

## Ballard Commons Seattle, Washington

Landscape Architect:	Swift Company
Client:	Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
Architect:	ARC
Engineer:	Magnusson Klemencic Associates, civil; Putnum Collins Scott Associates, mechanical; Sparling/Candela, lighting & electrical
Other consultants:	Grindline Skate Parks, Inc., skate consultant; Airspeed Skateparks, skate consultant; C3MG, costing; Valerie Otani, artist



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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Ballard Commons is busy day and night with people of all ages. It embodies the civic ideals and desires of the community. Influenced by this historically working class Scandinavian neighborhood, the park design celebrates simple form and line and high quality furnishings – custom benches and leaning rails make the park comfortable and inviting. The industrial waterfront and maritime industry found form in the fountain, shaped to abstractly represent the flowing lines of salmon or a boat. The natural world is represented in seashell sculptures that double as playful water features. The nearby Library and Neighborhood Service Center, designed by the same landscape architect, with lush plantings and public plaza, influenced the design.

Wide sidewalks encircle the park, which is framed by large planting areas and street trees, and sprinkled with bike racks

and benches which foster use. While frequented by small groups or individuals reading, people watching, playing, or skating, the park also hosts large community events such as the Ballard Seafood Fest or school field trips. The skate bowl is a regional attraction. The park supports a variety of activities, fun to take part in and equally fun to watch.

### JURY COMMENTS

The jury was impressed by this successful public open space, which serves as a vibrant community resource for a wide range of users and age groups. The park is the product of an extensive public process to engage the community and build consensus with diverse user groups, and the resulting design effectively addresses these differing needs. Playful integration of art elements within the plazas and fountains, and the general attention to detail and craftsmanship, make this a successful public space.



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