

Welcome to the
Hiram M. Chittenden Locks
Fish Ladder Plaza

The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks is a vital part of Seattle.
In addition to being one of the top tourist attractions in the area,
it is one of the busiest lock systems in the nation.

Walkways are often crowded. Please be courteous and allow
visitors to move freely throughout the grounds.

If you have time, walk across the spillway to the north side of the locks.
Enjoy a stroll through the Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Garden and
stop in our gift shop and visitor center for more information.
Enjoy and respect the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks,
our walk-only park.

The fish ladder viewing room below offers a close up look
at migrating salmon as they pass around the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks.
You might see one or more of four species of salmon during their migration
season-sockeye, chinook, coho and steelhead. Juvenile salmon leave
the Lake Washington watershed for the Pacific Ocean each spring.
Mature salmon returning through the fish ladder are returning
to the river, stream, or hatchery where their journey began
three to five years ago. There they will spawn and die.
Think about what trials they faced during their life cycle.

Did You Know?

Hiram M Chittenden designed the
original fish ladder when the locks
were built between 1911-1916.

This was long before declining
fish populations became a
concern and showed Hiram's
progressive thinking.

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