Who Knew it was Luuwit
Tuesday, June 4 • 10:00AM
Meet: Luuwit View Park,
NE Fremont & NE 127th, Portland
1.8 miles – 2 hours – 3,802 steps

The Park: Luuwit View is one of Portland’s newest parks, with a grand opening in October of 2017, but not fully finished until spring of 2018. It occupies nearly 16 acres of former farmland in the Argay neighborhood. Plans for a park at this location go back 60 years. Known as “Beech Park”, land was set aside but never developed. The city of Portland took over that land in 1984, purchased the adjoining parcel in 1999, and finally funded the project and started construction in 2016.

Park amenities include an all access playground, picnic areas, soccer, basketball and skate park areas, plus an off-leash dog park. It is also home to a community garden and Mauricio Robalino’s “Bird” sculpture which sits atop a viewing platform that enhances the view across the Columbia to the Washington Cascades. “Luuwit” is the Native American name for Mt. St. Helens, which is clearly visible from the park. The name was chosen to honor the Native Americans, who first lived on this land and gives a nod to the history of the area as a local farming community.

Volcanoes: Three distinct peaks, in three different stages of life are visible from the park. Mt. St. Helens had a major eruption on May 18, 1980. A 5.1 magnitude earthquake caused the north face to slide away creating the largest landslide ever recorded. An 80,000-foot column of rock, ash and steam rose over the mountain. Prevailing winds carried the ash cloud North and East, turning day into night and depositing grit and ash across 13 states. It reached the east coast in 3 days and traveled around the globe in 15. The mountain lost 1300 feet in the eruption and now stands at 8,363 feet. It is still an active volcano. The last eruption was in 2008 but earthquakes, dome building and steam emissions occur almost daily. Mt Hood (11,250 ft), to the east is considered to be a dormant volcano. It had major eruptions in the 1860’s, a small eruption in 1907 but it is considered to be the most likely peak to erupt in Oregon. Rocky Butte (612 ft) lies west of the park. It is a cinder cone and is an extinct volcano. Its’ name comes from the fact that it housed a rock quarry which provided stone for construction projects throughout the state.

Shaver(Parkrose) School: Shaver Elementary (K-5) School sits next to the park and is part of the Parkrose school district. The school boundary stretches from NE 143rd to NE 33rd. Luckily most of the area is industrial or occupied by the airport. The school is home to 330 students, 85% are low income. Parkrose school district is fully contained inside the city of Portland but is often overlooked when city leaders talk about taxes, funding and programs for schools.

Argay Terrace Neighborhood: Wedged between I-84 and Sandy Blvd, the neighborhood was built on former farmland. Platted by two homebuilders in the 1950’s, they added “terrace” to the name referring to the quiet curving streets and sloping terrain of the area. Built mostly in the 1960’s and 70’s. The neighborhood is made up of mostly single-family homes on large lots but we will also see condos, apartments and duplexes along the lower edge of the park. The home development is bordered on the east and west by still working farmland. However, the parcels adjacent to the park are up for sale and the owners are holding out for development that would provide goods and services wanted by the neighborhood.

No Man’s Land: When the neighborhood was built this was an area known as East County. Portland city limits stopped at about 82nd Ave. There was a movement at the time to incorporate the area between the borders of Portland and Gresham into a new city. If the city of “Columbia Ridge” had become a reality it would have been the second largest city in Oregon. That didn’t happen and in the mid-1980’s Portland and Gresham divided up the “no man’s land” with Portland annexing the area from around 82nd out to approximately 162nd avenue.
Local Eateries: Brewed Awakening
Coffee Booth-4242 NE 122;

For route details visit:
https://www.mapmywalk.com/routes/fullscreen/2340581074/

Don’t miss the next NeighborWalks: Willamette Park to Sellwood Bridge, Tuesday, June 11 • 10:00AM
Meet: Willamette Park, 6500 SW, Macadam Ave, Portland

Complete the online waiver and make check-in simpler:
https://aarp.cvent.com/2019NWwaiver

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Burgerville-4229 NE 122; Good World Chinese – 5055 NE 122nd, Bistro23 - 5530 NE 122nd