

Elliott Bay Connections

Elliott Bay Connections (EBC) is a new public-private partnership to connect and revitalize public parks along the Elliott Bay waterfront. Funded entirely by private donations at no cost to the taxpayer, Elliott Bay Connections would construct a pedestrian and bicycle greenway connecting the new Waterfront Park to the Olympic Sculpture Park and restore and revitalize Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks. The greenway and park restoration would be complete by June 2026 when Seattle hosts the World Cup.

The Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) will serve as the implementation partner, bringing together a project team of Seattle-based firms experienced in public space improvements, public agency requirements and community engagement. The City of Seattle and the Port of Seattle will conduct the appropriate review and approvals, issue the necessary permits for the work to be performed in these publicly owned spaces and assure that the EBC project meets the City and Port's standards of equity in contracting, employment, and civic engagement. The EBC project kicks off with community engagement in the fall of 2023.



Elliott Bay Connections would provide a new bicycle and pedestrian greenway connecting Waterfront Park to the Olympic Sculpture Park and would restore and revitalize Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks.

Proposed Improvements

Elliott Bay Connections would connect and improve parks along the Elliott Bay waterfront in the center of the city.

- Connecting the parks of Elliott Bay with a new greenway between Waterfront Park and the Olympic Sculpture Park.
- Connecting people to Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks by restoring and revitalizing these parks.
- Connecting people to the Salish Sea by restoring public fishing and offering more places to touch the water.
- Connecting people to each other by helping make the central Elliott Bay waterfront a welcoming place for all.

New Greenway

Elliott Bay Connections would create a protected greenway from Waterfront Park to the Olympic Sculpture Park for walkers and those using scooters, wheelchairs, or bicycles. This new greenway would:

- Extend from Pier 62 to Pier 70 on the east side of Alaskan Way.
- Total three quarters of a mile in length and add more than two and a half acres of accessible, new public space.
- Replace the obsolete trolley track and sidewalk on the east side of Alaskan Way with a two-way, multi-use path designed for recreational cyclists, pedestrians, and people in wheelchairs.
- Improve and add streetscape amenities, including improved wayfinding and signage, to welcome and support a wide range of people from across Seattle.
- Add native trees, shrubs, and ground cover plantings along the path, increasing Seattle's urban tree canopy and creating a natural, green experience for users.
- Improve existing sidewalks and key crossings for pedestrian safety and comfort.
- Complement the Alaskan Way Safety Project, previously announced by the City of Seattle, which will provide a protected bike lane on the west side of Alaskan Way.

Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks

Elliott Bay Connections would restore and revitalize Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks by:

- Honoring the parks' spectacular waterfront setting and respecting the extraordinary experience of green landscape meeting Elliott Bay.
- Creating a unified experience for park users enjoying the combined 16 acres of free, open public park which extends for more than a mile along Elliott Bay.
- Modernizing park facilities to be more sustainable, resilient, and accessible for people of all abilities.
- Responding to the public's feedback on park improvements and uses.

Proposed improvements to Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks would:

- Restore and enhance lawns, plantings, and tree canopy by adding native species that flourish in maritime conditions.
- Add needed park amenities including restrooms, wayfinding, picnic tables, seating, and lighting.
- Restore two existing beach coves in Myrtle Edwards Park, enhancing shoreline habitat and improving direct public access to the water.
- Add new play features for children and families.
- Restore public fishing access and update existing concession and restroom structures at Pier 86.
- Repair and improve the network of bike and pedestrian trails.
- Restore existing artworks.
- Develop interpretive signage honoring Indigenous, environmental, and historical context.
- Introduce artistic projections on the Terminal 86 grain facility.

In 2026, the connected parks along Elliott Bay will include:

- Waterfront Park, the centerpiece of the central waterfront. A constellation of lush, open public spaces linked together by a pedestrian-oriented promenade, Waterfront Park features the Overlook Walk, which ties together two iconic destinations, Pike Place Market and the Seattle Aquarium's new Ocean Pavilion opening in 2024. Waterfront Park totals 20 acres and is scheduled to open in 2025.
- The proposed new greenway from Waterfront Park to the Olympic Sculpture Park, totaling more than two and a half acres.
- The award-winning Olympic Sculpture Park with nine acres of extraordinary contemporary sculpture and topography.
- Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks, which together offer 16 acres of restored and revitalized lawn, plantings, visitor amenities, beach coves and paths.
- The Beach, just south of Smith Cove, a contemporary public landscape of more than two and a half acres of native plantings, driftwood, and seating.

Community Participation

Work on Elliott Bay Connections will kick off with community engagement this fall. Engagement and outreach will continue throughout design and construction.

- The community engagement process starts in early autumn 2023 with the public invited to give their input into the proposed greenway and park improvements at online and in-person open houses.
- Community outreach will be conducted citywide to invite communities across the city to participate and give input.
- Public input will take place prior to design and construction.
- Construction will be phased to preserve continued public access to green space and pathways.
- Information will be updated on DSA, Port, and City websites throughout the design and construction process.

Public-Private Partnership

The Elliott Bay Connections project will be delivered by a unique public private partnership at no cost to taxpayers.

- Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell and the Port of Seattle, led by Port Commission President Sam Cho, have pledged their full support for Elliott Bay Connections.
- Private funding will provide 100 percent of the funds needed to complete the EBC project. All funds are raised and there is no financial obligation or cost to taxpayers.
- The parks and greenway remain public property, owned and managed by the public sector.
- The City of Seattle and the Port of Seattle will conduct the appropriate review, approvals, and issue the necessary permits for the EBC project. The EBC project will meet the City and Port's standards of equity in contracting, employment, and community engagement.
- Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) is the private implementation partner in this public-private partnership. DSA will serve as fiscal agent and project sponsor for all necessary agreements, permits and contracts.
- Private funding will provide support for the first ten years of operation and maintenance for the new greenway and the renovated and revitalized public waterfront parks. The EBC project team will work with public partners to ensure that the public spaces are designed to be sustainable and maintained to an agreed upon standard of care.
- The Muckleshoot and Suquamish Tribes both support Elliott Bay Connections. The EBC project team will work closely with representatives of the tribes and Urban Native community to ensure inclusion of Native perspective, knowledge, practices, and language in the project design and implementation.

EBC Project Team

Under DSA's sponsorship, the EBC project team will manage all community engagement, design, permitting, procurement, and construction work. The EBC project team currently includes:

- Shiels Oblatz Johnsen (SOJ), a Seattle-based project management firm, serving as the overall project manager that will oversee the design and construction team's day to day work.
- Headwater People, a WMBE firm, providing senior leadership and strategic guidance, including collaboration with the local Tribes and Urban Native Communities, and supporting overall project development, community engagement, and equitable design.
- Walker Macy, a Seattle-based WBE Landscape Architecture, Urban Design and Planning firm, leading overall design including community engagement with support of Stepherson Associates, a Seattle-based DBE/MBE specializing in communications and public involvement.
- MIG, a Seattle-based civil engineering and planning firm, collaborating with Walker Macy on civil engineering for the parks and design and engineering of the new greenway.
- Other firms may be added to the project team with priority given to WMBE firms.
- The construction firm is not yet named.

Location

- Waterfront Park (now under construction) stretches from Pioneer Square to Pier 62.
- The new pedestrian and bicycle greenway would connect the northern end of Waterfront Park (Pier 62) to Olympic Sculpture Park (Pier 70) and run along Alaskan Way.
- Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks are located to the north of Olympic Sculpture Park, along Elliott Bay.

Budget

The project is 100 percent funded by private donations.

- Construction costs are estimated at \$45 million in total for proposed improvements to Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks and construction of the greenway.
- Private funding will provide support for the first ten years of operation and maintenance for the new greenway and the renovated and revitalized public waterfront parks. The EBC project team will work with public partners to ensure that the public spaces are designed to be sustainable and maintained to an agreed upon standard of care.

Schedule

The goal is to complete the EBC project by June 2026, when Seattle welcomes the World Cup:

- Community engagement: fall - winter 2023
- Design and permitting: winter 2024 - spring 2025
- Construction: spring 2025 - spring 2026
- Opening: spring 2026