Fineview Walking Tour

A great place to start is at the end of Howard Street which is adjacent to I-279 and runs off North Avenue. At the end of Howard Street near the Howard Street Pump Station building is the intersection with Rising Main Way. The Rising Main Way steps (F1) start as sidewalk steps but soon become street steps. Climbing these 331 steps, equivalent to climbing 17 floors in a building, brings you to Warren Street. The Rising Main steps continue across Warren Street but as 31 wooden sidewalk steps.

Continue up to Lanark Street, turn right and go to Marsonia Street and turn left. There are unusual high sidewalk steps at the intersection of Marsonia Street and Osgood Street—41 steps on Marsonia Street and 27 steps on Osgood Street (F2). These steps are worth exploring (photo page 72).

Travel back to Lanark Street, turn right and continue down Lanark Street passing the WPXI-channel 11 studios. It is worth the time to stop by the front of this building to enjoy a spectacular view of the city. At the end of Lanark Street is a set of 19 sidewalk steps. At their end, the route turns left onto Catoma Street. But before continuing, walk across Catoma Street to the new mini park and observation platform. This delightful area, offering one of the best views of the city, was developed by the City of Pittsburgh in cooperation with the Fineview Citizen's Council. After enjoying the view continue walking on Catoma Street and then turn left on Warren Street (F3).

Turn right onto Carrie Street and walk to the bend in the road (the intersection with Henderson Street). Here is the top of a flight of steps—the Carrie Street steps (F4). These are easily located by the dramatic red sculpture. Explore these 106 steps that were built in 1948, come back to the top and continue down Henderson Street. After the street turns look for steps on the left. These 56 steps (F5) go down to Grab Street. Turn right and another set (F6) of similar steps (51 in number) lead down to Fountain Street.

Turn left at the bottom and travel to the top of the James Street steps. Descend these 62 steps (F7) down to the “real” James Street. Travel down James Street until the Hemlock Street steps. These steps are unusual as they go up the hill, reach a peak and then travel down the other side. Traversing these 143 steps will lead to Compromise Street.

A short distance after turning right on Compromise Street will lead to the top of the 101 steps on Middle Street. (F9) Witness an unusual view of the city from their top (see cover). However, the walking route is in the other direction. Traveling back along Compromise Street there are two sets of steps on the right—Grab Street (146 steps) (F10) and Habit Street (144 steps) (F11). Either set of these city steps leads back to Howard Street and the beginning of the walking tour.