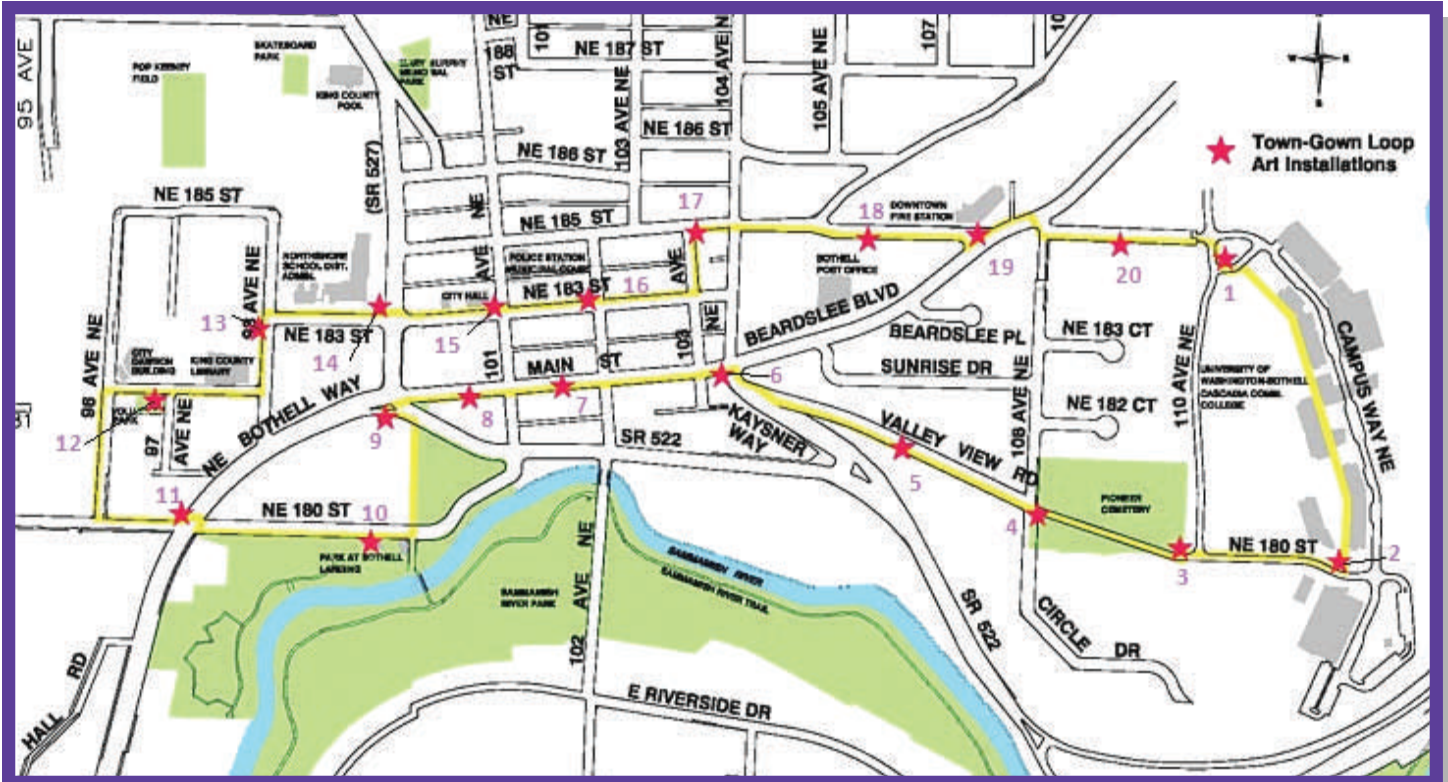


Town - Gown Loop

Get to know Bothell with a walk along the Town-Gown Loop linking the University of Washington Bothell campus with Main Street and the beautiful Sammamish River waterfront. The 2.7-mile route is defined by boulders each with a plaque illustrating a historic event of the area.



Plaque #	Boulder Info
1	In the late 1890s, Gerhard Ericksen built a log flume extending seven miles up the North Creek Valley to transport felled trees to mills on the Sammamish River. Local boys would return from fishing trips far up the valley by riding logs down the flume.
2	The small house near the freeway on the UWB/CCC campus was originally occupied by Dr. Reuben Chase, Bothell's first doctor. A Civil War Veteran, Dr. Chase moved to Bothell in 1889. A typical charge for a house call and medicine was \$1.50, but he often accepted produce or meat in lieu of cash, and even built a fruit drier and smokehouse for his surplus "pay." The house is on the National Historic Register.
3	The 2 largest waterways winding through Bothell are the Sammamish River and North Creek. The Sammamish was originally known as Squak Slough; "Squak" being a corruption of "Squowh," the Native American name for the broad valley through which the river ran.
4	The road from Riverside Drive to the top of Norway Hill was once known as Lazy Husbands Road, after the inmates of the nearby prison work farm — many of them serving time for non-support of their families — were pressed into service to build it.
5	During the Cold War, batteries of Nike missiles were installed on top of the hill above Shelton View Elementary School and kept armed and ready to launch against any incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles. The threat of nuclear attack — and the missiles — are long gone, but this high ground is still known as Nike Hill.

6	Bothell is partly in King and Snohomish Counties. Only 4 other cities in Washington straddle a county line.
7	In 1979, part of a Jaclyn Smith movie on the life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was filmed in Bothell. The Paul Richards clothing store served as a quaint New England shop for a scene set in Hyannisport, Massachusetts.
8	On April 6, 1909, local residents voted on whether Bothell should be incorporated as a full-fledged town. The taverns were closed the entire time the polls were open, of course. The measure passed — by a vote of 79 to 70.
9	The silver screen came to Bothell in the late 1940s with the opening of the Avon movie theater near the intersection of Bothell Way and the Bothell-Everett Highway. The first film was “Angel and the Badman,” starring John Wayne and Gail Russell. The theater closed in the early 1960s when the property was leased to Safeway, and the building was moved a few blocks to begin a new life as a used-car dealership.
10	The Park at Bothell Landing is the site of 4 relocated historic buildings: the Hannan House, home of one of Bothell’s first store owners and postmasters; the Lytle House, originally occupied by Bothell’s second doctor; the Beckstrom cabin, location of the first birth recorded in Bothell (and the third of 16 children born to Andrew and Augusta Beckstrom); and the town’s first schoolhouse.
11	On January 10, 1914, townsfolk celebrated the opening of the first all-weather road between Bothell and Seattle with the “Good Road Blowout,” featuring chicken mulligan, music by the Bothell Cornet Band and oratory by good road proponents from around the state. Unfortunately, the brick surface proved slippery in the rain, and the road was repaved in asphalt in 1934. A remnant of the original brick road exists near the Wayne Golf Course.
12	Bothell contains all or part of six hills — Beckstrom (also known as Maywood) Hill, Bloomberg Hill, Finn Hill, Nike Hill, Norway Hill and Westhill, which, for reasons lost in antiquity, is never written as two words.
13	Bothell native Tracy Ruiz-Conforto won two gold medals in synchronized swimming in the 1984 Summer Olympics. Tracy finished first in singles and struck gold again in pairs with her partner, Candy Costie of Kenmore.
14	Bothell High School’s first state championship came in 1927, when the boys basketball team upset highly favored Yakima. The whole town celebrated the feisty Cougars’ victory, continuously ringing the school bell (which now hangs at the Park at Bothell Landing) and dancing around a roaring bonfire.
15	Bothell Ordinance 1, dated August 4, 1889, prohibits apes from using the streets of Bothell during July and August.
16	Every Christmas season from the 1930s through the 1970s, an immense fir tree at the corner of Main Street and 102nd Ave NE glowed with lights strung by community groups. The December 1962 issue of <i>Life</i> magazine recognized the 112 foot tall, 9 foot diameter fir as “the world’s largest living Christmas tree.” Disease attacked the tree in the late 70s and the top section had to be removed.
17	The highest point in Bothell is 506 feet, on the top of Nike Hill (the summit of Norway Hill, at 480 feet, is the second highest); the lowest is 19 feet where the Sammamish River leaves Bothell and enters Kenmore.
18	In 1902, a notorious killer named Harry Tracy shot his way out of an Oregon prison and high-tailed it into Washington. A posse caught up with him near the present-day location of Wayne Golf Course. In the ensuing gun battle Tracy killed Deputy Charles Raymond and wounded deputies Karl Anderson and Jack Williams before jumping off a cliff and escaping into the underbrush below. Tracy’s trail of terror ended two months later in Eastern Washington when, surrounded in a wheat field with no way out, he took his own life.
19	Back before there were so many lawyers, two annual motorized events in Bothell challenged the brave and foolhardy. One was a motorcycle hill climb straight up the steep face of Norway Hill; the other was a mini-hydroplane race up the Sammamish River from Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish. The first was abandoned in the 1950s and the second in the 1970s.
20	Before it became a high technology haven, the lower section of North Creek Valley contained vegetable farms, trout farms, mink and chinchilla farms, dairy farms, cattle ranches, orchards, a golf course, a gravel quarry, an amusement park and a nudist colony!