

Rice Lake

This popular walk circumnavigates a lake that was once part of the muncipal water supply, and inaccessible to the general public. Now it provides a pleasant stroll at almost any time of the year. Dogs allowed? No. Stroller-friendly? Yes. Time needed? Approximately 45 minutes, round trip. Map? Click here.

Rice Lake offers a tranquil meander for walkers, fishermen and joggers; dogs and cyclists, though, are not permitted on the trail immediately around the lake. (The lake trail is wheelchair-accessible, but initial slopes to and from the Pipeline Bridge are a bit steep, so wheechair users may prefer to access Rice Lake from the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve parking lot at the top of Lillooet Road.)

Otherwise, bus or drive to the top of Lynn Valley Road; parking is available up Lynn Valley Road beyond the three-way stop, or around the End of the Line General Store (please be aware of the 30-minute parking limit in front of the store, and leave space for store customers).

Starting at the End of the Line, walk north, veering right down Rice Lake Road, and cross the Pipeline Bridge. A short climb on the other side leads to the parking lot of the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, where you'll see a gazebo, directional signs, and information boards giving wildlife alerts and cautions for backcountry hikers.

The path to Rice Lake is up the left side of the parking lot, just past the log Learning Lodge. Head north on the wide path; within a few minutes the marked access to Rice Lake will be on your right-hand side (continuing straight will lead you to the adjacent Lynn Headwaters Park, an alternate route in and out of Rice Lake).

Keeping left on the Rice Lake path will take you counterclockwise around the lake. Along the way is a wheelchair-accessible dock where locals enjoy fishing for trout (all provincial freshwater fishing regulations apply). You'll also encounter historical markers pointing out evidence of the pioneering logging operations that took place around Rice Lake in the early 20th century. At that point, Rice Lake was used to float shinglebolts and direct them into the flume lines that led to Burrard Inlet; it was also the main municipal water supply.

Once you've circumnavigated the lake, retrace your steps to the End of the Line and stop off at this historic general store for a well-deserved break.

We hope you had a great day out! If you'd like to share photos or trail updates, please post your experiences on the LynnValleyLife Facebook page, or email us at info@LynnValleyLife.com.

