



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## SR 520 Trail

*Washington*



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The highly anticipated SR 520 trail is finally open, and commuters of all stripes have been quick to make use of it if the trail counts are anything to go by. The trail was constructed as part of the SR 520 Bridge Replacement Project. A huge reason for the enthusiasm is the shortened commute time for non-motorized users traveling between Seattle and the Eastside. But it's more than utilitarian – it's also a community resource attracting the young and old alike. The [Seattle Bike Blog](#) describes it thus: "Where the I-90 Bridge feels like a means to get across the lake, the 520 Bridge is also a destination of its own."

The trail is 2.7 miles across Lake Washington, stretching from Montlake in Seattle to Medina on the Eastside. It stretches further east to Kirkland by means of bike lanes.

There are 11 viewpoints provided, where trail users can pause to take in scenic views of the water, the Seattle skyline and even Mount Rainier on a clear day. There are also resting areas on the lake.

The SR 520 trail is an important connector to the metro region's impressive network of trails, including the famous Burke-Gilman. At the west end of the lake in Seattle, it provides access to the Washington Loop Trail which rings around the lake for 60 miles. It also connects to nearby transit hubs and regional destinations, including the University of Washington where you can pick up a bike share bike for your journey.

A concrete barrier separates vehicular and non-motorized traffic and the 14-foot width accommodates cyclists, walkers, joggers and other users. One thing to be aware of however, is that there are metal expansion plates at intervals on the bridge, making for a potentially bumpy ride for wheeled travelers.

Future expansion will see the trail reach I-5, creating a continuous non-motorized corridor between that and the existing SR 520 trail east of I-405.



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**States:** Washington

**Counties:** King

Length: 2.7miles

**Trail end points:** Lake Washington Blvd,  
across from 24th Ave. (Seattle) to Sammamish  
Pkwy (Redmond)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Greenway/Non-RT

**Trail activities:** Bike,Inline Skating,Walking

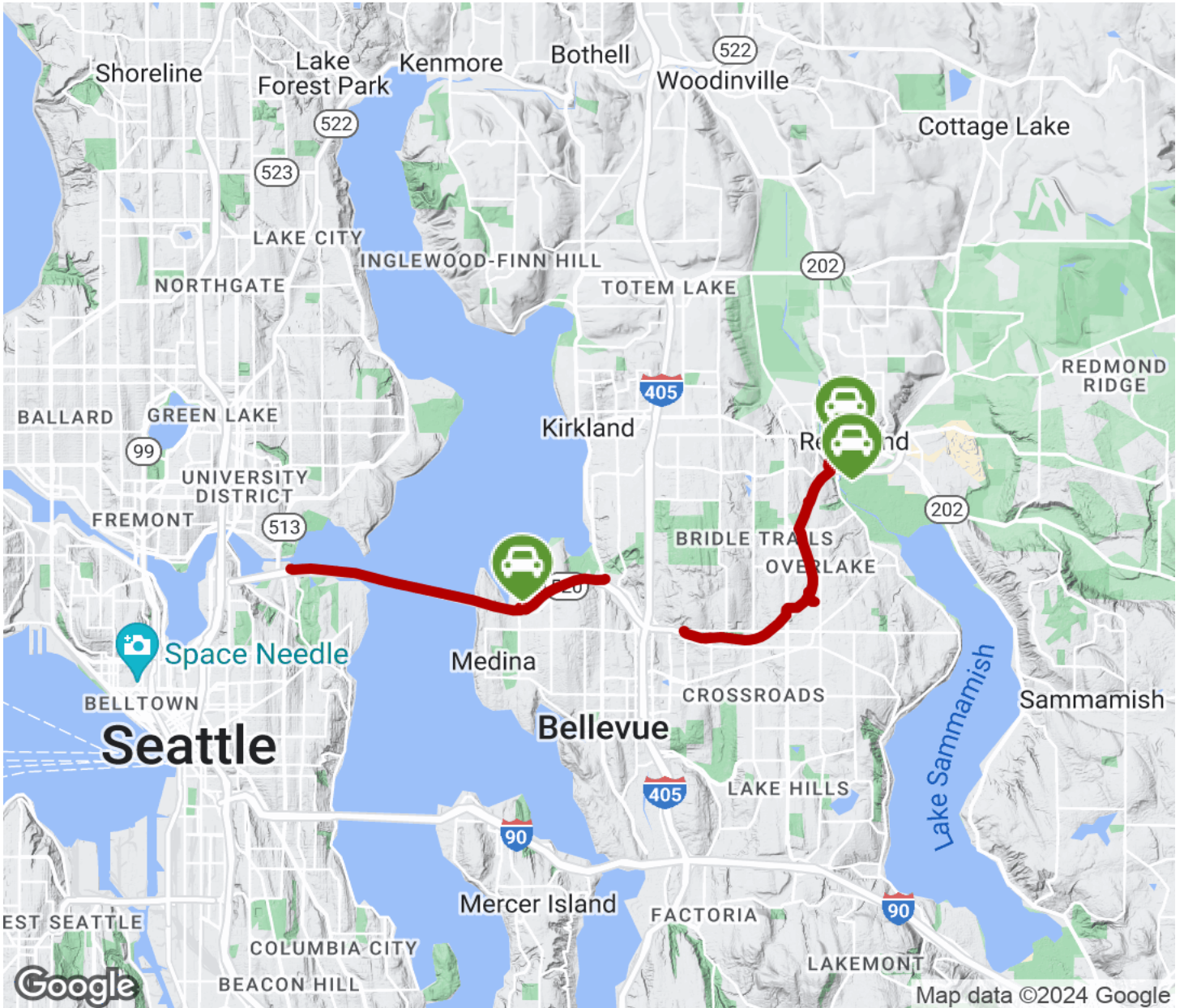
## Parking & Trail Access

If beginning from University of Washington on foot or by bike, head south onto Montlake Boulevard. Turn left onto E Hamlin followed by a right turn on 24th Ave. Turn left to join the trail. Additional directions can be found on the [WSDOT website](#).



# SR 520 Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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