WATERFRONT PARK

A Guidebook

Friends of Waterfront Park

Image by Field Operations Courtesy of the City of Seattle
A Coast Salish Waterfront

Waterfront Park is situated on the land of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have resided here since time immemorial and continue to thrive. With respect and humility, we acknowledge the history of the waterfront, the dispossession of land from the Coast Salish people, and most importantly, the strength and resilience of the native people and their culture through this history to the present. This acknowledgment serves only as a first step in honoring the land that we occupy and the first peoples of that land. Friends recognizes that this will be long and evolving work to build and repair relationships with Native communities.
**20 Acres Connecting City & Sound**

**Waterfront Park**
- A tree-lined pathway connecting the waterfront to the stadiums.

**Landmarks & Art**

1. Lumen Field
2. Washington St. Boat Landing
3. Habitat Beach
4. Play structure
5. Art: George Tsutakawa
6. Colman Dock
7. Marion St. Pedestrian Bridge
8. Art: Oscar Tuazon & Collaborators
9. Art: HaddadDrugan
10. Art: Norie Sato
11. Art: Shaun Peterson
12. Union St. Pedestrian Bridge
13. Art: Derek Bruno & Diego Hamilton
14. Play structure
15. Ocean Pavilion
16. Art: MTK Matriarchs
17. Art: Ann Hamilton
18. Overlook Walk
19. Art: Stephen Vitiello
20. Lenora St. Pedestrian Bridge
21. Bell St. Park Extension

**Pioneer Square**
- Lush, green east-west connections to a historic neighborhood and peaceful Habitat Beach where visitors can touch the water.

**Transit Piers**
- A link from the downtown core to ferries, water taxis, and Puget Sound.

**Central Public Space**
- The cultural hub of the waterfront ties together two iconic waterfront destinations, Pike Place Market and the Seattle Aquarium, with added space for activities and sweeping views.

**Historic Piers**
- Featuring the Seattle Great Wheel, restaurants and shops, the historic piers offer year-round opportunities to eat, drink and play.

**Belltown**
- Connecting the waterfront to Olympic Sculpture Park, Bell Street Park, and an active neighborhood brimming with shopping, food, and nightlife.
Prioritizing Pedestrians

Improved sidewalks and greenery will support safe pedestrian connections between the waterfront and Pioneer Square. Seahawks, Sounders, and Mariners fans will have easy access to Waterfront Park and public transportation options by land or sea.

Dozens of new trees will significantly increase tree canopy in the area, creating a safe, lush, multi-use pathway for sports fans and neighbors alike.
The historic Washington Street Boat Landing will anchor the south end of Waterfront Park near Pioneer Square. Recently restored, it once again serves as a symbolic gateway to the city from the Puget Sound.

Pedestrian-friendly enhancements to the historic neighborhood will make Pioneer Square more accessible, and encourage activity and commerce.
Creating a Sustainable Future

Created in partnership with scientists at the University of Washington, the Elliott Bay Seawall optimizes the salmon migration corridor with improved habitat, including natural texture to encourage plant growth, nooks for shellfish, and a cantilevered section with glass bricks to provide needed light.

Top. Habitat Beach supports the waterfront ecosystem and enhances the salmon corridor by adding rocks and nearshore vegetation. Habitat Beach will provide direct access to the water for visitors.

Bottom Left. The light-penetrating surface on the Promenade, Habitat Shelves, and textured surface on the Elliott Bay Seawall.

Bottom Right. Buster Simpson’s artwork Migration Stage reflects on the urban shoreline and will function as a place to sit and rest, as well as a place for play.
The new Marion St Bridge will offer stunning views of Seattle’s central waterfront while maintaining the direct connection between the ferries and downtown.

A place for moving, resting, and play, the walkway along the promenade will be punctuated by benches and swings.
The Promenade will be the common connector of Waterfront Park — providing a linear pathway from Pioneer Square to Pier 62 and improving access to waterfront activities. A new two-way bike path will serve commuters, visitors, and families along the same route.
A Slower Pace in an Urban Place

Carving a garden pathway between Union and Spring Street, the boardwalk offers an intimate journey through a tree canopy, marsh gardens, and year-round foliage.

Top. A dedicated two-way bike path stretches the length of the park, allowing cyclists to recreate and commute safely and efficiently, while maintaining pedestrian safety with traffic signals and safe places to cross.

Bottom. The promenade, boardwalk, bike path, and parallel plantings will create a safe pedestrian haven to move and enjoy the new waterfront.
A Place for Gathering, Activity & Play

Top. Seasonal activities such as concerts, outdoor movies, and festivals will take place in an expansive plaza and event space.

Lower left. A dedicated play area for children plus restrooms and concierge space adjacent to the promenade will support families and provide information on current programming.

Lower right. The beloved Fitzgerald Fountain, located on Pier 58 since 1974, will be restored and integrated into the new pier.
The Union Street stairs will support east/west foot traffic and will feature a sculpture by Norie Sato that includes a steel abstracted fern frond framing the passageway, and a screen on the bridge that layers abstracted imagery of seagull wings over that of a fern.

A Revitalized Connection

The Union Street stairs terminate at Pier 58, offering new public restrooms, green space, and beautiful views for people coming from downtown to enjoy for a moment or an afternoon.
Seattle Aquarium’s new expansion, the Ocean Pavilion, will be an unparalleled platform for ocean conservation. Exhibits will shed light on the urgent threats facing our ocean and mobilize a new generation of marine conservationists.

Integrated into the design of Overlook Walk, the roof of the Ocean Pavilion will offer public park space, stellar views of the Salish Sea, and a seamless connection to the Promenade below.

An oculus will offer the public a dramatic window into the Coral Triangle from below.
Overlook Walk will be an elevated public park that connects Pike Place Market’s expansion, MarketFront, to the waterfront promenade. Boasting panoramic views of Elliott Bay, the Olympics, and Mount Rainier. Overlook Walk will provide direct access to the waterfront with sloping pedestrian pathways, the Salish Steps, and a new elevator.

Top. Seamlessly integrated with Seattle Aquarium’s Ocean Pavilion expansion, Overlook Walk will offer play areas for children and families, public plazas, and terraced landscaping rich with native plants. Protected areas will feature public seating and amenities.

Bottom. The Salish Steps will provide ample seating with a view.
An Inviting Pathway With Opportunities for Play

Bluff Walk will be a beautiful and welcoming pathway that slopes gently, crossing back and forth down the bluff, connecting Pike Place Market with the waterfront some 80 feet below.

Top. Featuring an array of options for rest, play, and reflection, Bluff Walk will include nooks and crannies, a cafe, and slides. It will serve as an active, engaging passageway between the Ocean Pavilion, adjacent piers, and Waterfront Park.

Bottom. Designed for all-season use, Bluff Walk will feature a cafe and covered outdoor seating.
The completed MarketFront includes new housing, restaurants, and retail space, plus expanded vendor opportunities and parking.

Expanding a Beloved Touchstone

The new Pike Pine Streetscape will prioritize pedestrians and cyclists with a curbless street, tactile wayfinding bands, more visible and accessible crosswalks, and new trees and plantings.
With a new floating dock, integrated lighting, flexible seating, and an acre of open space in the heart of Seattle's central waterfront, Pier 62 serves as a welcoming canvas for a range of year-round public use.

In 2023, 70,000 people enjoyed free events and programs on Pier 62, from weekly classes to concerts and cultural festivals.
A Once-In-A-Generation Opportunity To

- RE-OPEN Seattle’s front door at the waterfront
- ACTIVATE it to create connection, vitality and joy
- SUSTAIN AND STEWARD it for the future

CAMPAIGN FOR WATERFRONT PARK

Philanthropy will complete the Campaign for Waterfront Park and activate a vibrant, programmed, sustainable space for years to come. Funds will support:

- Completing and opening the park
- Ensuring the park is vibrant, safe, and inclusive
  - Community-Centric Programming
  - Public Safety and Park Maintenance
  - Small Business and Vendor Support
- Launching Friends of Waterfront Seattle as the Park’s long-term steward

$110M
to finish park construction

$60M
for operations, programming & public safety 2012–25

$170M
CAMPAIGN

2009
Community Outreach & Planning

2017
Seawall & Pike Place Marketfront

2019
Viaduct Demolition

2020
Pier 62

2023
Railroad Way, Habitat Beach & Promenade

2024
Ocean Pavilion & Overlook Walk

2025
FULL PARK OPENING

2012–25
CAMPAIGN

$110M
to finish park construction

$60M
for operations, programming & public safety 2012–25

$170M
CAMPAIGN
Join Us!

Waterfront Park will be Seattle’s most transformative public project since the creation of Seattle Center to host the 1962 World’s Fair. Moments like this—when we literally transform the landscape of our city—have always been leveraged by the private support of committed citizens who work tirelessly and give generously to realize a better version of this place that we proudly call home.

Now is the time to reflect on the values that make Seattle resilient and strong; to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to align community values, vision, and investment to create a more welcoming, equitable, and inclusive city.

Please join us.

Campaign for Waterfront Park
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Friends of Waterfront Seattle is the City of Seattle’s nonprofit partner responsible for funding, stewarding, activating, and programming Waterfront Park in perpetuity. We accomplish our mission by collaborating with individuals, communities, businesses, and institutional partners, all working together towards a renewed place of connection on Seattle’s central shoreline.

Learn more: waterfrontparkseattle.org