species diversity, and ongoing work to take care of the site

History of the site and the Center - Build on the history from the Discovery Park Walking Route by describing the occupation of Ft. Lawton and honoring Bernie Whitebear and others who shaped the Center into what it is today

Ecological History - Describe the ecological history of the site and its land and water, species diversity (flora and fauna), and ongoing work to take care of the site

Gathering Spaces - Importance of gathering, spaces throughout the site where gathering occurs, and potential considerations for different types of visitors

Powwows and Events - Description and history of the Seafair Indian Days Powwow, the Mini Powwow, and the significance of Powwows



Site Walking Tour Stop 9 at Reflection Pool 1 (Rubin, 2025)



Site Walking Tour Stop 11 (Rubin, 2025)

Walking Tour Narrative

This tour begins at the DS Center where visitors are most likely to be interested in starting the tour. This can also be an easy meeting spot for groups who are interested in doing the walking tour together. Visitors can use the restrooms, fill up water bottles and pick up any necessary physical materials such as maps before setting out on the tour.

The second stop would be the mural on the Center which was painted by Andrew Morrison (Apache, Haida). Visitors can admire the many significant animals depicted in the mural from both land and water. The mural includes bison, birds, horses, bears, wolves, orcas, and salmon. The tour materials can describe the significance of the animals and person depicted in the mural and the connections each one has to land and water.

The third stop would be the Bernie Whitebear Memorial & Garden. This stop could educate visitors on the incredible role Bernie Whitebear played in Seattle's history, the creation of the DS Center, and cultivating pan-Indigenous connections. There could be a sign at the existing bulletin board advertising the walking tour and encouraging people already in the garden to continue along the tour. Visitors could take their time admiring the existing signage and paths before continuing to the next stop. Walking tour materials could include information about gathering, plant histories and significance, and a key to the symbols on the existing signage. Materials could also expand upon the connection between plants, land, cultures, and histories.

The fourth stop would be the sweat lodge, but non-Indigenous visitors would be encouraged to not visit this site unless explicitly invited and asked to admire the seat lodge from a distance on the walking route path. The walking tour materials could educate non-Indigenous visitors on the history and significance of sweat lodges. The fifth stop would be the Great Circle but non-Indigenous

visitors would be encouraged to not visit this site unless explicitly invited or if attending a Powwow that is open to non-Indigenous visitors. The walking tour materials could describe what a Powwow is, the cultural significance, the history of the Seafair Days Powwow, and how the DS Center came to be a host. Materials could describe the connections between Powwows, land, cultures, and histories.

The sixth, seventh and ninth stops would be the reflection ponds. Visitors could be encouraged to be even more considerate of the noise they are making, and take time to think about the tour up until that point. This portion of the tour could describe the water systems in the region and connections between lakes, rivers, and the Sound and salmon populations as an example. This would help draw connections between land and water.

The eighth stop, between the reflection pond stops, would be the serpent mound. The walking tour materials could describe the immense cultural significance of earth mounds and how there came to be one on the DS site. This stop could describe how earth can be seen as spiritually significant, and transformed into art.

The tenth stop would be the burning pit. This stop could describe the history of prescribed burning, how the Center uses this pit, and more connections between fire and land over time. The eleventh stop would be the Salmon House. This could connect with the histories of land and water from the reflection ponds, and talk about the cultural significance and history of salmon in the Puget Sound Region. This stop could also talk about the Fish Wars and fishing rights treaties. It could talk about Bernie Whitebear's role in the movement, and how that connected to his work occupying Ft. Lawton to create the DS Center.

The twelfth stop would be the Totem and motifs. Walking tour materials could talk about wooden boat building in the region and further connections between land and water. This stop could also explain the significance of Totem Poles and how to respect this form of art.

The last stop would be the Outlook. Visitors could be encouraged to reflect on the connections between the Puget Sound land and water. There could be some reflection questions from the tour that visitors could answer here. Lastly, visitors could be encouraged to return to the Center and more information about how to support the Center in the future.

Signage

Signage can support wayfinding by providing visual cues and information to guide visitors through the tour. There is a suggested place between the garden and the Center to have more information about the walking tour and advertise it to folks who may be already walking around the site but unaware about the Center and tour. This suggestion would leverage existing infrastructure to welcome visitors and provide information about the walking tour.

The vignette of the light post how small signs with QR codes could be posted on the existing light posts throughout the site to help guide visitors along the walking tour throughout the site.

Additional locations to advertise the tour and provide more information throughout the tour could include plaques at the stopping points, picnic tables, and inside the Center.

The Center could also consider leveraging the existing signage throughout the site and adding additional information to those signs. For example, on the City of Seattle Parks and Recreation signs, DS could add the small signs with the QR code to the existing signage. This could help orient visitors and make all signage more cohesive.



Site Walking Tour Stop 11 (Rubin, 2025)

Wayfinding

While this walking tour follows existing paths that can support a wide range of mobility needs (i.e. pavement and enough width for mobility devices), there are additional steps that the Center could take to increase the path definition, upkeep the paths, and support wayfinding on the walking tour:

Use natural materials such as wood or stones to line the paths included on the walking tour. This suggestion is depicted in the vignette to the right. The branches on the right side of this vignette show additional branches to match the existing ones in the garden. This addition could help visitors feel more welcome along the paths and invited to participate in the walking tour.

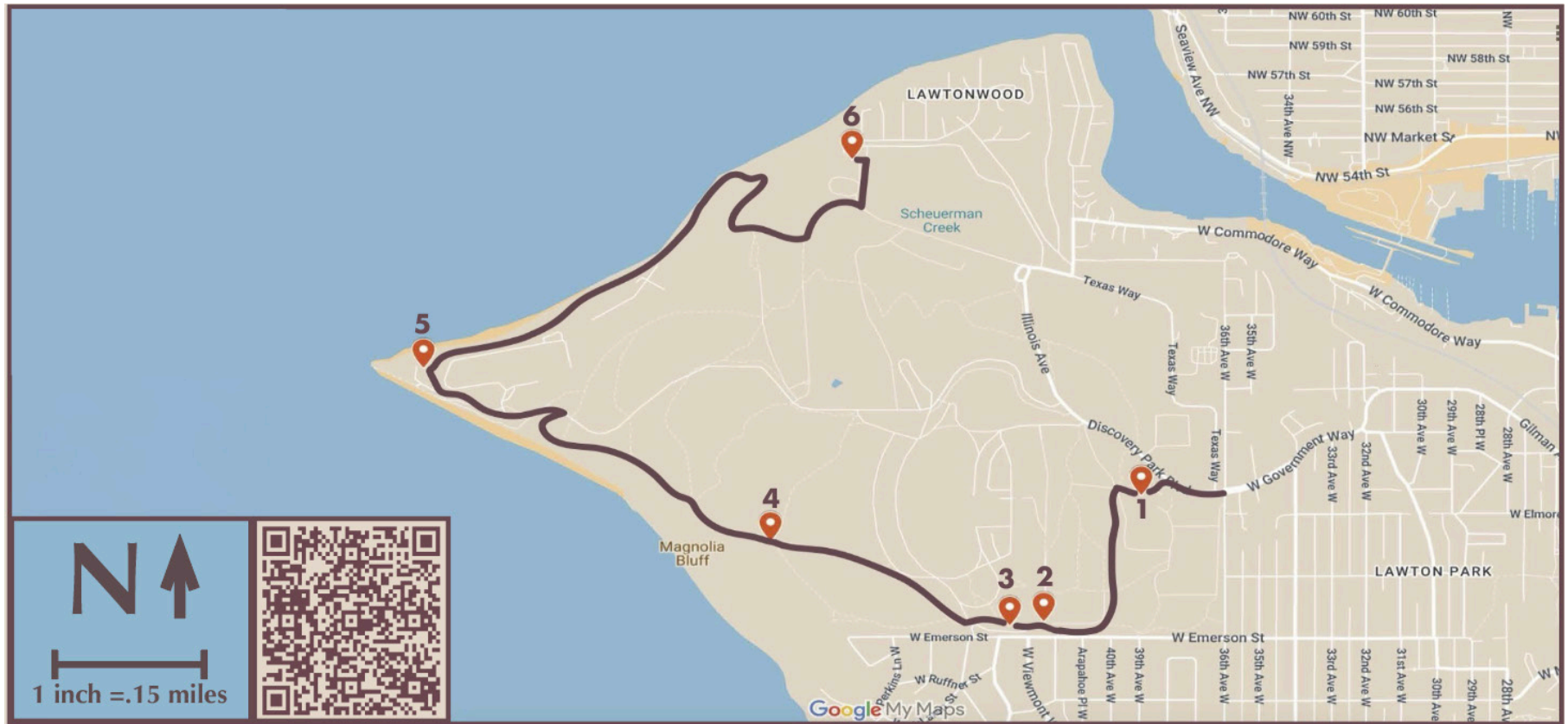
Maintain trails by removing moss and lichen from any paved paths and weeding any gravel paths. This will help visitors distinguish which paths are part of the walking tour, and eliminate risks of slipping and falling.

Maintain lighting features throughout the site so visitors feel safe at dusk and dawn.



Site Walking Tour Vignette 1 (Butler & Rubin, 2025)

Walking - Discovery Park



Route Stops

1. East Parking Lot
2. South Parking Lot
3. Historical Signage - This is a proposed stop that would feature an added rest point and an informational sign, preceding the route's entry into the Historical district of the Park.
4. Ecological Signage by South Bluff - This stop allows users to observe the beautiful views from the South Bluff while learning about the ecosystems at play along the route.
5. Discovery Park Lighthouse
6. Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center

Distance and Time to Complete

Route Distance - 4 miles
Total Time - 1.5-2 hours
Elevation Gain - 363 feet
5 Restrooms
8 Benches/Opportunities to rest



Between Stops 3 and 4 - Overlooking the Bluff (Butler, 2025)



Between Stops 5 and 6 - The North Beach Trail (Butler, 2025)

Route Introduction

This tour mainly makes use of existing trails within the park, which are reasonably well maintained and signed. There are some intersections and spots, particularly along the North Beach Trail, that would benefit from added signage. The connection between the North Beach trail and Texas Way, however, would require special attention prior to the implementation of the route. There are a number of connecting trails, but they are not official park paths and vary in levels of safety and accessibility. If no new connection is desired and only existing trails are to be used in a park scale walking tour, it is possible to follow the North Beach Trail down to its connection with the Loop Trail, and take the Loop Trail a short distance to the East to its intersection with Texas Way. This would add about a half mile to the distance of the tour.

Route Narrative

The land of Discovery Park has experienced multiple iterations throughout history. The narrative aspects of the park-scale route would focus mainly on the history of Fort Lawton, highlighting the 1973 occupation. Added signage at a point in the route preceding entry to the Historical District, as shown in the following vignette, would help educate visitors about the time and place of the occupation, its key players, and how it led to the inception of the Daybreak Star Cultural Center.

Wayfinding

When considering additional signage to mark the route and to raise awareness for the Center within the park, the most readily available option would be adding to the existing park signage. There are 19 existing opportunities for signage along the chosen route. These images show the most common kind of trail marker along the route, and a design for a small plaque that could be added to these is more thoroughly detailed in the signage section.

Signage

This route utilizes existing trails within Discovery Park, and would ensure that the visitor passes by multiple points of interest along the way, including the Scenic South Bluff, the Lighthouse, and the North Beach.

When considering additional signage to mark the route and to raise awareness for the Center within the park, the most readily available option would be adding to the existing park signage.



Existing Trail Markers with Opportunities to Add User Information (Butler, 2025)

There are 19 existing opportunities for signage along the chosen route and potential for more additions, especially along the second half of the tour.

- The production of small weatherproof plaques that could be easily screwed to the existing trail markers, shown below, would alone account for a reasonably well marked route. This signage would be consistent with signage and programming for the on site walking tour, allowing for an easy transition between scales.
- The connection between the North Beach Trail and Texas Way would require special considerations in terms of signage and chosen path.



Vignette - Added Signage and Rest Point along the Loop Trail (Butler, 2025)

This vignette shows a potential stop that could be included along the route. The larger informational sign detailing the history of Fort Lawton and the occupation is discussed in the Signage Template section of this booklet.

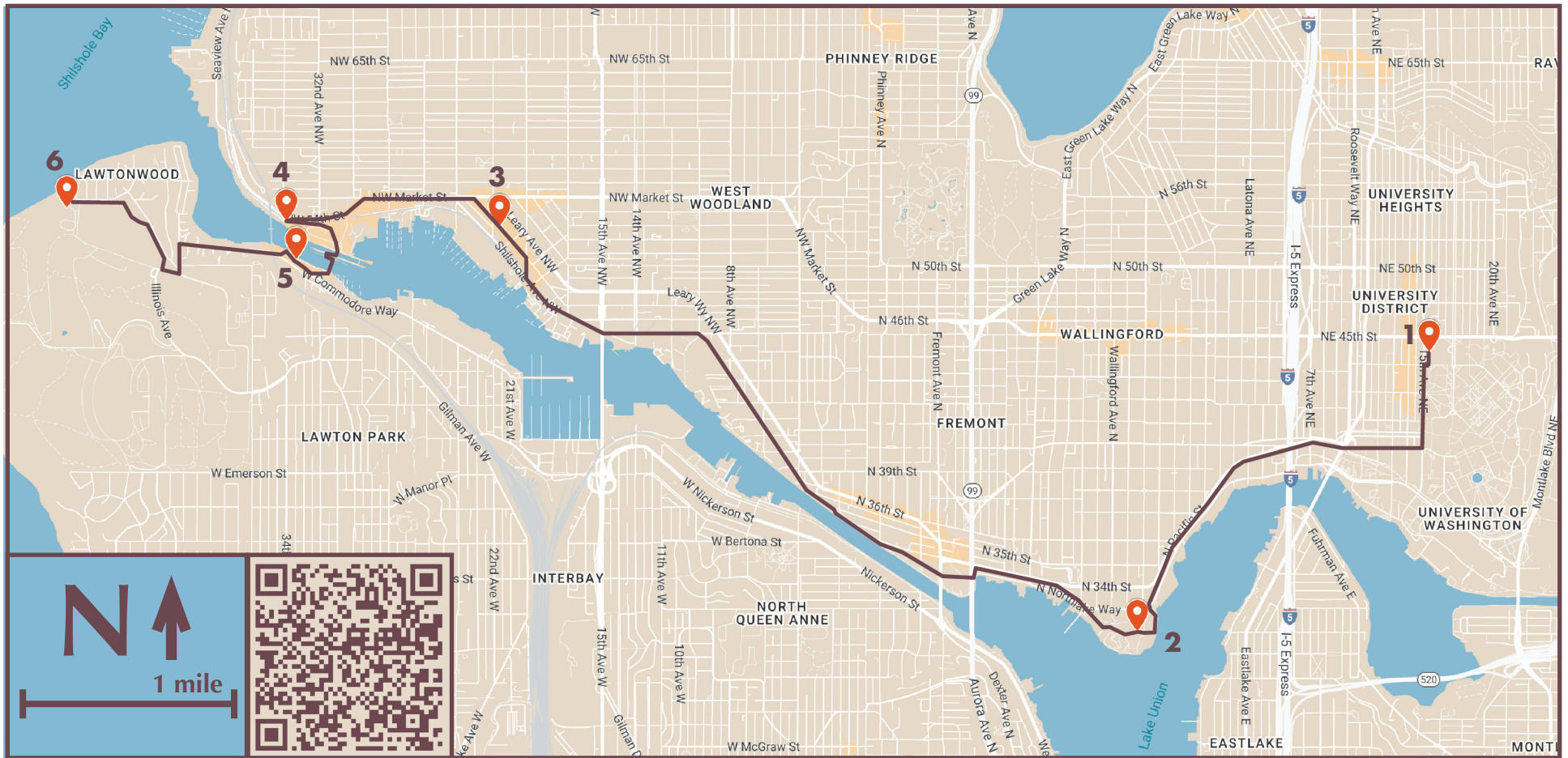
The imagery on the signage here would have consistent design elements with the Site Scale signage, and any small trail markers would be the same for both routes. There are, however, opportunities for more signage connections between the different routes.

Route Connections

This series of tours are all interconnected. The Downtown to Discovery Tour and Kayaking routes both join at points along this route, which flows into the Daybreak Star Site Walking tour. Specific points of connection are outlined below.

- Downtown to Discovery: Enter the park from West Emerson Street onto Oregon Avenue. Oregon Ave connects with the Loop Trail 194 feet from the entry.
- Kayaking Route: The entry and exit point for kayakers is by the Discovery Park Lighthouse at the point between the North and South Beaches. From the Lighthouse, visitors can take the North Beach Trail to connect with Kansas Way and access the Center.
- The ending point of this route is outside of the Center, approaching from the East. The sign outside of the Center next to the Native Plant Garden is where the Daybreak Star Site Walking Tour begins, so visitors can continue from one tour to the next.

Biking - Burke to Daybreak



Route Stops:

1. Burke Museum (optional art stops around campus)
2. Gasworks Park
3. Little Tin Goods and Apothecary
4. A Salish Welcome by Marvin Oliver
5. Commodore Park (South side of Ballard Locks)
6. Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center

Distance and Time

Total Distance: about 8 Miles
Total Time: 45-55 minutes

Information and Materials

Brochures with route map, photos and narrative would be distributed at the Burke Museum and Sacred Circle Gift Shop



Stop 2 - Gasworks Park (Thiessen, 2025)



Between Stops 2 and 3 - Aurora Bridge (Thiessen, 2025)

Route Concept & Narrative

The route serves to connect users to colonial and indigenous history and present context, exploring land and water on the East-West axis.

Colonial Changes to Water - the Montlake Cut, Lake Union, Fremont Cut, and the Ballard Locks

Colonial Changes to Land - the Burke-Gilman trail's railway history, Gasworks Park, and Fort Lawton

Urban Indigeneity - expression and identity in art, businesses, and cultural institutions

Decolonizing Changes to Land - the formation of the Daybreak Star Center and the desires it seeks to fulfill



Stop 5 - Commodore Park (Thiessen, 2025)

Directions and Stops

1. Burke Museum to Gasworks Park

- 1.95 mi, 9 minutes
- Users should consider stopping by Male and Female Welcome Figures (in the Intellectual House), Pedestal for Raven Book (in the Allen Library Atrium)

2. Gas Works Park to Little Tin Goods and Apothecary

- 3.16 mi, 16 minutes
- Users should note a lack of trail infrastructure along Shilshole Ave NW, but the section is quite short! Take up a bit of space on the road for a couple of blocks.
- Users looking to relax along their route should also consider booking a session at Ya'axché Massage Therapy! located at 1417 NW 54th St #444, Seattle, WA 98107.

3. Little Tin Goods and Apothecary to A Salish Welcome

- 0.88 mi, 6 minutes
- Stay on the South side of Market Street for a more comfortable biking experience.

4. A Salish Welcome to the Commodore Park

- 0.67 mi, 6 minutes
- Users should stop when they have a view back across the locks to reflect on the colonization of land and water in Seattle's waterways.

5. Commodore Park to Daybreak Star

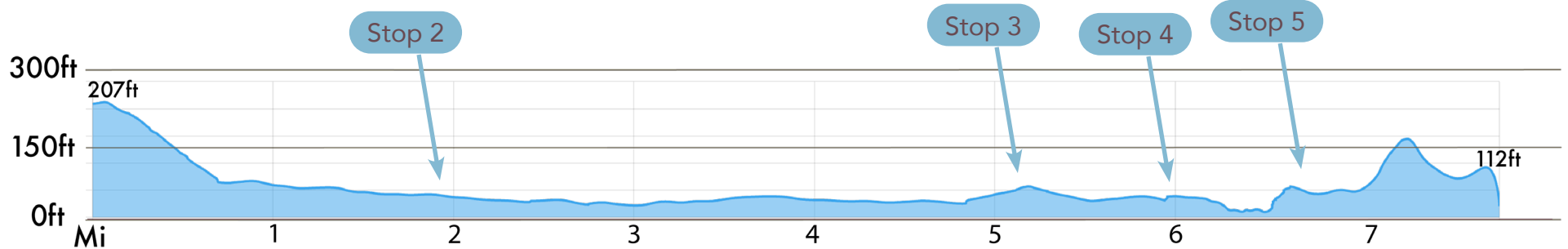
- 1.15 mi, 10 minutes
- Users may consider walking their bikes up 40th Ave W, and up the end of Bernie Whitebear Way, given steeper grades.



Vignette at Stop 4 - Imagining Users at a *Salish Welcome* (Thiessen, 2025)

Route Grade Data

Total Elevation Change:
217ft uphill
404ft downhill



The Return Trip

For those wishing for a lower-effort return journey:

Return across the Ballard Locks toward Route Stop 3, then load bikes onto a Route 44 bus at the NW 54th St & 30th Ave NW bus stop.

To continue to other areas of the city:

Find the Route 33 bus stop on the east side of the Discovery Park North Parking Lot, and load bikes on buses heading Downtown.

Intersections with Other Routes

Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop:

Connect to the Center for Wooden Boats, see Salmon Ceremony Panel of the Salmon Story by Ron Hilbert

Magnolia Bluff and Elliott Bay Trails:

Connect to various indigenous public art and businesses through Downtown and Pioneer Square



Between Stops 4 and 5 - the Ballard Locks (Thiessen, 2025)

Kayaking to Daybreak Star



Stops:

0. Laurelhurst (optional start)
1. UW Shell House
2. Center for Wooden Boats (optional)
3. Seattle Pacific University
4. Westpoint Lighthouse
5. Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center

Distance and Time:

Total Distance: about 8 nautical miles
Total Time: 03:00:00



Route Description

The Kayaking Route is designed to be a continuous journey without interruptions. The different “stops” along the route are potential launch sites. The launch of the route will depend on if the end-user has a personal kayak and or vehicle.

One option for kayakers with a personal craft is to launch from the Laurelhurst Neighborhood public shore. This optional route extension is suitable for kayakers who want an additional challenge or for kayakers that want to experience entering Union Bay from Lake Washington.

Route Stops:

1. The UW Shell House is a launch site that is serviced with kayak rentals. The University of Washington has more transit access than Laurelhurst, which may be suitable for kayakers who want to experience the route on a circuit
2. The Center for Wooden Boats Boat House will feature the Northwest Canoe Carving Center. The Canoe Carving Center showcases the centuries old tradition of indigenous boating building. The canoe is a live link between the woods and the waters they touch
3. Seattle Pacific University’s annual Regatta is an annual celebration of rowing and races
4. The West Point Lighthouse is the interface between Discovery Park and the shore of Shilshole Bay. The Visitor Center contains directories for trail routes and additional walking tours
5. End - Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center

Narrative - Ecological Tour

The UW Green Futures Lab Living Shorelines Project has many installations along the kayaking route at Lake Union, the Fremont Bridge and South Lake Union Park. Floating wetlands provide habitat and protection from predators. This project was funded by the Rose Foundation, the Na’ah Illahee Fund, and United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. Indigenous Planning Strategist Tim Lehman directs the GFL Sweetgrass Living Shoreline projects in the Lake Washington Basin, Fremont Ship Canal and Central Puget Sound.

Tie-in - Canoe Journey

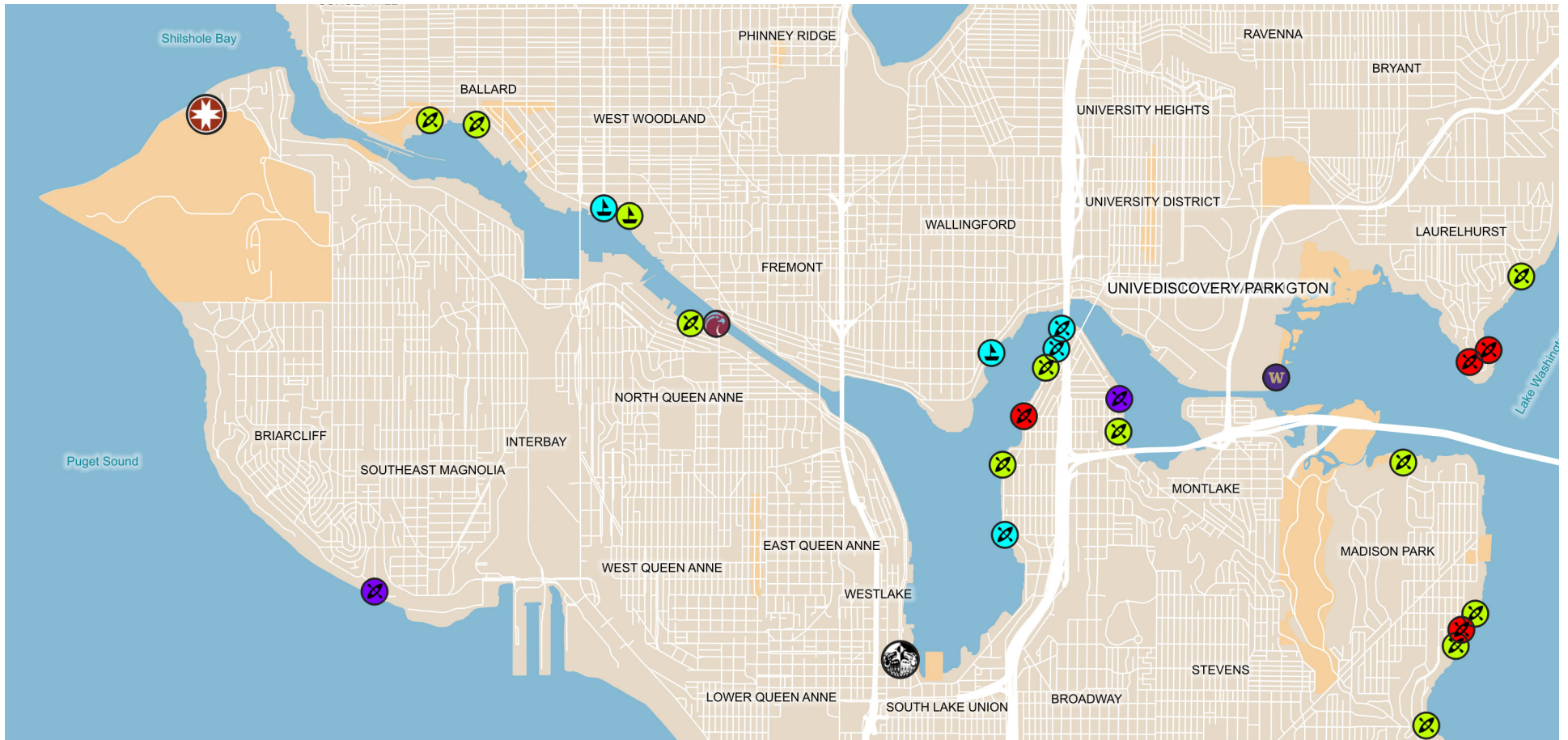
The Lake Washington to Daybreak Star Kayaking route is a potential opportunity to prepare for Canoe Journey 2025. The route is an opportunity to practice mindfulness and to build strength if you are training to be a Puller. Canoe Journey 2025 is hosted by the Snoqualmie Tribe and lands at Lower Elwha Reservation for Final Protocol.

Current Concerns





First mile problem - Kayakers have to be prepared with a personal vehicle and a kayak or to seek out a location with sites of Kayak rentals.

Last mile problem - The final connection between Shilshole Bay and Daybreak Star. There is currently no secure tie-down for vessels at West Point Lighthouse.



Boat Launches and Street Ends






Education

-  Daybreak Star
-  NW Native Canoe Center
-  SPU Shell House
-  UW Shell House

Shoreline Street End

-  Boat or kayak
-  Kayak only

Maintained By

-  Community
-  SDOT
-  Seattle Parks
-  Seattle Public Utilities

Boating Safety

No person shall operate or permit the operation of a vessel on the waters of the state unless the vessel has on board United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices. Vessels less than sixteen feet (4.9 meters) in length, and canoes and kayaks of any length, must have one Type I, II, or III PFD of the proper size for each person on board. (SMC 16.20.030; WAC 352-60-030)

Boats under 16' are not required to carry a sound producing device, but some type of horn or whistle is recommended.

Small sailboats, rowboats and kayaks require only a flashlight or lantern to warn other boats.

For information on boating safety and regulations in Seattle, please visit the link at the QR code below!

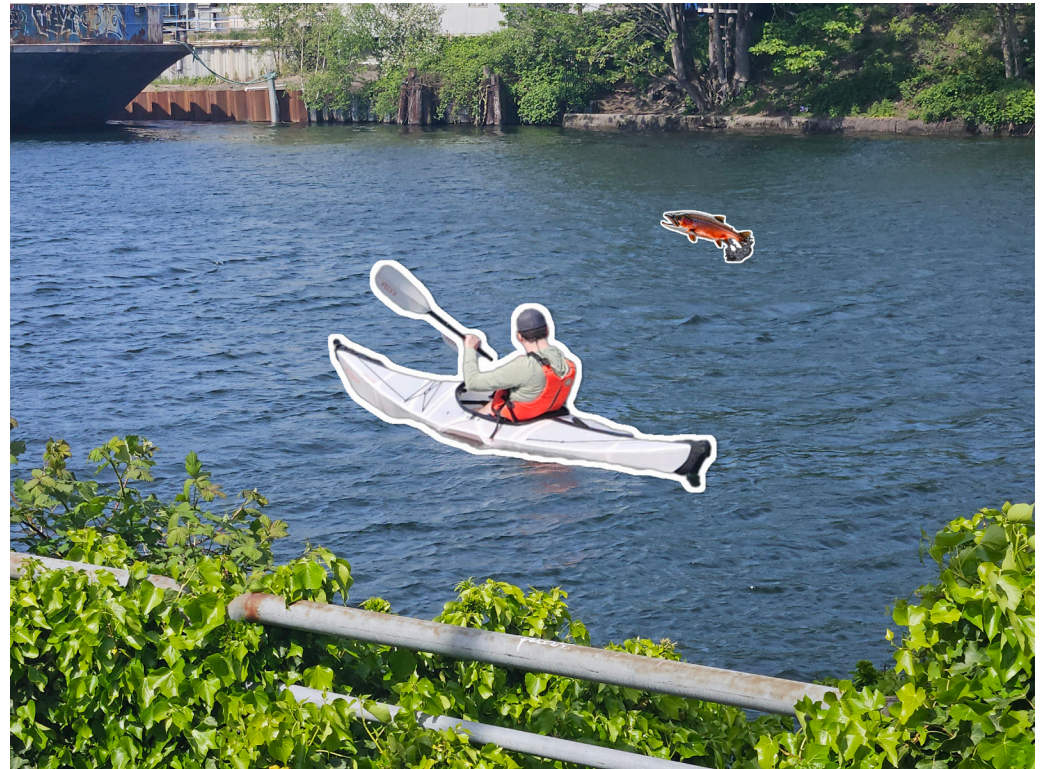


Essential Gear for Kayaking (Musard, 2025)

Rules of the Water

Stay away from commercial and large vessels. Sailboats under sail and rowboats almost always have the right of way. It's easier for you to miss them than for them to maneuver around you. When another boat approaches you in this area, it's your job to avoid a collision. The boat with the right of way must – in all cases – maintain its speed and course, unless a collision is imminent.

Remember to listen and obey all instructions from the Ballard Locks officials. Watch for traffic signals and listen for loudspeakers as lock officials direct you into the locks.



Vignette - a Kayaker Watches Salmon Move through the Fremont Cut (Musard, 2025)

Hiking - Downtown to Daybreak

Route Stops

1. Start - Stonington Gallery
2. Occidental Square
3. Pioneer Square
4. Longhouse Beam Structure
5. Eighth Generation
6. Pike Place Park
7. Steinbrueck Native Gallery
8. Elliot Bay Walking Path/
Olympic Sculpture Garden
9. Snoqual Moon the Transformer
10. Tlingit Totem Pole
11. Welcome Figures at
Smith Cove Terminal
12. End - South Parking Lot

Distance and Time

Total Distance: 7 miles

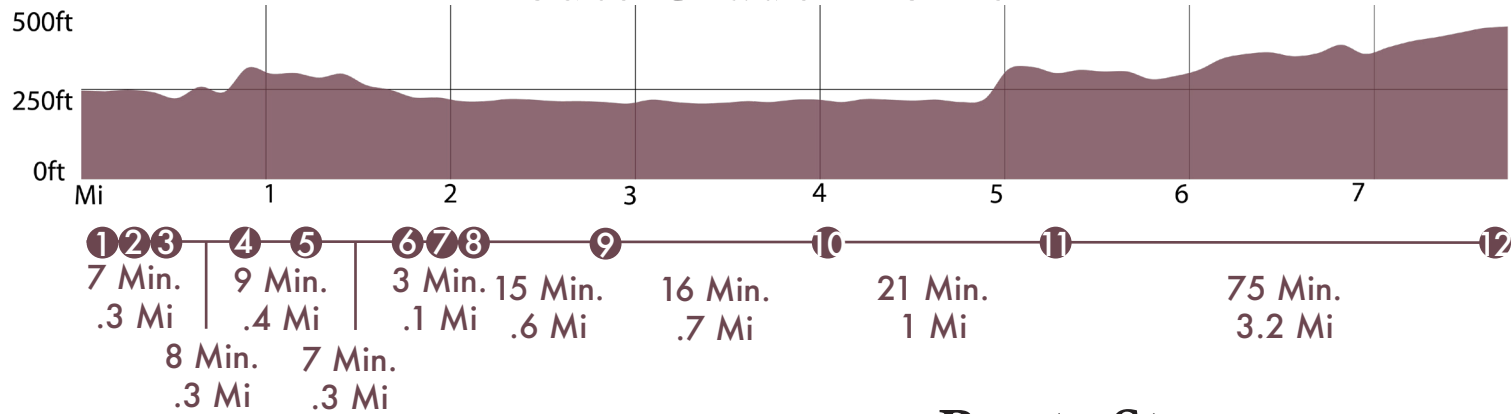
Estimated Time to Complete: 3-4 Hours

Information and Materials

Brochures with route map, photos and narrative will be distributed on Social Media via the Urban Hike Movement



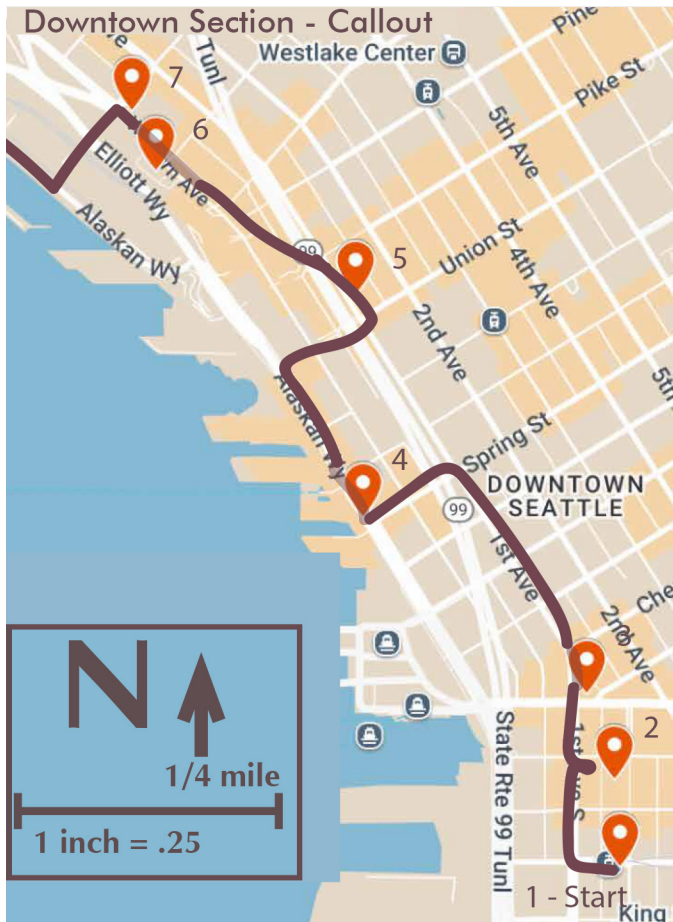
Route Grade Profile



Route Stops

Total time would take 3 hours and would be just under 7 miles
 Predominantly flat and off major arterial roads. Follows protected Elliot Bay Trail and Magnolia Blvd. Walking Path for majority of Route.

View of the water or shoreline for the majority of the hike.
 Stops at: 2 Native Galleries, 1 Native Owned Store, 8 pieces of Indigenous art



Stop 2 - Day/Night Art Installation (Heap of Birds Hock E Aye Vi Edgar, 1992)

Directions and Stops

Stops 1-7: Urban Life. Themes: Colonial impact on Landscape, urban indigenous experience, art.

Stonington Gallery to Pioneer Square

- .3 mi, 7 minutes
- Head North on 1st Avenue. Occidental Square will be on your right and Pioneer Square will be ahead. Both parks contain indigenous art pieces and carvings.

Pioneer Square to Longhouse Beam Structure

- .3 mi, 8 minutes
- Take a Left on on Yesler Way and head West until Alaskan Way. Pass under the Longhouse Beam Structures between Columbia Street and Spring Street.

Longhouse Beam to Steinbrook Native Gallery

- 0.4 mi, 10 minutes
- Take a right on Union to Eight Generation on 1st Ave. Follow 1st Ave to the North. Take a left on Virginia Street to reach park. Across from the park is Steinbrook Native Gallery
- Optional detour through Pike Place



Stop 10 - the Elliott Bay Trail (The Seattle Times, 2022)

Stops 8-12: Protected Paths. Themes: water, land, art, natural landscapes, vistas, opportunity for close interaction with coastal urban nature setting.

Steinbrook Native Gallery to Elliot Bay Trail

1.1 mi, 30 minutes

Turn left on Lenora Ave and follow Lenora Street Pedestrian Bridge to the Waterfront Trail.

Head Northwest on Alaskan Wy/Elliott Bay Trail and follow trail until the Olympic Sculpture Garden. Continue following Elliott Bay Trail. Follow trail for 15 minutes until reaching the W Thomas Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Overpass. Follow overpass until slight left onto 3rd avenue for Snoqual the Transformer. Re-trace steps and continue on Elliott Bay Trail for 20 minutes until you reach the Tlingit Totem Pole.

Tinglit Totem Pole to Pier 91

1 mi, 21 minutes

Continue on Elliott Bay trail until you reach W Garfield St/Magnolia Bridge Ramp. Follow signs for Pier 91 and keep eyes peeled for the Welcome Figures at Smith Cove Terminal .

Consider listening to Daybreak Star Podcasts on this stretch.

Optional start point for cruise passengers to follow trail in reverse - for reverse programming start at Welcome Figures and individual Narrative should be developed to assist tourists here.

Pier 91 to Discovery Park

3.2 mi, 75 minutes

Continue to follow Magnolia Bridge Ramp until the street turns to Magnolia Blvd. Follow Magnolia Blvd. for 3 miles until reaching the southern parking lot of Discovery Park.

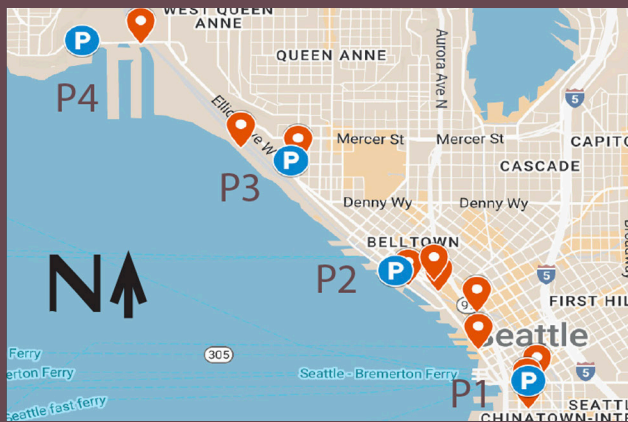


Stop 12 - View from the Magnolia Bluff Walking Trail (Wright, 2025)

Program Development

- Potential for Daybreak Star Radio interaction on both Elliot Bay Trail or Magnolia Blvd. Section. Could look like an audio-narrative produced by DS or recommended links to the DS podcasts.
- Themes of audio: Land/Water, Indigenous History of Elliot Bay, Colonial Land Transformation, Urban Indigenous Movement
- Potential audience includes the pan-indigenous community, Seattle Locals, and tourists coming to the region.
- Work with Seattle walking/hiking guidebooks, urban hike content creators, and cruise ship program developers to market the urban hike.
- Capitalize on the 2026 World Cup traffic to encourage the use of the path as an informative, scenic, and active urban-indigenous hiking route by providing alternative routes such as Pier 91 to Occidental Park.

Driving/Parking Options



Parking options are available near all stops on the route. In downtown core, we recommend two designated locations for load/unload: near Stops 1-3 (P1) and 4-7 (P2). Additional option for load/unload at cruise ship terminal (P4).

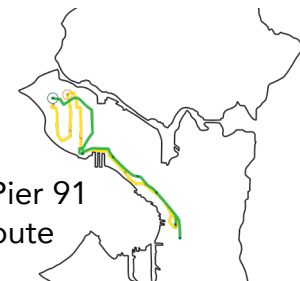


Vignette - Users at Stop 10 (Wright, 2025)

Return Routes

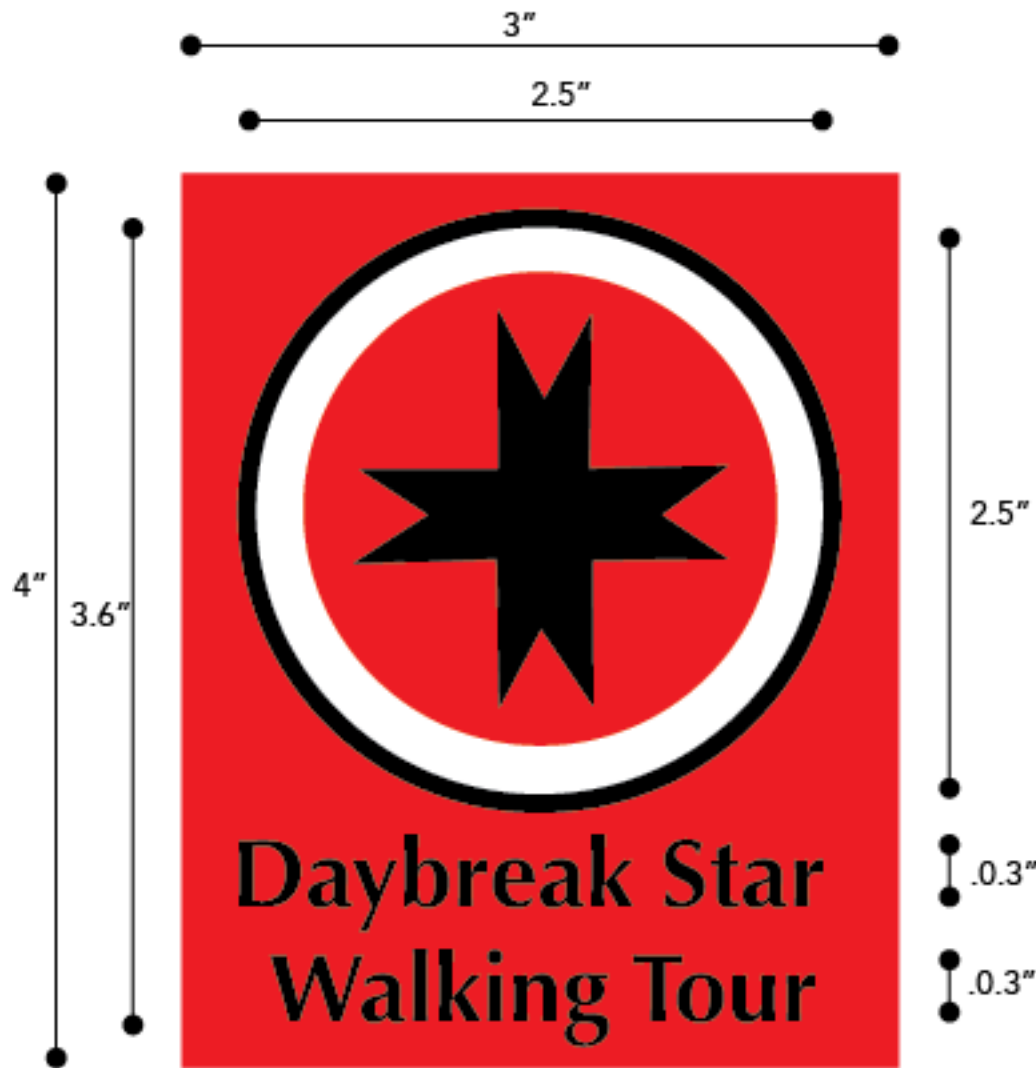
Return options to the downtown area include:

- Bus Routes 24, 33/124
- Option for pickup/dropoff near Pier 91
- Biking Route following reverse route
- Taxi/Ride Share



Signage Recommendations

Technical Specifications: Walking Tour Trail Marking Plaques



This page depicts a possible design for small scale trail markers that can easily be added to existing signage infrastructure within the Daybreak Star Site and Discovery Park at large. The color choice was inspired by the plant markings within the Native Plant Garden, which are easily found and highly visible within the natural environment. While this design shows the Daybreak Star symbol, which can be shared with signage at multiple scales to be easily recognizable across routes, this could easily be replaced with a QR code that, when scanned, can provide more information about the route or narrative of the tour itself or could link to the Center's Website.

Size: 3" x 4" x .06"

Material: 60 mil (.060") thick plastic with engraved print. Textured and weather-resistant with UV inhibitors to prevent fading.

Color: Cadmium Red with Black Lettering

Signage Example - Large Scale

This larger scale, informational sign would be displayed along the Discovery Park walking route. The land of Discovery Park, specifically Fort Lawton, has experienced multiple iterations throughout history. However, the average visitor to the park might not know about the militarized built history of the land or the activism of the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. The narrative aspects of the park-scale route would focus mainly on this history of Fort Lawton, the land as it existed before militarization, and highlight the 1973 occupation. Added signage at a point in the route preceding entry to the Historical District, as shown in the discovery park plan vignette, would help educate visitors about the time and place of the occupation, its key players, and how it led to the inception of the Daybreak Star Cultural Center.

Before Fort Lawton

Text detailing the ecological and settlement status of the land before Fort Lawton existed.

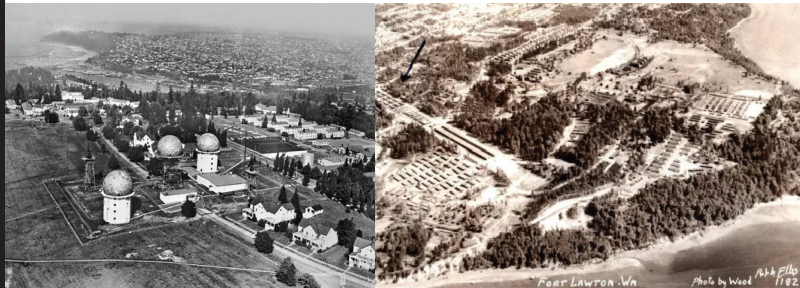
Fort Lawton as a Military Base

Text detailing the development and subsequent operations of Fort Lawton



The Occupation of 1973

Text detailing the occupation following the decommissioning of the Fort, the action of the United Indians of All Tribes and Bernie Whitebear, and how this occupation preceded the leasing of the land Daybreak Star currently stands on.



Daybreak Star Walking Tour



3 Miles to Daybreak Star
Indian Cultural Center



Small informational plaque or label mounted on the wall, containing text and a small image.





Two small informational cards are mounted on the wall between the wooden panel and the central painting. The top card is white with black text and a small image. The bottom card is red with white text and a small image.



Appendices



◀◀◀Appendix A: Policy Recommendations◀◀◀

In tandem with the proposed design elements and programming across the site, neighborhood, and city scales, our policy recommendations detail additional considerations for the implementation of these proposals. The following proposals are described along a spectrum of short, medium, and long term implementation timelines with consideration for the resources, staffing, stakeholder involvement, and integrated planning that may be needed to carry out each recommendation.

These ideas are shared with the intention to lend informed, useful inspiration for Daybreak Star Community Center decision makers to create in their own vision as desired. In sharing these possibilities, we seek to uphold our studio values of respect and deference to the Indigenous community's autonomy and expertise, and once again acknowledge our positionality. We offer these ideas as a reference point for community-driven co-creation. At a broad level, these recommendations are crafted with the goals of improving connectivity and accessibility throughout both the site and the broader Seattle context and at promoting a sense of place that celebrates Indigeneity.

The following tables show policy recommendations based on the cumulative work of the studio groups. These are not intended to be a prescriptive course of action, rather a drafted set of suggestions compiled over the studio's course of work. They are organized into three scales (Site, Neighborhood and City) and three timelines (Short, Medium, and Long Term).

Site-Level Interventions

	Short Term (immediately implement from studio materials)	Medium Term (more resources + coordination)	Long Term (big resources + coordination + political will)
Trail/Site Conditions	Trail erosion/overgrowth Invasive species removal Branch trail borders	Trail Irrigation Pond erosion Footbridge grade	Paved walkways Boardwalk across south trails Build stairs up to serpent mound
General Wayfinding	Light signage for existing elements Bulletin board materials	Signage for wayfinding Update web page with wayfinding for site	Updated signage for entrance
Sense of Place	Relocate dumpsters and park maintenance materials	Additional seating	Overlook fencing and balcony expansion
Walking Tour Programming	Distribute walking tour POI maps on bulletin board for self guided tour	Compile narratives and educational information Update web page with walking tour information	Walking tour coordinated with web components, QR codes, and signage (sustainability considerations)

Neighborhood Scale Interventions

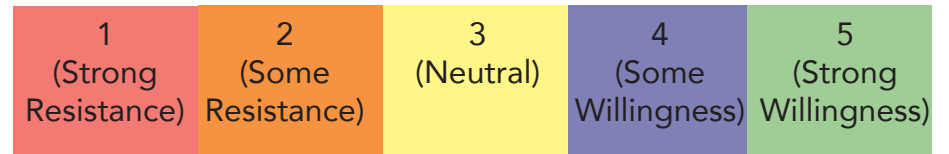
	Short Term (immediately implement from studio materials)	Medium Term (more resources + coordination)	Long Term (big resources + coordination + political will)
Connectivity/ Wayfinding	Distribute wayfinding maps on park bulletin boards for DS	Signage across park for DS	Update existing park signage and web materials with DS layered history information Murals and artworks Bus stop renovation Improve pedestrian access from N parking lot Transit advocacy Establishment of moorage/tie-up areas for kayakers and signage to enable connections with DS
Programming	Distribute layered history POI maps on bulletin boards	Update web page with walking tour information	Coordinate with other park entities to integrate Indigenous culture across site signs and programs

City-Scale Interventions

	Short Term (immediately implement from studio materials)	Medium Term (more resources + coordination)	Long Term (big resources + coordination + political will)
Connectivity between Sites	Distribute wayfinding maps on park bulletin boards for DS	Signage for bikers Increased awareness of retail locations owned by UIATF	Improve pedestrian access along Bernie Whitebear Way Improve access between Shilshole Bay and Daybreak Star
Coordination between Sites	Meet with institutions and business owners to coordinate route planning	Print and distribute informational materials about routes to partner institutions including city-wide storefronts and connected projects (i.e. Canoe Center)	Coordinate with City and institutional representatives to establish new narrative signage along relevant routes Advocacy for the Burke-Gilman missing link in Ballard
Programming	Compilation of Indigenous owned businesses	Updated web page with wayfinding for other sites and other POI, including Seattle University and the University of Washington Signage	Coordinated shuttle programming

◀◀◀Appendix B: Site Stakeholders Values/Interest Analysis◀◀◀

The rating is based on how well the stated interest of each stakeholder overlaps with the values embedded within the studio project. The corresponding number is not a value judgement of the stakeholder, rather it is an inference on how the stakeholder is likely to react to proposals within the project based on their stated interests.



Stakeholders - Actively Involved (High Interest/High Influence)

Stakeholder	Aligned Values	Interests	Interest Rating (1-5)
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation	Respect for the site's history and current uses, Respect for nature and animals Centering site features, include art and landscape, , Visitor safety, Visitor experience, Accessibility	Access to site, preservation of pan indigeneity; community-building; cost-effective and sustainable programming; Honoring resistance movement; Traditional and historical knowledge, provide educational, cultural, and social service that reconnect Indigenous people in the Puget Sound to their heritage, strengthen sense of belonging, be social providers and a cultural home; Maintaining site integrity, sovereignty and resilience, physical improvements, upkeep, cost; Honoring history and resistance movement; Traditional and historical knowledge, business entrepreneurship, diversity, & engagement.	5
Urban Native Community	Centering Indigenous narratives, Community Engagement, Historical understanding, Visitor Experience, Accessibility	Accessibility, sustainability of resources, preservation of Indigeneity, affinity spaces for Indigeneity/cultural activities, , finding and maintaining community and solidarity	4

Stakeholders - Actively Involved (High Interest/High Influence) Continued

Stakeholder	Aligned Values	Interests	Interest Rating (1-5)
UIAT Education Coalition	Centering Indigenous narratives, perspectives, and values, Community engagement, Education, Accessibility	Space for children, innovating, leadership, educating visitors, honoring indigenous knowledge	4
Friends of Discovery Park	Visitor safety Visitor experience Accessibility	Trail integrity, sustainable use, minimal maintenance, good signage, ecological sustainability and minimal impact to ecosystem	3
Lawtonwood Residents	Centering Indigenous Community engagement, Visitor Safety	Access to Discovery Park, maintaining neighborhood "character", limiting development, limiting noise	3

Stakeholders - Keep Satisfied (Low interest/High Influence)

Stakeholder	Aligned Values	Interests	Interest Rating (1-5)
Discovery Park Visitors	Visitor safety, Visitor experience, Accessibility	Recreation, natural experiences, sightseeing, accessibility, parking	3
Future Fort Lawton Re-development Residents	On accessibility, connectivity, programming	Affordable housing, accessibility to transit, programming for low-income residents	3
City of Seattle Parks and Rec	On natural conditions, Visitor safety Visitor experience Accessibility	Maintaining Discovery Park, limiting the maintenance needs of park, safety, space for recreation	3

Stakeholders - Keep Satisfied (Low interest/High Influence) Continued

Stakeholder	Aligned Values	Interests	Interest Rating (1-5)
Magnolia Community Council	Visitor safety, Visitor experience	Neighborhood Character, Preserving tree canopy, Safety	2
Landmarks Preservation Board	Historical understanding	Maintaining and preserving Fort Lawton as is, especially the "Chapel on the Hill"	2

Stakeholders - Keep Informed (High interest/low influence)

Stakeholder	Aligned Values	Interests	Interest Rating (1-5)
DS Media Organizations	Centering Indigenous narratives, perspectives, and values, Cultural sensitivity and awareness, Historical understanding, Community engagement/education, Collaboration with community partners	Reconnect Indigenous people to their heritage by strengthening sense of belonging and significance	5
UW American Indian Studies Program	Centering Indigenous narratives, perspectives, and values Cultural sensitivity and awareness Historical understanding Respect for the site's history and current uses, Respect for nature and animals, Centering site features, include art and landscape Community engagement/education Collaboration with community partners	Indigenous-centered methodologies and programing, preservation of indigenous sites, highlighting indigenous history	4

Stakeholders - Keep Informed (High interest/low influence) Continued

Stakeholder	Aligned Values	Interests	Interest Rating (1-5)
Indigenous Owned Businesses	Centering Indigenous narratives, perspectives, and values, Collaboration with relevant community partners	Visibility and connection to Indigenous community	4
Recipients of Daybreak Star services	Accessibility, Visitor Experience	Easy, timely access to well-maintained facilities and programs	4
Green Seattle Partnership	Respect for nature and animals Collaboration with community partners Visitor safety Visitor experience	Restore and actively maintain the City's forested parklands	3
City of Seattle Environmental Education Volunteers	Respect for the site's history and current uses, Respect for nature and animals, Community engagement/education, Visitor experience	Educating community members about the environment, working with and teaching youth, guiding tours for families	3

Stakeholders - Monitor (Low interest/Low influence)

Stakeholder	Aligned Values	Interests	Interest Rating (1-5)
Animals, Fish, Birds, etc	Respect for nature and animals	Affordable housing, funding, Fort Lawton Redevelopment Success	3
Seattle Housing Authority	Collaboration with relevant community partners	Affordable housing, funding, Fort Lawton Redevelopment Success	3
Catholic Housing Services of Western WA	Collaboration with relevant community partners	Affordable Housing, Fort Lawton Redevelopment Success	3
West Point Treatment Plant	Visitor Safety	Waste treatment	3

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