



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Thea Foss
Waterway
Esplanade**
Washington



Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade

Washington

The Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade begins at Thea's Park along Tacoma's eastern waterfront. The park offers access to the water



On the other (west) side of the bridge, trail goers can visit the Washington State History Museum and easily hop on the [Prairie Line Trail](#), running down the center of the University of Washington campus.

About a mile north of Thea's Park, the [Ruston Way Path](#) is also worth checking out. Situated in the Old Town neighborhood of Tacoma, the paved pathway offers lovely views of Commencement Bay and majestic Mount Rainier.

The Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade begins at Thea's Park along Tacoma's eastern waterfront. The park offers access to the water for fishing, swimming, boating, and wildlife viewing (harbor seals and sea lions). From the park, the paved trail winds south, passing marinas and a few restaurants and ending near the 500-foot Bridge of Glass, which allows travelers to safely cross over active railroad tracks and I-705 to head into downtown.

The footbridge itself is also an attraction as it's dotted with beautiful sculptures created by famed glass artist and Tacoma native Dale Chihuly, such as a pair of 40-foot-tall blue crystal towers. Adjacent to the bridge is the Museum of Glass, serving as both a gallery and art studio for glass artists. A distinctive feature of the museum is its stainless steel cone-shaped dome.



Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade

Washington

States: Washington

Counties: Pierce

Length: 1.9miles

Trail end points: Thea's Park to Dock Street

Trail surfaces: Boardwalk, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline
Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at the north end of the trail in Thea's Park (535 Dock St.).



Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade

Washington



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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