

# West Bay Park Recreation, Trail & Restoration Analysis Report

Final

November 14, 2019



*Prepared for:*

**City of Olympia**

**Parks, Arts & Recreation Department**

*Prepared by:*

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Civil Engineering | R.W. Droll Landscape Architecture | Landau Associates

Geotechnical Engineering



# Special Thanks

## Squaxin Island Tribe

- Jeff Dickison, Asst. Natural Resources Director
- Scott Steltzner, Research Biologist
- Stephanie Neil, Archaeologist

## Land Managers, Regulators and Stakeholders

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Port of Olympia
- Washington Department of Ecology (DOE)
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
- Olympia Community Planning and Development (CPD)
- West Bay Drive Neighborhood Association
- Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association
- South Westside Neighborhood Association
- Olympia Downtown Association
- Olympia Coalition for Ecosystem Preservation

## Olympia Staff & Advisory Groups

- Parks Planning and Design (Laura Keehan)
- Arts Program Manager (Stephanie Johnson)
- Parks Maintenance (Sylvana Niehuser)
- Olympia Water Resources (Jesse Barham)
- Olympia Transportation (Sophie Stimson and Andrew Beagle)
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (CNA)

## Consultant Design Team

- JA Brennan Associates, PLLC – Project management and landscape architecture
- Mott MacDonald – Coastal engineering
- Confluence Environmental – Environmental planning, fisheries biology
- Davido Consulting Group – Civil engineering
- Landau Associates – Geotechnical engineering
- Carolyn Law – Art planning
- SWCA – archaeology
- Robert W. Droll – Landscape architecture





# I. Introduction

**W**est Bay Park is in the City of Olympia on the west shoreline of West Bay within Budd Inlet. The park is situated immediately north of the Capitol Lake dam and the Deschutes River's connection to Budd Inlet.

Planning for West Bay has been a continuation of study, research and design over the past twelve years. Starting with Phase 1 park design and construction and including more recently, the development of the 2016 West Bay Environmental Restoration Assessment (Appendix B), the site's physical and biological characteristics continue to be more fully understood.

Starting in October 2017, the City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department began the current design process for future development of a master plan for West Bay habitat restoration, park and trail features. The City remained consistent with the coastal engineering and landscape architectural design consultants between the Environmental Restoration Assessment and subsequent Park project, thereby retaining greater continuity in the background of the site and project. The project design team consists of landscape architects, coastal engineers, fisheries biologists, civil and geotechnical engineers, an artist, archaeologist, and local landscape architect to thoroughly address every unique aspect found at this complex site.

The project has an ambitious goal of combining a robust ecological restoration of the site's various ecosystems with a multi-use trail and increased passive recreation opportunities. The park will expand from its current 4-acre developed area to an additional 13-acres of restored habitat and developed park on Budd Inlet. The habitat restoration opportunities include expansion of aquatic areas, enhanced intertidal habitat slopes and substrates, daylighted creek(s) with expanded pocket estuaries, improved water quality through treatment, and enhanced riparian marine shoreline conditions.

Out of the design process and a rigorous public, stakeholder and tribal involvement process, the City of Olympia narrowed down the design alternatives for continued design and study to two bookend alternatives as documented in this report: Alternative 1 and Alternative 5, with some modifications. Further information, design and analysis are required before a preferred alternative can be selected. One aspect that may affect future decisions is the outcome of the Capitol Lake Restoration Project EIS. Shoreline and marine conditions adjacent to West Bay Park could be affected in the event of the removal of the 5th Avenue Dam. While the two bookend alternatives take these potential future shoreline and marine conditions into account, the exact routing of the trail along West Bay, remains in flux. This report documents the research, public input, and progress made during this most recent planning effort for West Bay Park.





Scale: 1" = 100'  
 0' 100' 200'



January 30, 2018



Opportunities & Constraints Map  
 West Bay Restoration & Park Master Plan





## IV. Program & Design Criteria

### Future Park Facilities, Restoration Opportunities and Program

#### Programming Process

The process of determining programming for a site as large as West Bay started from the earliest planning discussions. The consulting team presented a list of potential uses and facilities (programming elements) that might be a good fit for the West Bay Restoration & Park Master Plan using sample images to aid in portraying the ideas. A series of meetings were held with project stakeholders, the general public, Squaxin Island Tribe and the City and consultant project team to select the preferred program elements for the park, habitat restoration and public art.

The habitat restoration opportunities for West Bay Park and the Port lagoon area were developed as a part of the 2016 West Bay Environmental Restoration Assessment (see Appendix J). These were presented to the public to inform them of the ecological needs based on review of historic and existing conditions of the site, opportunities for restoration, and a science-based process that was the basis for the resulting restoration conceptual alternatives. Although the habitat restoration opportunities and concepts would not be designed based on public input but rather using best available science, the City presented these elements to the public to gauge public support for restoration at the park.

The public, both at the interactive meeting and in an online survey (see Appendix G) identified the following program items as preferred for the West Bay Restoration and Park Plan.

- Paved Biking & Walking Trails
- Unpaved Hiking & Walking Trails
- Boardwalks (Over Open Water)
- Boardwalks (Over Streams & Wetlands)
- Bird / Nature Viewing Structures
- Restrooms
- Mixed Upland Forest
- Emergent Wetland
- Gravelly Beach
- Viewing Mounds
- Ethnobotanical Gardens
- Beaches
- Environmental Education Spaces
- Non-motorized Watercraft Rental
- Waterfront Seating
- Signage
- Hand Carry Boat Launches
- Shade / Rain Protection Structures
- Salt Marsh
- Emergent Shrub/Scrub or Forested Wetland
- Mudflat
- Scientific Research Spaces
- Focal Point Art
- Embedded Art
- Functional Art

## Park Restoration and Recreation Design Criteria

### Habitat Restoration Design

The following shoreline habitat design elements are taken from the West Bay Environmental Restoration Assessment, February 26, 2016. Refer to this analysis document for the origin of the conceptual restoration alternatives included in the West Bay Park project and for the evaluation of the restoration concepts using science-based semi-quantitative and qualitative frameworks. The Park project team built upon the foundation of the previous work, while delving into greater detail in site analysis and design for the park and lagoon.

### Description of Shoreline Habitat Zones

#### Riparian

Riparian plantings extend from elevation 16.5' to elevation 19' (MLLW) and above along the shoreline, with slopes from 3:1 to 50:1. The riparian planting zone ranges from approximately 25' wide to 50' or more, where space allows. A variety of native conifers, deciduous trees, and large and small shrubs will be planted in this zone. Overhanging vegetation along the shoreline drops leaf litter and insects into the nearshore, providing food for juvenile salmon and a wide variety of other species. Small containerized plants (1-gallon and 2-gallon size) are used to plant shrubs and small trees to control costs and improve survival rates. Some 4' to 6' tall conifers and deciduous trees are mixed in with the smaller plants to accelerate the visual and habitat impact of the riparian planting.

#### Natural Meadow

Meadow areas are seeded with a variety of native grasses and wildflowers that can provide habitat for insects and birds. Meadows occur in natural and informal areas of the shoreline environment between riparian plantings and upland of marsh habitats. Maintenance of meadows typically consists of annual late summer mowing to prevent invasion by woody plants such as Himalayan blackberries and Scots broom.

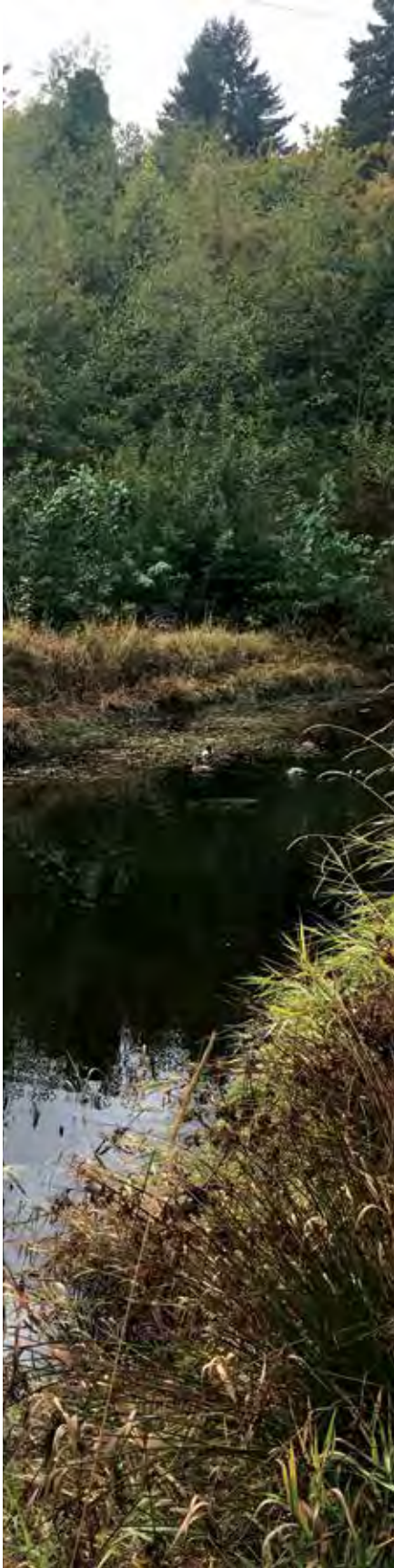
#### Lawn

Lawn areas are located in upland areas such as West Bay Park where frequent public use is anticipated and a flexible open space is desired. Lawns are seeded with ornamental perennial grasses that can tolerate public use.

#### Salt Marsh

The salt marsh zone extends from elevation 12' to elevation 15.5' (MLLW) and consists of plants such as pickleweed, tufted hairgrass and saltgrass. This zone ranges in slope from maximum 8:1 to very gentle gradient where space allows, such as at the edge of the lagoon in West Bay Park. Where the salt marsh is low (12' MLLW) and on a gentle gradient with fine substrate with freshwater inputs (e.g., Garfield Creek); it may support plants such as Lyngby Sedge (*Carex lyngbyei*) and American Threesquare (*Scirpus americanus*). Salt marsh areas can be planted





with bare root and plug plant materials or potentially colonized naturally with seeds brought in by the tides (depending on species and proximity to existing seed sources).

### Freshwater Wetland

Freshwater wetland habitat currently exists in West Bay Park above the elevation of the existing salt marsh. The existing wetland consists of both native emergent plants and scrub/shrub wetland. There is potential to expand on the existing freshwater wetland area to create native emergent and scrub/shrub areas that can transition to brackish and salt marsh over time as the sea level rises. Fresh wetland plantings may include emergent perennial species in herbaceous areas and willows, Pacific crabapple, native roses, black twinberry, and Oregon ash in scrub/shrub and forested wetlands.

### Intertidal Beach

The beach zone extends from approximately elevation 6' to elevation 15.5' (MLLW) and is essentially unvegetated due to tidal inundation and wave action. This zone overlaps with the salt marsh zone and ranges in slope from maximum 7:1 to 9:1 gradient where space allows.

### Intertidal Mudflat

The mudflat zone extends from approximately elevation -5' to elevation 6' (MLLW) and is a low gradient unvegetated tide flat that wets and dries during the typical tidal cycle and is composed of fine sediment, sand and gravel. Slope: 9:1 maximum.



Northern Park Enhancement Alt 1



Northern Park Enhancement Alt 2



Northern Park Enhancement Alt 3



## Alternative Screening

In an Alternative Screening Meeting held on March 1, 2018, the City Parks Director, city staff, tribal fisheries biologists and the design team gathered to discuss and screen the alternatives so that a recommendation for a preferred alternative could be made by the J.A. Brennan project team. The alternatives were screened and evaluated in the context of the design principles both in a written format prior to the meeting and collaboratively during the workshop. The design principles are elaborated on earlier within this report and in Appendix H which documents the Alternatives Screening process.

### Design Principles

1. Enhance habitat and ecological function
2. Balance human use ecological value
3. Create strong links to the surrounding community and region
4. Provide recreational opportunities
5. Create a beautiful site aesthetic with design simplicity
6. Respect and express cultural, archaeological, ecological and historic site significance
7. Create an implementable design
8. Enhance public health and safety

An important segment of the screening workshop focused on concerns regarding the potential for habitat effects of the various alternatives. A primary concern is the potential for effects that an overwater structure might have on fish movements and shorebird use of the lagoon area. Another issue discussed was the preservation, restoration, and/or mitigation of salt marsh habitat within the project area. Salt marsh fringe currently exists along the berm and shoreline. If it is removed, that type of ecosystem will need to be mitigated for as part of the project. Ecological design elements of the alternatives that the screening team were supportive of included: daylighting Garfield Creek, daylighting and routing the unnamed creek into the Port Lagoon, restoring mudflat, salt and brackish marsh, restoring coastal processes, incorporating snags throughout proposed and restored habitat areas, and stormwater treatment along West Bay Drive.

See Appendix H for Alternatives Screening Memorandum and Alternatives Screening Matrix.

# VI. Two Bookend Alternatives

## A | Why Focus on Alternatives 1 & 5?

Following a rigorous public, stakeholder and tribal involvement process, as well as significant scientific, technical and design effort; the leadership of the Squaxin Island Tribe and City of Olympia favored Alternative 1 and Alternative 5 for West Bay Park. Alternative 1 rose to the top because it brings the visitor into closer proximity to the water and has a gently sloped multi-use trail. Alternative 1 also does not require land acquisition in order to integrate the multi-use trail at the required trail width. Alternative 5 rose to the top of the alternatives because it provides shoreline improvements along the southern part of the site that are un-interrupted by human use. Both bookend alternatives share the preferred habitat restoration features in their more refined versions, as detailed in the graphics and the following section of this report. In addition to sharing habitat features, the bookend alternatives also share the majority of their park and facility improvements, as guided by public feedback and site suitability. The primary difference between Alternatives 1 and 5 is the proposed location and alignment of the multi-use trail. For more detailed information on the pros and cons of the various alternatives considered, see Appendix H for Alternatives Screening Memorandum and Alternatives Screening Matrix.

## B | Park Facilities and Amenities

### Multi-Use Trail

The multi-use trail is a 12' wide asphalt trail with 1' crushed rock shoulders. It is well-defined, ADA accessible, accommodates families, and encourages slow wandering, water-viewing and bicycle use. This trail type is consistent with the Thurston County Plan and designed for compatibility with Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (section T303) in accordance with the following:

- Uphill and downhill segments separated by level transition segments with slope less than or equal to 5%
- Running slope options: 1:20 for any length, 1:12 max for 200 feet, 1:10 max for 30 feet, 1:8 max for 10 feet
- Cross slope: 2%
- Trails and boardwalks will typically be located at elevation 20' MLLW or above. Shoreline restoration includes grading within the riparian zone to raise the bank to elevation 19'.







### Secondary Park Trail

Secondary park trails are asphalt paths, typically 6' to 8' wide, used primarily for pedestrian access, but may also be used by park maintenance vehicles (pick-up trucks/similar).

### Boardwalk

Two types of boardwalk structure are proposed, with widths and slopes consistent with the adjoining multi-use trail or smaller pedestrian-only trail and meet ADA requirements.

- **Boardwalk Over Wetlands:** This type of boardwalk is constructed with pin-pile footings, steel framing, light penetrative grating and a wooden railing, where necessary. Typical width: 6 feet. The pin-pile footings minimize disturbance of marsh habitat and allow installation in poor quality soils.
- **Overwater Multi-Use Trail (Applies to Alternative 1 Only):** This structure is an elevated walkway constructed with steel or concrete piles, robust steel framing, durable decking (including light penetrative types of grating) and railing. Typical width: 12 feet.
- **Elevated Multi-Use Trail (Applies to Alternative 5 only):** This structure is an elevated walkway constructed with steel or concrete piles, robust steel framing, durable decking and railing. Typical width: 12 feet.



### View Deck at Overwater Trail

Associated with an over-water boardwalk, a view deck is a widened portion of the boardwalk that provides space for groups to gather to enjoy the view or for a teacher to incorporate as part of an outdoor classroom program about natural systems or site and regional history. A view deck at the overwater trail is typically approximately 10 feet long and 6 to 8 feet wide with one bench for seating.

### Small View Deck

Associated typically with a wetland boardwalk, a small view deck is a widened portion of a low-boardwalk that provides a place for a few people to stop and enjoy the view and sit on a bench. A small view deck is approximately 10 feet long and 6 feet wide with the option of 1 bench for seating.



### Viewpoint/Plaza

Viewpoint plazas extend off of the asphalt multi-use trail in locations with interesting or beautiful views where visitors might like to stop, rest and enjoy the view and possibly see wildlife making use of the restored habitat areas. A view point plaza is approximately 400 to 500 square feet with a wooden railing and a bench. These locations may also be a place for beach access.

### Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signs at a series of locations along the shoreline can be used to tell a story about the natural systems, wildlife, and history of West Bay. Interpretive



signs are constructed of high pressure laminated panels (24" x 36" size or smaller) printed with colorful images and text and mounted on a powder-coated steel frame with concrete embedded steel post(s).

### Gathering Areas

Outdoor gathering areas are soft or hardscape spaces that are flexible for a variety of events. These areas can be used as outdoor classrooms or for community events. A gathering area would include a landform and landscape plantings that define the gathering space and seating on natural elements (wood or stone) or picnic tables and benches. A small group of three or four picnic tables can be set into a grassy open space.

### Kayak Launch and Landing Sites

Kayak/hand-carry boat launch opportunities are found where there is parking access in close proximity to a gently sloped beach. Currently, there are a couple locations in West Bay Park where kayak launching from existing beaches is possible. An additional location in the Park is feasible at a small pocket beach adjacent to the proposed central picnic shelter. Kayak/hand-carry boat landings for day-use consist of any gently-sloped beach that is accessible by kayak during a wide array of tidal elevations. Kayakers that launch beyond the Bay or within the Bay can find a rest spot on beaches that provide protection from wind and waves. No infrastructure is needed for this type of landing, although beach logs are often welcomed as a place to sit.



### Overlooks

An overlook is proposed at the northern park area, extending off of the proposed sidewalk along West Bay Drive. This provides views across the site, Budd Inlet and spectacular views of Mount Rainier. The overlook leads to stairs creating a more direct pedestrian entry into the heart of the northern park area from the adjacent neighborhood and street.

Another overlook is proposed at the northern park area on a prominent berm landform, south of the large meadow open space. This landform defines the outdoor gathering spaces of the northern park area and provides views across the habitat restoration areas in the southern park area, in addition to views towards downtown Olympia and Mount Rainier beyond.

### Food Truck Area

The central paved gathering area of the existing West Bay Park includes a wide plaza with flexibility for events. This space could be used for a mobile food truck area. A power outlet would be provided.







### Restroom & Picnic Shelters

A restroom building will update the park's current portable toilet facilities with unisex stalls that can accommodate ADA accessibility requirements. Architectural themes will be consistent and cohesive across the park. The architectural character can be more rustic or more modern, depending on the desire of the City. To fit within the context of City's park architecture portfolio, the buildings should be grounded in a traditional Pacific Northwest style that complements and elevates outdoor recreation within the Olympia recreation area. The new picnic shelters and restroom would further encourage rentals and allow visitors to stay longer at West Bay Park. The design proposal includes two picnic shelters, one restroom, group picnicking areas, and park furniture such as picnic tables, trash receptacles, and benches.

### Nature Playground

The nature playground would be located near gathering areas, the restroom, parking, picnic shelters, and the shoreline. Nature playground design uses elements and textures from the earth such as tree logs, tree stumps, boulders, plants. Encouraging visitors to climb a rock, play in leaves, and plant plants. Natural playgrounds enable children to move freely around the environment allowing them to explore, run, jump, climb, crawl, feel, and smell.



### Multi-Use Trail Alignment

The primary difference between Alternative 1 and Alternative 5 is the routing of the multi-use trail.

Alternative 1 routes the trail alongside the Port lagoon within the former rail trestle right of way, while adding a gently flowing curve to the over-water walk. This alignment will slow bicycles and pedestrians down and enhance the experience of crossing the lagoon. Opportunities abound for touch-points and view overlooks where the travelers can experience a closeness to the water and intertidal areas of West Bay.

Alternative 5 routes the trail up a steep embankment on an elevated structure north of the 4th Avenue Bridge and along West Bay Drive and streamlines the bicycle and walking paths near the paved roadway, allowing separation between human use and the natural restoration areas along the shores of West Bay.



### Graphic Plans and Cross-sections

The following graphics depict the design recommendations for the two bookend alternatives. Alternative 1 and Alternative 5 include the recreation and restoration design elements described earlier in this section. The plans and cross-sections work together to give further clarity to the intent of the design recommendations. The plan graphics are divided into three zones moving from the south to the north. Zone A stretches from the 5th Ave SW bridge, across half the lagoon. Zone B stretches from the middle of the lagoon to the new salt marsh estuary and the unnamed creek. Zone C starts at the unnamed creek daylighting and stretches to the north, encompassing Garfield Creek daylighting and the northern park zone which includes the driveways and current circulation paths of West Bay Park.







THIS DRAWING UTILIZES  
MLLW VERTICAL DATUM

DATUM CROSSWALK TABLE  
ALL UNITS IN FEET

	MLLW	NAVD88
HIGHEST OBSERVED	17.94	13.91
MHHW	14.56	10.53
MSW	13.55	9.52
MSL	8.35	4.32
MTL	8.31	4.28
NGVD29	7.47	3.44
NAVD88	4.03	0.00
MLW	3.07	-0.96
MLLW	0.00	-4.03
LOWEST OBSERVED	-4.33	-8.36

#### HABITAT ZONES

-  RIPARIAN  
(EL. 16.5' to 19'; 3:1 SLOPE)
-  FRESH WATER WETLAND  
(EL. 15.5' to 19'; 8:1 SLOPE)
-  SALT WATER MARSH  
(EL. 12' to 15.5'; 8:1 SLOPE)
-  INTERTIDAL BEACH  
(EL. 6' to 12'; 7:1 SLOPE)



## SITE PLAN ZONE A - ALT 1

### WEST BAY RESTORATION & PARK MASTER PLAN

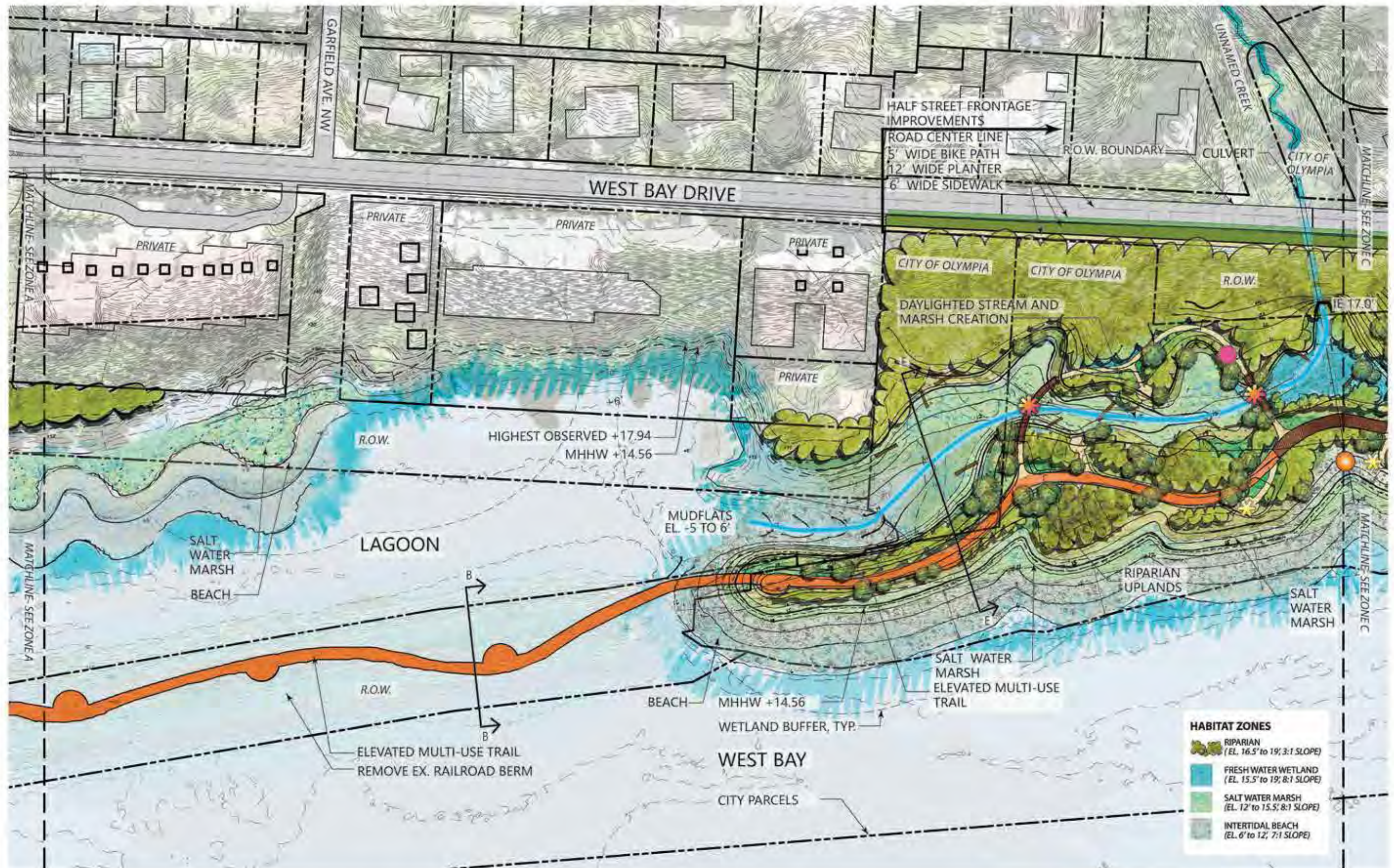


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Drell, Landau Associates

SCALE: 1" = 40'  
0' 40' 80'

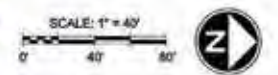
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SEPTEMBER 12, 2019





## SITE PLAN ZONE B - ALT 1

### WEST BAY RESTORATION & PARK MASTER PLAN



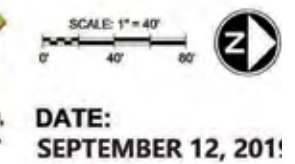
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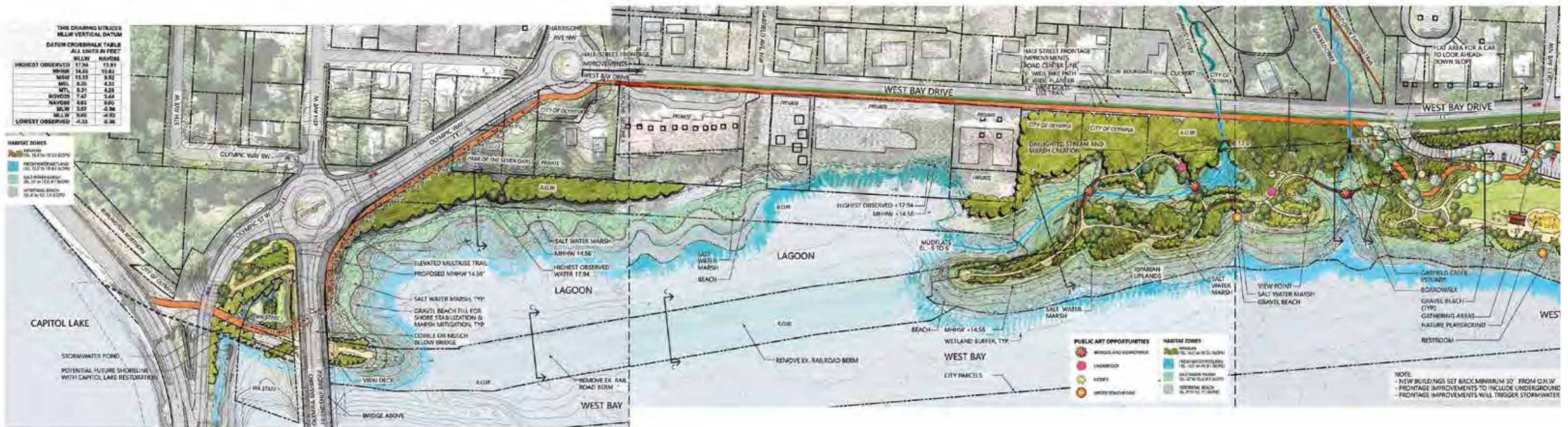


# SITE PLAN ZONE C - ALT 1

## WEST BAY RESTORATION & PARK MASTER PLAN







## SITE PLAN - ALT 5

### WEST BAY RESTORATION & PARK MASTER PLAN



THIS DRAWING UTILIZES  
MLLW VERTICAL DATUM

DATUM CROSSWALK TABLE  
ALL UNITS IN FEET

	MLLW	NAVD88
HIGHEST OBSERVED	17.94	13.91
MHHW	14.56	10.53
MSW	13.55	9.52
MSL	8.35	4.32
MTL	8.31	4.28
NGVD29	7.47	3.44
NAVD88	4.03	0.00
MLW	3.07	-0.96
MLLW	0.00	-4.03
LOWEST OBSERVED	-4.33	-8.36

#### HABITAT ZONES

-  RIPARIAN  
(EL. 16.5' to 19'; 3:1 SLOPE)
-  FRESH WATER WETLAND  
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-  SALT WATER MARSH  
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-  INTERTIDAL BEACH  
(EL. 6' to 12'; 7:1 SLOPE)



## SITE PLAN ZONE A - ALT 5

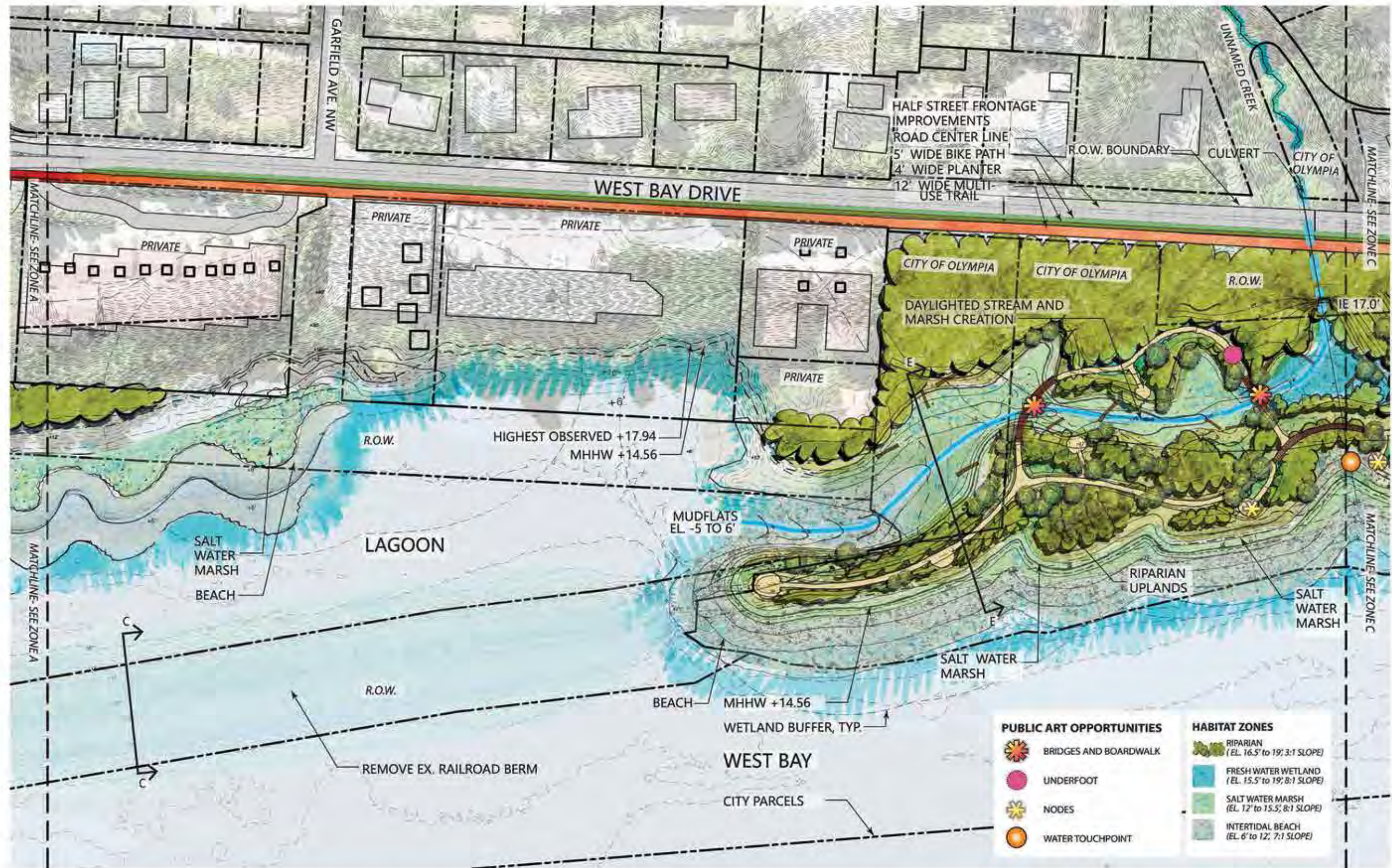
### WEST BAY RESTORATION & PARK MASTER PLAN



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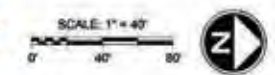
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## SITE PLAN ZONE B - ALT 5

### WEST BAY RESTORATION & PARK MASTER PLAN



DATE:  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019



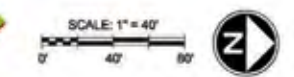


## SITE PLAN ZONE C - ALT 5

### WEST BAY RESTORATION & PARK MASTER PLAN



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DATE:  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019



bottom would be expected throughout the lagoon. The ongoing (separate) Capitol Lake Project will have impacts for West Bay Park and the lagoon. Future Deschutes estuary flows will be concentrated in deep channel areas. Discharge flows from the future estuary will be more sensitive to lagoon flows within the southern half of the project area. Eddy flows are less likely after the lake restoration occurs. Adjustment and suspension of bay mud should be expected in short term after the railroad berm is removed. Beach nourishment is recommended along the west lagoon shoreline after the berm is removed to ensure stabilization, habitat enhancement, and sea level rise resiliency.

## G | Art Concept “Ecological Wonder”

West Bay Park is a rare opportunity to merge culture, arts and science with the design of an environmental restoration park project.

### Arts & Culture Approach: Seeking Nature’s Spirit

As a public space in close relation to water, this area lends itself naturally to a park. The park land entwines diverse cultural histories with an intricate natural environment that has been utilized by people for hundreds of years. As development of this park unfolds, careful attention will be paid to restoring the land and aquatic environments with an eye to the future. This transformation will provide a rare window for the public to watch as the site’s ecology evolves.

Much is at play in developing this wonderful natural site as a park on the edge of downtown Olympia’s built environment. There is a broad array of ecologically complex natural conditions; multiple disciplines collaborating to combine function, aesthetics and habitat restoration; integrating indigenous cultural use and understanding; impending sea level rise and climate crisis impacts; referencing past/present/future stories and hopes; and illuminating the understanding and appreciation of the intricate relationship between people and nature.

This project provides a platform for the arts to work collaboratively with science, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and the community to conceive a rich set of artistic and aesthetic expressions and experiences. The result effectively creates a place for deepening human experiences in nature. Upon achieving this, West Bay Park will profoundly influence the emotional, physical and sensory ways people can come towards and embrace this special environment, enabling them to see more clearly the striking shifts and interplays taking place in nature.

Olympia has a special relationship to Puget Sound. When this park becomes a destination for experiencing this particular aquatic environment, it strengthens visitors’ appreciation and understanding of not only the West Bay environment, but also Olympia’s large, interconnected shoreline habitats.

### History: Complexity in the Making

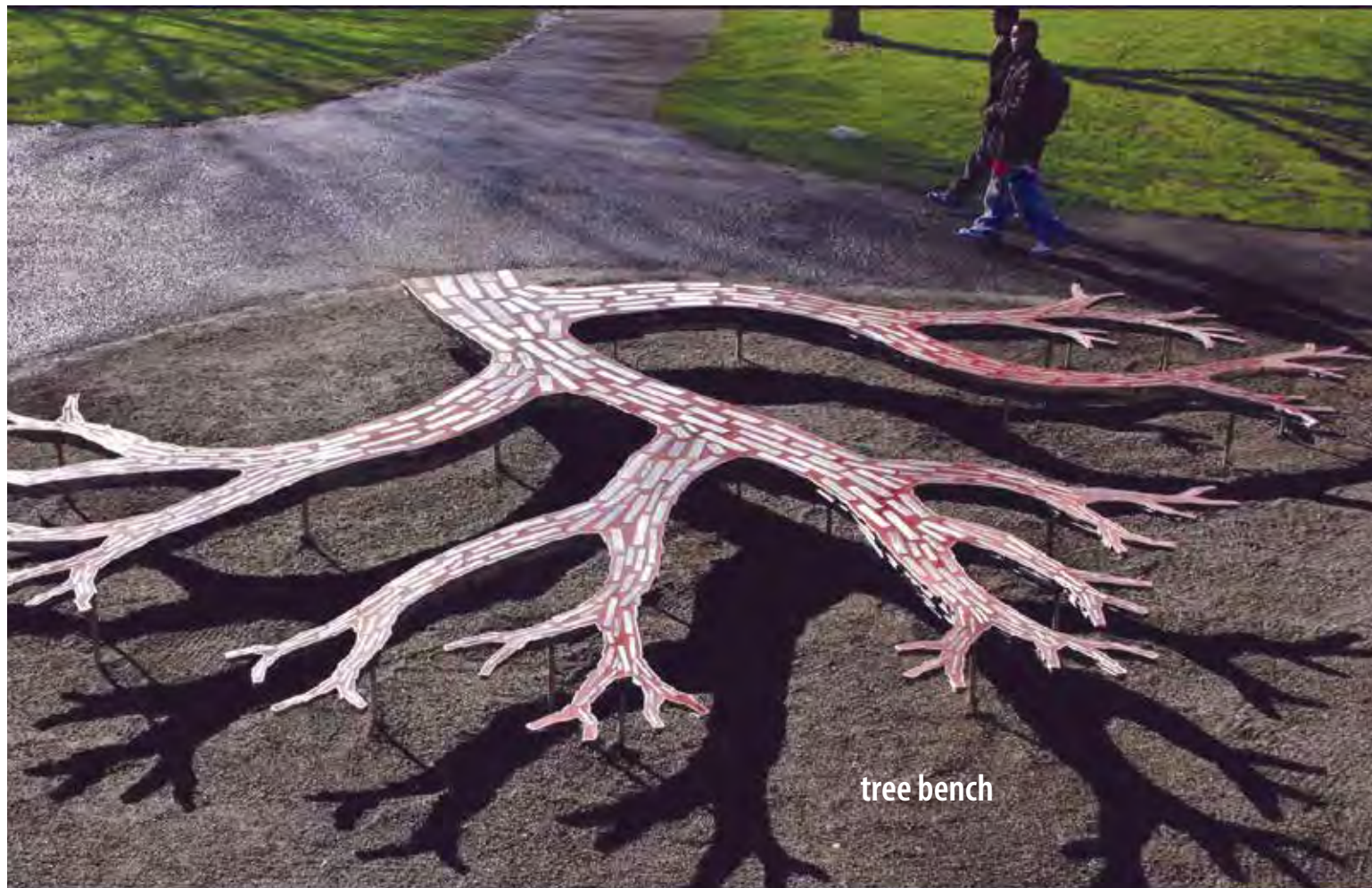
Historically, West Bay has provided habitat for many fish and wildlife species including great blue heron, grebes, cormorants, ducks, raptors, gulls, forage fish, flatfish, salmonids, harbor seals, Dungeness crab and numerous other birds, fish,



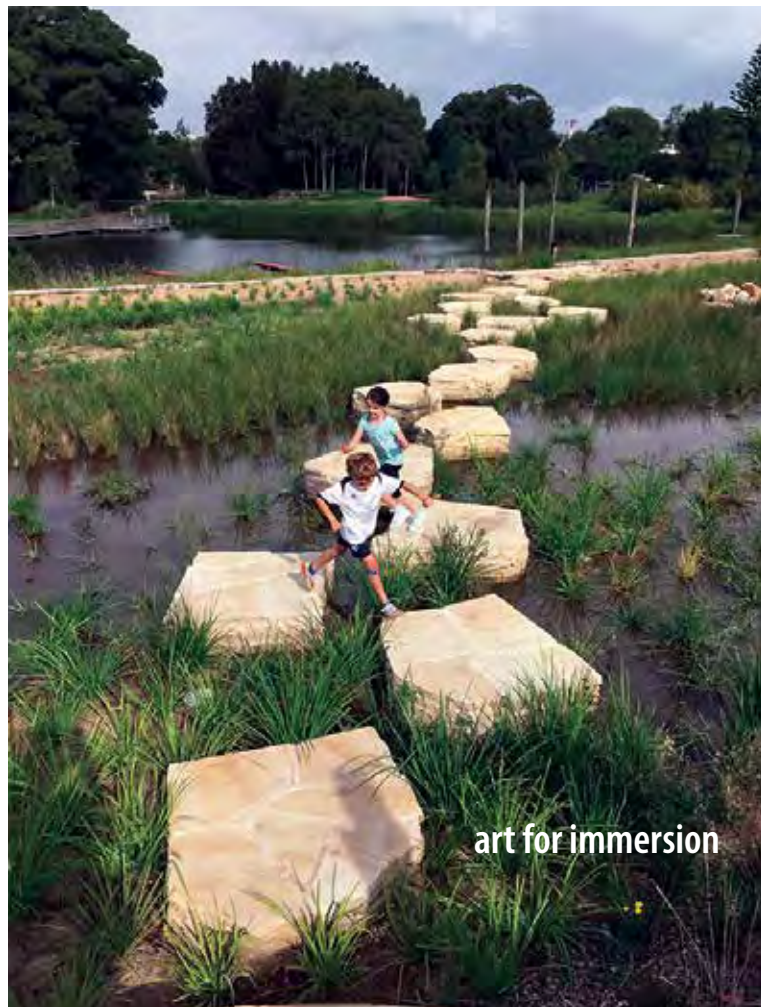


impacting the pathways





tree bench



art for immersion











mammals and shellfish. The vast mudflats of West Bay supported key shellfish species including Olympia oysters, clams and crabs.

The bluff-backed shorelines were densely forested with coniferous species and likely a dense under-story of smaller trees and shrubs, which provided overhanging vegetation for refuge habitat, shading, erosion control, detritus/nutrient export, and foraging opportunities on land animals.

Development of West Bay and the surrounding vicinity over the last 150 years degraded the ecological functions and processes of the bay in numerous ways. Riparian habitat became disconnected from the shoreline along much of the shore of West Bay. Therefore, this effort of developing a major part of the shoreline and adjacent land into restored habitat will allow the community to watch the recovery of land and water within a stone's throw of the downtown.

### Infusing Arts & Culture: Deepening Understanding and Stories

This outlined approach to incorporating artistic, cultural layers into the park works particularly with three of the overall design goals:

1. Respect and express cultural, archaeological, ecological & historic site significance
2. Create a beautiful site aesthetic with design simplicity
3. Balance human use and ecological value

The overall goal of artwork in the park is to create an inter-related series of artworks that are developed collaboratively by artists working with designers and scientists. The intention is to have all artwork work hand-in-hand with the applicable science, the environmental conditions and the park's landscape design to generate a place that embraces visitors and offers them a full complement of experiences specific to West Bay Park. This approach also provides a springboard for linking to greater Puget Sound as an interconnected environmental system. This exciting combination of art, science and design will fully bring each visitor, every time they come, into the every-changing and wonderful aspects of the land, the water and the changing conditions of weather, season, time of day -- in a holistic way. This enhances a deeper understanding of the environment as dynamic and continually changing.

The artwork would be integrated and interwoven into the parkland and placed at very selective sites within the park. All of the artistic components are intended to work seamlessly with the aquatic and climate change science and natural vibrancy/beauty of the place. This supports setting up a process where involved artists will collaborate with each other, but also importantly, with the environmental science and scientists who are working on important aspects of the overall final design. This approach has the potential to impact park users'



understanding and appreciation of the complex environment of the park, deepen the diversity of experiences of the land and water paired with the shifting daily and seasonal natural forces and the impending impacts of a changing climate every time they visit.

Another intention in the development of the cultural component is to continue to forge a cultural collaboration between the Squaxin Island Tribe and the project artist(s) to deeply explore ways to creatively imbue the site with an interweaving of tribal culture and environmental knowledge with non-tribal culture and knowledge. As well, this approach can enhance a moment-to-moment experience and support a connection that can lead to an ethic of care and advocacy on behalf of land and water and all biologic life that they support.

To date regionally there have been few environmental science & art, or native and non-tribal artists' collaborations for public spaces in our region. This project presents a true opportunity to initiate and support a thought-provoking collaborative approach.

### Rationale for Siting Art: Ah-Ha's! & Cherished Places

To have the deepest impact, the primary focus for siting art is integrating art into a set of carefully chosen locations that will elicit unique experiences within West Bay's environment for visitors. Ideally, they would be both "Ah ha! moment" locations, as well as become sought out places to check up on when visiting.

- First is to create an overall experience by strategically placing artistic components within the park environment, in the pathway system, specific viewpoint nodes, and bridges to provide prompt being "in the moment" with multiple senses engaged.
- Second is to draw people deeply into the park to explore this particular environment by creatively offering various entry points to examine different inter-tidal aquatic habitats (lagoon, mudflat, estuary, and marsh) and their important inter-relationship to salmon; indigenous plants; waterfowl; and tidal changes and wind impacts.
- Third, special attention is paid to expressively illuminating the science and physical impacts of sea level rise through a focused interweaving of art and science -- discovering ways to powerfully merge these two and find engaging expressive forms to understand what is happening.

### Locations to Consider: An Experiential System

Artworks would be strategically located and interlinked to achieve a sense of place and direct awareness to diverse aspects of the environment. The primary area of the park that will be focused on for artworks is the dedicated natural expanse where the land to water ecological relationship is pronounced. This would be south of the more active northern area that has parking, picnic shelter, hand boat launch, gathering space, etc.

Depending on the overall budget for artwork, careful consideration would have to be made during the final design process, in collaboration with involved artists, to determine the strongest set of locations for artwork that achieves the goals and intent of the public art portion of the master plan.

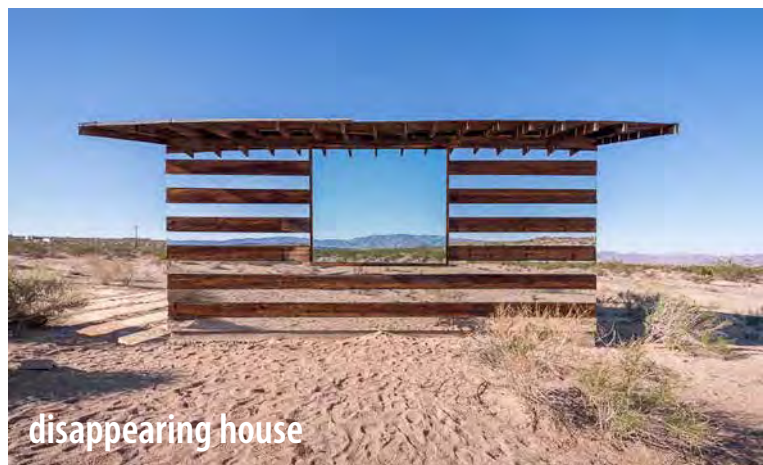




transition marker



wood megaphones



disappearing house



ephemeral presence





artful nodes and bridge



art & material placement



sensory art interactive with weather





As for budget, with a collaborative process taking place during final design, there is the potential to merge public art dollars with materials and construction budgets for the overall park design. It would be beneficial to explore this possibility in order to infuse as much of the park as possible with a cultural, arts layer.

Potential locations in the public art focus area and rationales for choosing them include:

1. *Transition locus: Entering/leaving the southern public art focus area*

A suggestive, gestural mark to alert visitors they are transitioning into and out of a “special” area. An artful expression that alludes to the type of environment West Bay offers.

2. *Underfoot: A complement of locations within the pathway system including hard and soft surfaces at grade, including immediately adjacent edges*

Builds an enticing narrative and visuals that connect people to this place and ecology. Provides a subtle, delightful undercurrent that interfaces and engages the mind and eye, bringing people into experiencing linked moments of being in the park.

3. *Enhanced views highlighting land and/or water inter-relationship: Nodes at path ends*

Quiet points to pause, be immersed in and absorb the environment and surroundings. Enhance the physical space of the nodes making them unique and specifically tied to the particular ecological condition being highlighted.

4. *Inland water: Bridges and boardwalk over daylighted waterways*

Bring awareness to the intricate wetlands, marshes, and fresh water sources that exist between land and water and interact with the salt water environment of Puget Sound.

5. *Puget Sound: Water touch points*

Highlight the daily shifts of the Sound – shoreline zone, tides, wind, waves, light, etc.

Additional locations related to specific alternatives could be considered in any final mix of locations comprising the total art program.





### Alternative 1

A great location for high-impact public art in Alternative 1 would be along the elevated trail over West Bay's inter-tidal area. The integrated art components described above could be designed into the decking underfoot, the railings at periodic insertion points, and at nodes along the trail. Art elements on the railing could also be used to provide screening for wildlife viewing.

### Alternative 5

Alternative 5 design concepts show the pathway at a much higher elevation and the public art components could reflect that unique view by highlighting a comprehensive view of the park's land and water as well as context of Puget Sound. It would be appropriate to include art at a viewpoint node under the bridge looking north.

The path separation from the water also provides an opportunity for public art to help create a connection to the park. New art components could be integrated into the trail alignment at the street in paving and other structures and build from a relationship with the existing public art project on the west side of West Bay Drive.

