

What to do in Washington?

Fun activities in your home state if you're looking for something to fill your summer

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Imagine this, it's the last day of school and after hours of sitting around and looking back on the year you've had with your classmates the last bell of the day rings signaling to classes all across Shorewood that school is finally out for the summer. You leave the building with your friends excited for the next couple of months free from homework and tests and then you realize that despite thinking about all this free time you now have, you still have absolutely no idea of how you want to spend it. If you can see this applying to you then here's a list of some fun, and mostly inexpensive, things to do around Washington to fill your time and help guarantee you a summer full of memories you aren't soon to forget.

Le Petit Paquet Summer Movie Series

Do you like movies? Do you like pizza? If either one of these things applies to you then I highly recommend going with your family to Le Petit Paquet in Richmond Beach to take part in one of their outdoor movie nights starting this June and going all the way to October. Le Petit Paquet is a small restaurant located in Shoreline. Some may remember it as the place where Streetzzeria used to be, but after more than a year since their opening Le Petit Paquet has grown to be so much more than that. Owner Zephyr Paquette has transformed the restaurant into a nice, community space where families can sit down together and enjoy a warm meal. The sense of community the restaurant has built will only grow this summer though with the introduction of their outdoor movie nights, exact dates are still to be determined and will vary according to weather but if you are looking for a fun thing to do with your family it's definitely worth it. Visit lepetitpaquet.fun to learn more about the restaurant and their upcoming events.

Gas Works Park

Made iconic by the paintball scene in the cult classic "10 Things I Hate About You," Gas Works Park has been an important part of Seattle since 1975 when the park was first opened to the public. But Gas Works is so much more than just a park. From restaurants to activities, there is so much around the area for people to do. Restaurants like Pablo Y Pablo and Lassi & Ice Wallingford are just a few minutes away from the park and activities such as Gasworks Park Kite Shop and Urban Surf are close by if you feel like doing some window shopping. There's also so much to see and do around Lake Union, the lake right by the park. Boat tours are offered at many places around the lake and it's a great thing to do with your family if you're looking for a way to kill the day. The point is, whether you're looking for an adventure or you just want a nice chill day at the park there is something at or around Gas Works for everyone.

Music Festival Around Washington

From Coachella to Lollapalooza the United States is not short of popular music festivals. But what some people may not know is that Washington alone has plenty of music festivals for whatever kind of music you're interested in. If you're looking for something bigger, the Capitol Hill Block Party, taking place from July 21 to July 23 and featuring artists such as Sofi Tukker and Denzel Curry, still has tickets available. For fans of country music the Watershed Music

Festival will take place this year from August 4 to August 6, and this year headliners will consist of artists such as Keith Urban and Luke Bryan. Smaller festivals such as the Day In Day Out festival (Aug. 12-13), featuring musicians like Bon Iver and Dominic Fike, as well as the Thing Festival (Aug. 25-27), featuring Lil Yachty and Cigarettes After Sex, are also available. The point is whatever your taste of music is, there's probably a music festival right for you. And who doesn't love a concert?

Hikes In Washington

It's no secret that Washington is home to some of the most beautiful scenery out there. From our lakes to our forests to our cold but gorgeous beaches, the sight seeing is endless. Yet, the longer you live here the less you might be willing to venture into the outdoors. But if you're looking for something to do that doesn't consist of sitting around on the couch all day, the hikes here should be at the top of your list. Lake 22 is a beautiful option that ends at a lake and winds through the mountains and forest. It's about a 5.5 mile hike there and back so it's a great way to spend the day. Another favorite is Heybrook Lookout, it's on the steeper side of things but is only about 2.6 miles round trip hike and the lookout tower involved at the end of the hike provides you with views that make it all worth it. There are so many amazing trails in the area for people to visit and while it's important to know the proper passes and gear you may need for a hike, if you're looking for a new hobby this summer hiking is a great option. Visit the Washington Trails Association website to learn about other Washington hikes.

The U District

Located nearby the University of Washington, the U District is a great option if you are planning a day with your friends. There are so many options of things to do, you are sure to find something that satisfies everyone's interests. From shops like Magnus Books, one of the oldest and largest book-

stores in Washington, and Crossroads Trading, a new and used clothing consignment store, to restaurants like Ugly Mug Cafe, for fresh pastries, and Chimac, for Korean fried chicken, there is something for everyone. The U District isn't limited to just stores and restaurants either, there's also galleries such as Factor Art Gallery, one of the first trans-media art galleries on the west coast, and game areas like Quest Factor, an escape room that you and up to six other people can enjoy. And it's places like this that make the U District perfect for a hot summer day, you can walk around and enjoy the nice weather that is so rare for Seattle and when it gets too hot you can go inside and cool off. The point is, the fun is endless when you go to the U District and if you need some summer fun it's the place for you.

Woodland Park Zoo

Bears, lions, penguins, and don't forget about hippos. The Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle has it all. Going to the zoo can be easily categorized as a mediocre toddler activity, but don't cut your soon to be

summer explorations short. You probably remember touring the zoo when you were little. Holding a lolly pop bigger than your hand, and gripping your mom's hand from all the excitement. But as you grew older, school got harder, and the daily amount of homework increased, the idea of the zoo fell short in your mind. That shall not be the case anymore. Located by Green Lake, the Woodland Park Zoo is a popular attraction for all age ranges, especially when the weather warms up, which is pretty rare in a rainy city like Seattle. Mostly outside, Woodland holds every animal from snow leopards to giraffes, appealing to every sort of animal lover. Having Christmas light shows in the winter, and entertaining pop-up events all throughout the summer, this is one destination nobody should pass up. Just \$27 for a day ticket, this is the perfect outdoor, sunny activity that will have you falling head over heels for animals when you leave.

Green Lake

Cleverly named, Green Lake is located in the center of Seattle, and surrounded by endless greenery, cafes, and restaurants. Having been redone a couple years back, the lake has a concrete trail wrapping around the whole of the lake that is perfect for walking with friends, riding a bike, skateboarding, and if you're weird, exercise. Apart from walking trials, for the more leisurely type, there is a plentiful amount of grass space to have a picnic and take a summer nap. Although the lake isn't suggested to swim in (most people including me still do), there are other water activities to take part in. One of the restaurants around Green Lake, The Green Lake Boathouse and Coffee shop, is one of the many places that offers to rent kayaks and row boats for the day. If you have a paddle board, there are also two loading docks located around the lake where you can park and paddle. Having restaurants, dog parks, ice cream shops, and a football field in close proximity, Green Lake is the perfect place to relax outdoors and soak up the Vitamin D we Seattleites severely lack heading into the summer season.

Discovery Park

Discovery Park, located in Magnolia is the perfect outdoor activity to partake in during the spring and summer months. Being one of the most popular parks in Seattle, Discovery Park is expansive and beautiful, covered in hiking trails and ponds. Although many parks in Seattle are dog friendly, Discovery Park is a literal haven for any of your furry tailed friends. Having watering and potty pick-up stations sprinkled all throughout the park, it is the perfect

location for a long walk for any dog-loving person. Being located at the edge of the city, the park also includes a beach, and which is home to the Discovery Park lighthouse. Not only will this park

make the perfect outdoor date, and walk with some friends, but it is dog friendly and will offer your dog a salty bath at the end.

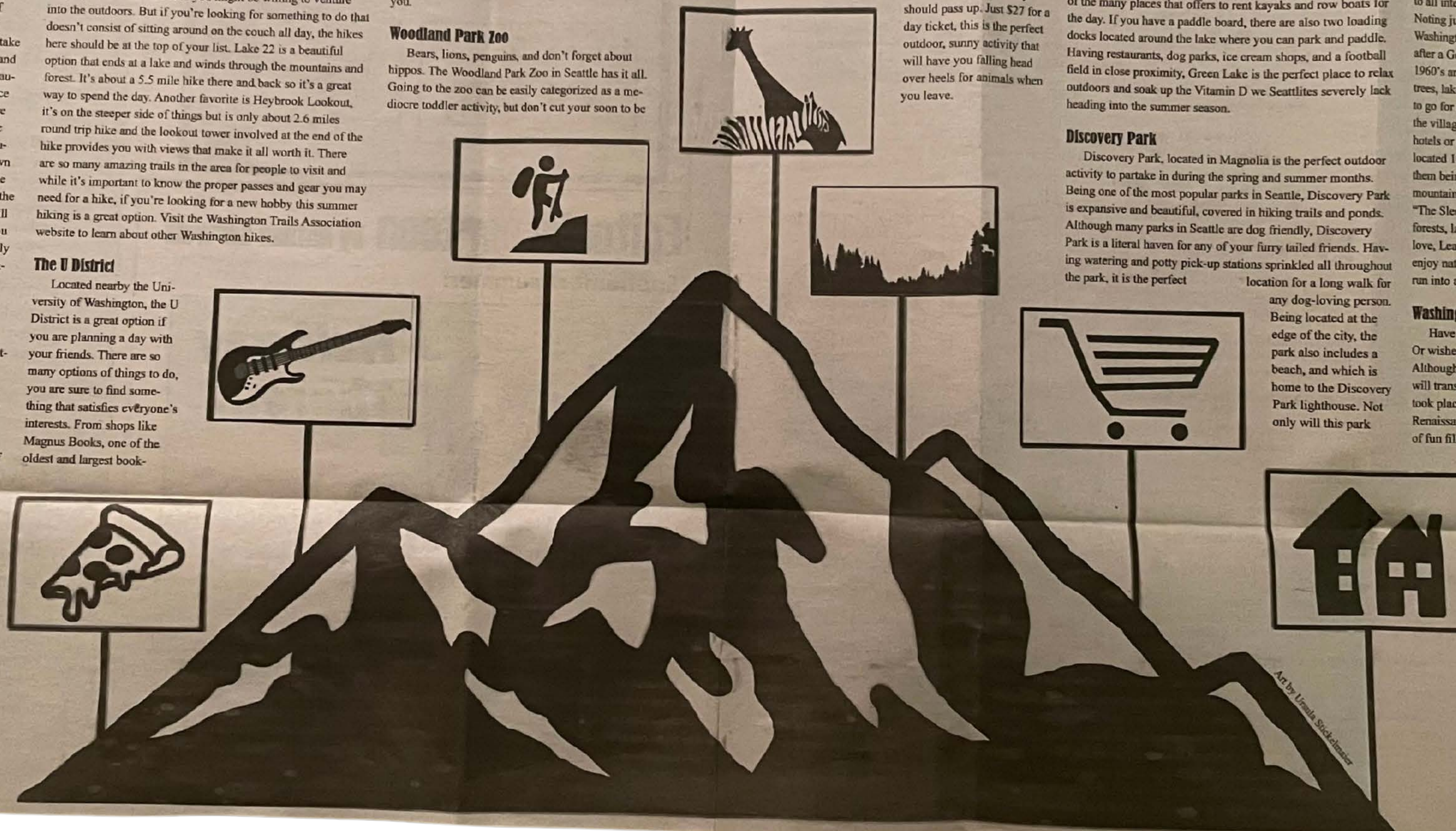
Leavenworth

All the places I've listed so far have well deserved the name of perfect. But this destination beats all the others to a pulp. While the concrete forest of Seattle is beautiful during the summer, with markets, beaches, and busy downtown, it can tire quickly. Well, fret no longer. Located about 2 hours from Seattle, the beautiful Bavarian village of Leavenworth is a capsule of tranquility. Known for its Oktoberfest, a famous beer festival starting every year on October 1st, Leavenworth caters to all interests, which only expand when the weather warms up. Noting just being known for beer, this busy tourist location in Washington is also known for their food. The town, modeled after a German Bavarian Village, started construction in the 1960's and still has buildings to this day. Surrounded by gaping trees, lakes, and mountains on all sides, this is the perfect place to go for a leisurely hike, having almost over 100 trails around the village. Not looking to spend a large amount of money on hotels or cabin rentals?; there are multiple campground options located 10 minutes away from the village downtown, one of them being the Sleeping Lady Campground. One of the many mountains adjacent to the village is one that has been coined "The Sleeping Lady" due to its lady sleeping-like shape. With forests, lakes, and everything an outdoor person could possibly love, Leavenworth is the perfect small get-away destination to enjoy nature, eat salt-water taffy, and maybe, if you're lucky, run into a black bear.

Washington Renaissance Faire

Have you ever thought that you were born in the wrong era? Or wished that you could travel back in time for just one day. Although my solution for this issue isn't a permanent solution, it will transport you into the Arthurian time that you thought only took place on T.V. or in books. The Washington Midsummer Renaissance Faire. Located in Snohomish, the faire offers days of fun filled activities and music. Held for over 3 weekends, the

faire has different themes each week whether it be mythical beasts and fairies, to pirates and Vikings, the renaissance faire has it all. Jousting, sword fighting, and taverns are just some of the things you can find here. Starting on Aug. 5 and going to Aug. 20, the faire is a great summer day activity to partake, and is only a \$27 general admission for a day. Many of the shows and activities being comedic based, there are guards posted at the front gate of the castle/faire entrance that will yell at you if you show up without a ticket. If you're interested in staying longer for this fun weekend, you are able to camp out in Snohomish on fair grounds either in tents or in campers. Open to all ages, this is a perfect small getaway for the day to enjoy the sun while experiencing the true magic of the Arthurian era.



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