



Waterfront Seattle Program Chronology

2001: Nisqually earthquake. A portion of Seattle's Elliott Bay Seawall fails and highlights the seismic risks facing the seawall and viaduct.

2004-2009: Extensive debate over best option to replace the viaduct, ranging from a new viaduct to no replacement.

- Governor, King County Executive and Seattle Mayor agree to a deep bore tunnel replacement.
- Infrastructure partnership is formed between State and City to share costs to build the new deep bore tunnel, replace the Elliott Bay Seawall, rebuild surface Alaskan Way and construct a new 20-acre waterfront park.

December 2009: City establishes initial funding to support waterfront design through SDOT and Parks; City interdepartmental team between Planning, Parks and SDOT formed to drive the work. Central Waterfront Partnership Committee formed by City ordinance to advise the City on public process and framework for design. 45-member body representing civic, business and philanthropy, co-Chaired by fmr Mayor Charles Royer and philanthropist Maggie Walker.

September 2010: James Corner Field Operations (JCFO) is selected by the City through an international selection to lead design. Civil and structural teams are brought in and built around the JCFO team to ensure a strong urban design-led approach.

January 2011: City Council creates Central Waterfront Committee (CWC) and adopts guiding principles:

- Create a waterfront for all
- Put the shoreline and innovative, sustainable design at the forefront
- Reconnect the city to its waterfront
- Embrace and celebrate Seattle's past, present and future
- Improve access and mobility
- Create a bold vision that is adaptable over time

2011—2013: City leads broad public outreach strategy to ensure wide-ranging community participation in development of waterfront park design:

- Over 400 public meetings, reaching over 15,000 people, generating more than 9,000 comments that were considered in creating the design;
- Four large design-focused events drew an average attendance of 900 people each;
- Surveys soliciting community input were conducted in 14 different neighborhoods across the city; and
- Public outreach continues today with open house meetings, neighborhood forums, and informational displays at fairs, festivals, and other community events.

July 2012: Waterfront park concept design and framework plan, along with strategic plan endorsed by CWC, presented at series of civic meetings held at Seattle Center.

July 2012: Friends of Waterfront Seattle is incorporated as a 501c3 to lead philanthropic campaign and develop management partnership with the City.

August 2012: City Council adopts the City's concept design and framework plan, and endorses the CWC Strategic Plan.

November 2012: 77% Seattle voters approve \$290M seawall bond to replace the Elliott Bay Seawall with a safe, sustainable seawall design.

November 2013: Seawall construction begins (completion in 2017).

December 2013: WSDOT tunnel project stalls after boring machine "Bertha" encounters complications from soft, liquefiable soils in Pioneer Square.

February 2014: Mayor Murray forms the Office of the Waterfront as part of the Mayor's Office to lead design and engineering and coordinate city departments in executing on the waterfront vision.

March 2014: Large civic event at Fisher Pavilion in Seattle Center to roll-out 30% design of the central waterfront.

August 2014: Seattle voters approve Metropolitan Park District to create sustainable funding source to Seattle parks. Measure includes \$3.5M dedicated annually in perpetuity for future waterfront park management and operations.

September 2014: Friends of Waterfront Seattle opens Waterfront Space in partnership with the City, a public project showroom, event space, and Friends' headquarters.

September 2014: With the 30% design milestone met, City Council dissolves CWC and smaller Waterfront Steering Committee is formed, and members are appointed.

March 2015: Council action authorizing Pike Place Market expansion—called MarketFront—to proceed with \$34M in city funding as part of the total \$73M project budget; MarketFront will

connect to Overlook Walk, a key feature of the new waterfront park, including walkways from Pike Place Market, elevated views, retail space and short-term public parking to replace that lost with the viaduct removal.

Summer 2015: City contracts with Friends of Waterfront Seattle to demonstrate their capacity to activate existing waterfront with games, bathrooms, staffing, and concerts. Friends launches “Hot Spot” concert series in existing Waterfront Park, a public space activation pilot project that draws locals to the waterfront through free music and other events.

June 2015: Pike Place Market’s MarketFront groundbreaking.

August 2015: Aquarium Master Plan to expand using space in the City’s waterfront program approved by Mayor and City Council. This was based on advocacy by the Seattle League of Women Voters to shift the Aquarium away from an over-water expansion to an on-land site provided by the City.

November 2015: City consultants issue operations and maintenance planning report for future park; maintenance and security costs projected at \$4.4M (expenses to do not include public programming).

December 2015: Council action authorizing planning for Seattle Aquarium expansion, funding for initial design work.

December 2015: WSDOT tunnel boring machine Bertha restarts.

Throughout 2016: Waterfront program engineering advances to 60%, detailed cost estimation and risk assessment process helps to reshape the design. Aquarium expansion concept design advances.

July 2016: City Council approves Pier 62 Rebuild (\$29M capital project; Friends to raise \$8M in capital funding, plus programming funds).

Summer 2016: Friends of Waterfront Seattle’s second season of Hot Spot begins July 2 with “KEXP Rocks the Dock,” and continues with diverse, free programs designed for local audiences. The Hot Spot pavilion, an artful, temporary canopy designed by graduate students from UW Department of Architecture, is installed.

Summer/Fall 2016: Main corridor of waterfront park 60% design milestone is reached.

September 2016: WSDOT tunnel boring machine half-way to the end.

Spring 2017: Pike Place Market’s expansion MarketFront opens.

Fall 2017: Groundbreaking for Pier 62 rebuild project.

2017—2019: Schematic design and Environmental Review for Aquarium expansion.

2017: Local Improvement District, begins concerted outreach to property owners; initial appraisers estimates completed.

2017: Elliott Bay Seawall replacement project is complete.

Summer and Fall 2018: Extensive engagement with property owners around the LID; discussions are focused on real estate benefit to downtown property from the new waterfront park, and the management and operations plan in place for the City and Friends.

January 2019: City Council votes to enact LID via a unanimous vote. This is accompanied by a “protest waiver agreement” with the downtown property owner community to commit to a maximum LID assessment and a maintenance program for the new waterfront

February 2019: The SR99 Tunnel opens to traffic, the City and State host 75,000 people for a last day on the viaduct before it permanently closes to traffic on Feb 4th.

March 2019: \$189M contract signed for the first major phase of waterfront construction, the rebuild of Alaskan Way, construction of the new Elliott Way, and construction of the waterfront promenade.

August 2019: Waterfront Construction begins on Columbia Street to complete transit connections from Third Avenue to SR99.

November 2019: Waterfront park construction ramps up and begins in earnest

November 2019: Waterfront LID Notice of Final Assessment Roll resolution passed.

December 2019: Confirmation of the Central Waterfront Oversight Committee.

September 2020: Pier 62 opens to the public

NEXT STEPS

January 2021: Final Assessment Roll confirmation for the Waterfront LID anticipated at Council

Late-2021: Alaskan Way opens to traffic

Late-2022: Elliott Way opens to traffic, Waterfront Promenade initial phases open

YE 2024: Waterfront Seattle Program complete