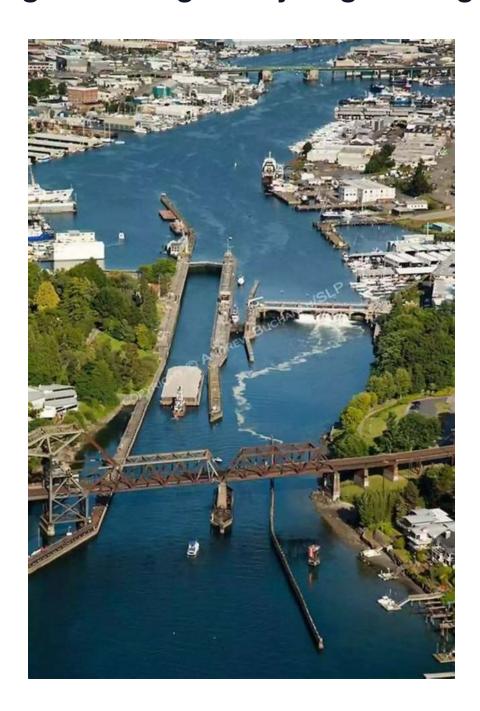
Ballard Locks Hiram Chittenden Seattle Washington - A Legendary Engineering Marvel



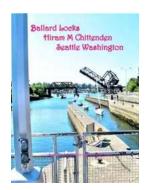
The Story Behind Ballard Locks

The Ballard Locks, officially known as the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, is a legendary engineering marvel situated in Seattle, Washington. It is a fascinating

landmark that has played a vital role in connecting two major water bodies, the Puget Sound and Lake Union.

The Construction and Design

The construction of the Ballard Locks began back in 1911 and was completed in 1917. Named after Hiram M. Chittenden, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers colonel who orchestrated the project, the locks were built as a response to the increasingly congested waterways of Seattle and the need for a reliable connection between the saltwater of the Pacific Ocean and the freshwater lakes of the city.



Ballard Locks (Hiram M Chittenden) Seattle,

Washington by Sandra Piotrzkowski(Kindle Edition)

★ ★ ★ ★ 4.3 out of 5
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Print length : 25 pages
Lending : Enabled



The locks feature dual chambers, each measuring 180 feet long and 30 feet wide, allowing for the passage of vessels with a draft of up to 30 feet. These chambers are essential for raising and lowering boats, compensating for the significant difference in water levels between the Puget Sound and Lake Union.

The Function and Benefits

The Ballard Locks serve various functions, but their primary purpose is to facilitate navigation for ships and boats between the saltwater and freshwater

bodies. By regulating water levels, the locks prevent the mixture of saltwater and freshwater, which is essential for maintaining the ecological balance of both environments.

Aside from maintaining water quality, the locks offer a scenic spectacle for visitors. Watching boats being raised or lowered as the water levels are adjusted is an awe-inspiring experience. Furthermore, the surrounding grounds of the locks boast beautifully manicured gardens, providing a tranquil escape from the bustling city life.

Attractions and Amenities

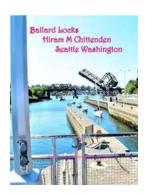
The Ballard Locks attract a diverse range of visitors, from curious tourists to avid boaters. Apart from witnessing the functioning locks, visitors can explore the Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Gardens adjacent to the locks. These stunning gardens span 7 acres and boast an impressive collection of plants, including exotic species, unique rhododendrons, and beautiful trees.

Furthermore, the locks feature a fish ladder that allows migrating fish, such as salmon and steelhead, to safely pass through the locks. An underwater viewing area provides visitors with an opportunity to observe these magnificent fish swimming upstream during spawning season.

Preserving History and Legacy

The Ballard Locks have played a significant role in the development and growth of Seattle. They have not only transformed the local maritime industry but also provided a gateway for economic expansion and recreational opportunities. As a testament to their historical importance, the locks were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

The Ballard Locks, a remarkable engineering marvel, have connected Puget Sound with Lake Union for over a century. Their innovative design, functionality, and scenic beauty continue to draw visitors, offering them a glimpse into Seattle's rich history and the natural wonders of the region. Whether you appreciate engineering feats, enjoy serene gardens, or marvel at the migration of fish, the Ballard Locks are a must-visit destination that will leave you in awe of the remarkable accomplishments of human ingenuity.



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This picture book is for those who want to see and can't. Travel and picture taking are two of my favorite past times. Recently a friend's health deteriorated and they were no longer able to get out and see the world. That is when PS-Places was born. To bring the outdoors in for those that can't go.

:)BP Enjoy!!! Ballard Locks (Hiram M Chittenden) Seattle, Washington Sandra J Piotrzkowski

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