

Revitalized Riverfront

Nestled amongst industry, the planning and design of Vancouver Waterfront Park take formal and programmatic cues from the dynamic river it fronts, resulting in revitalized activity and life along its banks.

VANCOUVER

Waterfront Park

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

> Esther Short Park

> > BNSF RAIL

The Columbia River

Location Map

Once a detached and inaccessible industry-heavy site, the park now unites downtown Vancouver with the Columbia River waterfront and its historic Renaissance Trail.





Site Plan

The 7.3-acre park unites the natural form and processes of the Columbia River with Vancouver's urban fabric, providing a variety of public spaces for people to gather, learn, play and connect with their waterfront.



Restored Shoreline

Once a hard-edge prone to flooding, today's riverfront restores the riparian landscape and the site's ability to absorb floodwaters and support rich habitat while providing accessible connections and amenity spaces.



Gateway to and from downtown

Previously cut off by the rail-line bisecting the site, the central plaza now marks the gateway to and from downtown. The paving design introduces the park's narrative and character, telling the story of its natural history through material and form.



Grant Street Pier

Grant Street Pier results from a collaborative design effort that included engineers, ecologists and artists, resulting in a memorable and low-impact reflection point inspired by the site's industrial history while respecting its natural processes.



Storytelling

The site's story is told in various formats throughout the park, inviting visitors to learn about its history and design. Here, etched conceptual sketches are integrated into the surface of the pier structure.



River Overlook

The park includes multiple opportunities for quiet reflection, fostering individual and community connection with the river and its natural fluctuations in a method that protects the shoreline ecology without compromising the experiential quality of being "on" the river.



Inspired Waterplay

Inspired by Columbia Basin aquifers, these tiered stones playfully pour water onto a plaza. The surface pattern was acid-etched to provide a non-slip surface and mimic the wind blowing's visual effects across the river.



The Mighty Columbia River Watershed

The interactive water feature titled "Columbia River Watershed" celebrates the river's natural ecology and its long history of sustaining communities throughout the region.



Park Looking East

Designed as part of a larger area master plan that includes residential and economic opportunities, the park sets the stage for meaningful connections between the community and its riverfront.



Curved Pathways

Foreshore restoration, multi-modal pathways, retail opportunities, outdoor seating, and natural planting coalesce at the Grant Street Pier.



Urban Fabric Integration

Vancouver Waterfront Park celebrates the river's ability to provide ecological, social and economic services to the community, dissolving the distinction between "urban" and "natural."



Inspired Lighting

The integrated lighting plan activates the plaza at night and contributes to increased safety and ambiance.



Illuminated Pier

The Grant Street Pier is an homage to the river's natural and industrial history. It provides the community with an iconic place to experience the seasonal and daily rhythms of the river.