



1. Nutty Narrows Bridge (Olympia Way)

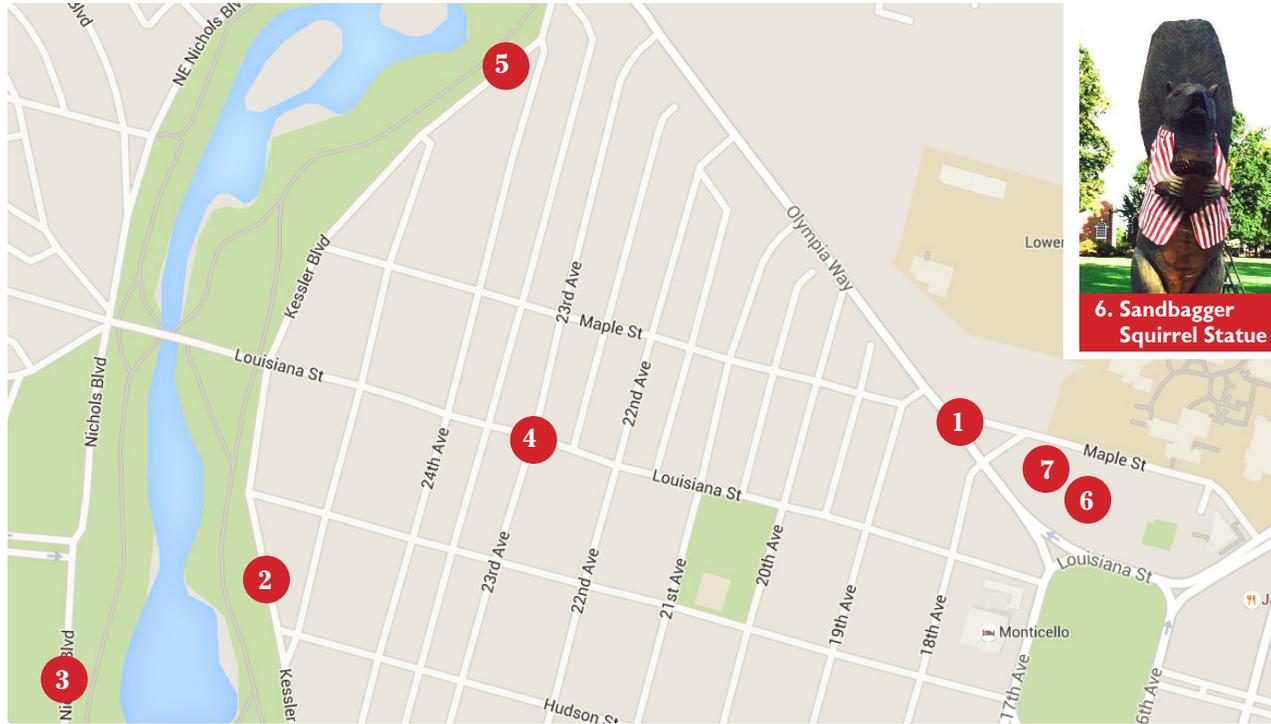


2. Bruce Kamp Squirrel Bridge (West Kessler Blvd)



3. John R. Dick Squirrel Bridge (Nichols Blvd)

NUTTY POINTS OF ATTRACTION



6. Sandbagger Squirrel Statue



4. OBEC Bridge (Louisiana St)



5. Safety Awareness Bridge (1708 Kessler Blvd)

1. The Nutty Narrows Bridge

Erected 1963 by Amos Peters. Believed to be the world's first squirrel bridge. Constructed of aluminum and a fire hose. Peters constructed the bridge after seeing squirrels attempting to cross Olympia Way from the Library grounds to the Old West Side Neighborhood. (On Olympia Way near 1525 18th Ave.)

2. Bruce Kamp Bridge

Erected in memory of Bruce Kamp in 2011. Made of copper, and the first covered squirrel bridge in the world. It has a 24/7 squirrel webcam accessible from the lvsquirrelfest.com website. (1318 Kessler Boulevard.)

3. John R. Dick Bridge

This bridge was designed and built by John R. Dick

and installed in 2012, shortly after his death. It is based upon the Leonard Zakim Memorial Bridge in Boston. John had a lifelong fascination with bridges, and enjoyed the TV show Boston Legal, in which the bridge appeared prominently in background shots. Located on Nichols Boulevard just south of RA Long Boulevard, near RA Long High School.

4. OBEC Bridge

Constructed and donated by the company that secured the contract to construct a new bridge across Lake Sacajawea on Washington Way. Installed in 2013. Constructed of wood with interesting architectural bracing. (Louisiana Street, near 1503 23rd Avenue.)

5. Safety Awareness Bridge

Designed and constructed by

the Bits and Bots Robotics Club from RA Long and Mark Morris High Schools. Inspired by the memory of Linda LaCoursiere, who was struck by a car. Made of aluminum with cutouts, and tinted material. Many squirrels use this bridge. Installed in 2015. (1708 Kessler Boulevard.)

6. Sandbagger Squirrel Statue

Erected in honor of Amos

Peters by the Sandbaggers. (Longview Public Library grounds, Olympia Way.)

7. Historic Shay Locomotive

Built in 1924, and operated by Long Bell Lumber Company until 1956. Restored by John Chilton, Jeff Wilson and many other volunteers in 2005. (Longview Public Library grounds, Olympia Way.)

THE HISTORY OF SQUIRRELFEST

In 2011, the Longview Sandbaggers created Squirrelfest, a community-wide family-friendly festival in Longview, Washington, just 36 miles north of Portland on I-5. The festival draws thousands of people each year. The Longview Sandbaggers are a civic booster club dedicated to all things fun and funny, and is known for its many pranks. The group, a loose affiliation of Longview's best ol' boys, have made it their mission to promote the city with tongues firmly in cheek.

Squirrelfest celebrates all things squirrely, and pays homage to the frisky little critters that populate the thousands of trees in Longview. In fact, the squirrels of Longview may outnumber the citizens!

The Sandbaggers are best known for the Nutty Narrows Squirrel Bridge, a local landmark built in 1963 by contractor Amos Peters, who was dismayed by the number of squirrels who died crossing the street in front of his office.

Peters, a member of the Longview Sandbaggers, installed the bridge and the Sandbaggers have maintained it ever since. The Nutty Narrows Bridge celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013 and has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Structures. When Amos Peters died in 1984, the Sandbaggers commissioned a 10-foot wooden squirrel statue on the Longview Library grounds in his memory.

Four other squirrel bridges have been erected and more are to come! Longview is a nutty place: we even installed a live web cam to watch the little critters cross the bridge. Visit our website lvsquirrelfest.com and see!

The Nutty Narrows' squirrel bridge again came to regional attention when the Sandbaggers discovered it missing and reported its absence to the press. A spokesman from the Longview Parks and Recreation department (who curiously happened to be a Sandbagger) told Portland news the city had no idea where the bridge was, directly denying the 'irresponsible' rumor that the bridge was simply down for repairs.

The mystery of the 'Vanishing Squirrel Bridge,' which the Sandbaggers had blamed on terrorists from Kelso, was just beginning to pick up momentum (calls for more information were coming from far and wide) when the reporter covering the story for The Daily News found the bridge at the metal fabrication shop where Longview Parks and Recreation had taken it for repairs. He could have had a Pulitzer.

Today the Sandbaggers continue to proudly play pranks and run their famous festival while maintaining the many squirrel bridges.

All photos are courtesy of "C's Photography"



SANDBAGGERS

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NUTTY POINTS OF INTEREST