



Fall 2020: A Milestone & A Change

On September 20, Friends of Waterfront Seattle celebrated a major milestone: the opening of Pier 62. Building on the construction of a new seawall, opening of a new tunnel under downtown, and demolition of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, Waterfront Park is becoming real, thanks to you and so many other community partners, donors, volunteers, and neighbors who have been working on, guiding, and rooting for this project over the last 10 years. Thank you.

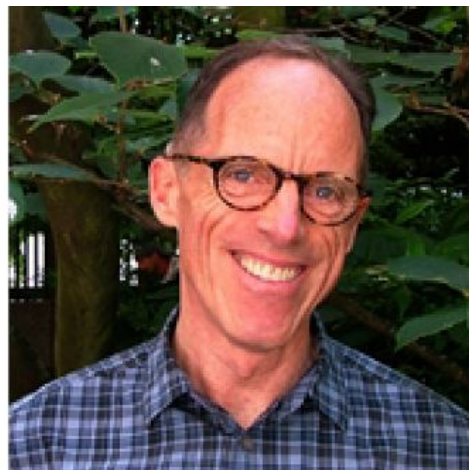


Photo by Emily Cantrell

The opening of the Pier is also a professional milestone for Heidi Hughes, who is stepping down as Executive Director of Friends of Waterfront Seattle. She has done an exemplary job, leading the organization through its startup years and guiding us through some very turbulent and challenging times. She has been a great pleasure to work with, and we are hugely grateful for her commitment, creativity, and tenacity.



Heidi Hughes



Thatcher Bailey

We are very pleased that Thatcher Bailey has agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director of Friends of Waterfront Seattle beginning November 1,

2020. Thatcher has served as CEO of the Seattle Parks Foundation for 10 years and has established relationships with City officials, community groups, and donors. He will support the board, staff, and City partners to realize the vision of Waterfront Park, and he will help build an organization that will attract the best possible and most diverse pool of candidates when it is time to seek a permanent Executive Director as we move toward construction completion.

We see our new waterfront as a beacon of hope in these difficult times. Together, we will help Seattle recover by building a place that truly feels like home and invites everyone from across our region into its embrace.

This is our promise and, with your continued help and guidance, we will deliver.

Thank you!

Friends of Waterfront Seattle Board

Pier 62: Now Open! Seattle's rebuilt iconic waterfront destination



Photo by Nicole Dansereau

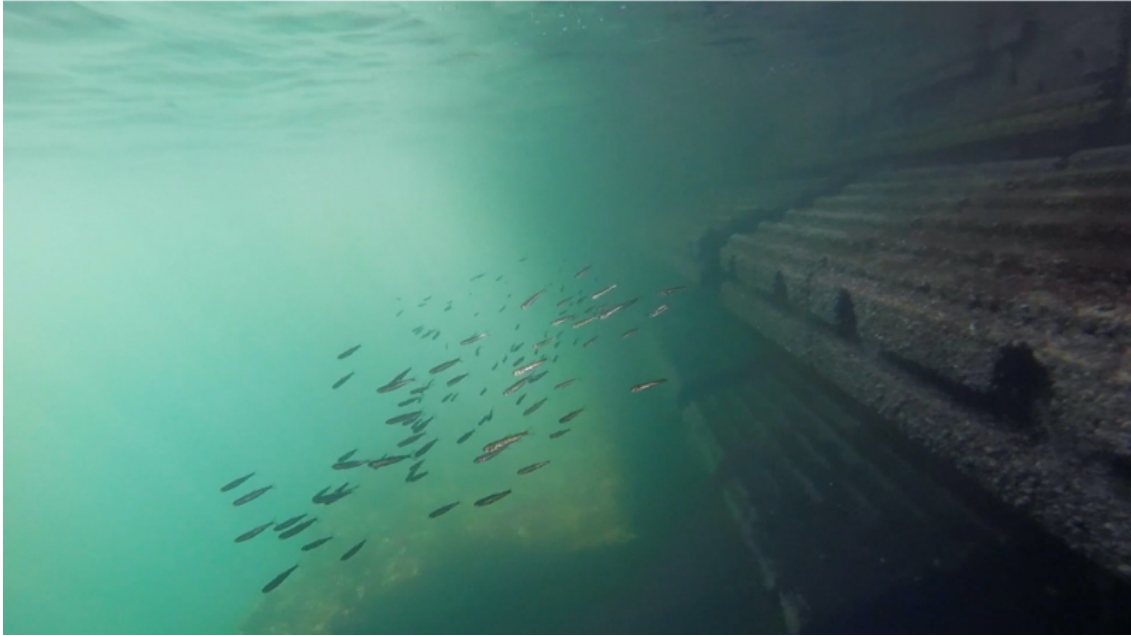
Seattle has waited a long time for this announcement: [Pier 62 is now open!](#) As the first piece of Waterfront Park to open, rebuilt Pier 62 fulfills the community's vision for a vibrant, inclusive, welcoming, and safe public space on the waterfront.

With gorgeous views and flexible space between City and Sound, Pier 62 is a place for passive activities at this time. Visitors can walk the pier, enjoy the view, and bring lunch to enjoy at a cafe table. Following the pandemic, Pier 62 will host dynamic community events and be home to cultural, recreational, and educational activities year round.

Working under a joint-delivery model, Seattle Parks and Recreation will provide basic maintenance with public funding, and Friends will provide a broad range of public programming with funding from private sources. The City and Friends share the goal to make the central waterfront a magnificent public space where all communities can share cultural, recreational, and civic experiences year-round in a beautiful environment.

[Click for Pier 62 details](#)

Seawall Update: Where The Salmon Now Swim



Juvenile salmon swimming next to Elliott Bay Seawall. Photo by Mike Caputo/UW.

Billed as the foundation of Seattle's future waterfront, Seattle's reconstructed seawall, finished in 2017, marked a new connection between land and sea. Replacing the failing 90-year-old original wall, the new seawall moved 10-15 feet eastward and was designed to dramatically improve the coastal ecosystem for aquatic life.

Friends caught up with Jeff Cordell, a researcher with the University of Washington's School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, who has been involved with the project from the start. "We are encouraged that fish seem to be using habitat where they didn't before, thanks to new features installed during the wall's replacement."

The enhanced seawall, which has been recognized as one of the largest eco-engineering projects of its kind, is boosting the fitness and chances of survival for young salmon as they migrate through a treacherous section of waterfront on their way to the ocean.

TIDELINE PROMENADE



Image by James Corner Field Operations, courtesy of the City of Seattle.

Instead of encountering a barren slab of concrete, salmon now swim across a “bench” in front of the seawall, which forms a narrow strip of intertidal habitat, effectively providing a shallow-water pathway for juvenile salmon. Glass blocks in the sidewalk above the seawall allow light to penetrate to the water below, and a rough surface on the wall itself has horizontal shelves to encourage the growth of algae and invertebrates.

After construction, researchers observed a notable increase in feeding behaviors under the piers as well — shaded areas where most fish had not been known to feed before because their success in finding food depends upon their ability to see, according to Cordell. Light passing through the glass blocks has increased visibility under the piers, which together with their usual pier-to-pier foraging, allow the young salmon to swim with less hesitation through the more-inviting habitat corridor.

The new seawall is also offering the young salmon a better menu. The shelves and textured walls installed on the upper portion of the wall have encouraged significant new vegetative growth, which in turn supports tiny invertebrates, such as copepods, amphipods, barnacles, sea squirts, mussels, limpets, snails, and chiton, many of which contribute to the young salmon's diet.

Cordell believes that Seattle's new waterfront seawall will inspire

improvements for other shoreline structures throughout Puget Sound. The model may even encourage broader regulatory changes that enhance, not just protect, habitat for migrating salmon and other species, thus going beyond the current “no-net-loss” standard to create “net ecological gain.”

Art On The Pike Street Hill Climb



Photo by Jeff Ozimek

As part of this year’s Seattle Design Festival, FWS’ good friend and artist Carolina Silva brilliantly restored her two-year-old mural at the Pike Street Hill Climb along Western Avenue. After a season of wear and abuse from taggers, the Hill Climb mural titled [Room For Change](#) has been fully repainted, restored, and re-protected, with the help of community members who pitched in to revive the painting. The project reflects a collaboration with Space City and Urban ArtWorks, with support from Downtown Seattle Association and Friends of Waterfront Seattle.

Working with Carolina, Waterfront Park Operations Manager Jeff Ozimek secured assistance from Graffiti Busters of Seattle to test and apply

permanent protection to the mural. Graffiti Busters is also lined up to assist with future Friends-sponsored art and activation projects, including the refreshed Union Street Staircase mural, [*Trades of the Duwamish*](#) by Katherine Chilcote as well as the forthcoming Alaskan Way planter box murals.

Carolina's restored mural ties into the good work Friends has done with [Land Morphology](#), a waterfront-based landscape design firm, and [Horticultural Elements](#), a sustainable grounds maintenance provider, to replant and beautify the Hill Climb. This project, along with the Union Street Staircase mural, are core pieces for connecting our community to the new enlivened Waterfront.

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