2.1 THE CITY SCALE

RE-CENTERING SEATTLE AROUND THE BAY

Elliott Bay, located in the Puget Sound, distinguishes itself by both its enclosing shape and the surrounding urban development of Seattle. The bay’s waterfront is rich and varied: it harbors a working port and the hub of a regional ferry system; it includes commercial piers adjacent to downtown Seattle, the industrial Port of Seattle, residential neighborhoods such as West Seattle, West Queen Anne and Southeast Magnolia; and opens west towards Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, keeping big nature ever present in the city. The rounded shape of Elliott Bay makes it possible to interconnect and relate these different facets of Seattle, effectively creating a “center” around which people can share a sense of identity and orientation.
THE BAY RING

Elliott Bay defines a particular geography of weather, ecology, tides, ferries, port activity, vista, juxtaposition and movement. It also forms a ring that highlights the origin of Seattle’s pattern of settlement. The Bay Ring will re-center Seattle around Elliott Bay, creating a ring of destinations, public art and habitat, and linking existing waterfront destinations to each other. By increasing the number of destinations on the waterfront and improving links between the waterfront and the city, the Bay Ring will draw people from the many urban neighborhoods and the larger region to make the waterfront a central destination in Seattle.
Potential Water Transit Routes

The Bay Ring

Existing Water Transit Routes

Bay Ring Destinations

Bay Ring Connections

Bay Ring

1 MILE

Framework Plan
THE OLMSTED SYSTEM AND THE GREEN RING

The Olmsted Brothers’ System of parks, boulevards and playgrounds for the City of Seattle, initiated in 1903, follows a 20–mile long parkway from Seward Park on the Bailey Peninsula to Discovery Park at Fort Lawton and encircles Elliott Bay in a “Green Ring” of open space destinations. This plan, meant to guide future work, informs our current thinking about Seattle’s open space system. The Green Ring ties together a series of significant parks and greenways and suggests the possibility of creating a more legible interconnected green circle that works in tandem with the Bay Ring to embrace the city. Although the Seattle Waterfront was not originally a part of the Olmsted Brothers’ Plan, its primary aim to “secure and preserve for the use of the people ... advantages of water and mountain views and of woodlands, well distributed and conveniently located” inspires our design today.
RE-CENTERING SEATTLE AROUND THE BAY

Linking the Olmsted Brothers’ System of Parks to the Bay Ring’s waterfront destinations, the Framework Plan re-orients the city’s focus towards the water and creates new relationships with Elliott Bay. The city, its parks and waterfront are set into a new relationship - one where the waterfront becomes a focal point, front porch and heart of Seattle. It aims to be a “Waterfront for All”.

CITY SCALE

Lake Washington
Bell Harbor Marina
Myrtle-Edwards Park
Potential Water Transit Routes

1. **The Bay Ring**
2. **Bay Ring Connections**
3. **Green Ring Destinations**
4. **Olmsted System**
5. **The Green Ring**
6. **Potential Water Transit Routes**
7. **Existing Water Transit Routes**

- **Bay Ring Destinations**
- **Bay Ring Connections**
- **Green Ring Destinations**
- **Olmsted System**
- **The Green Ring**
- **Existing Water Transit Routes**

**Framework Plan**

**1 MILE**
CITY SCALE
DESTINATIONS AROUND THE BAY RING

From Hamilton View Point Park to the Fort Lawton Historic District and Discovery Park, the Bay Ring follows the shores of Elliott Bay through places unique to the history and geography of Seattle. They host a mixture of public amenities, large-scale infrastructure—including port activities, transit hubs, and stretches of natural habitat.

The following pages catalogue the existing destinations around the Bay Ring, highlighting major amenities, physical features and points of interest. The Bay Ring destinations are owned by varying entities, both public and private. This presents an opportunity for these entities to work together to successfully link the destinations of the Ring into a continuous and coherent journey around Elliott Bay.
DESTINATIONS AROUND THE BAY RING

WEST SEATTLE

Hamilton Viewpoint Park
With stunning views of the city, Elliott Bay, the harbor and the Cascade Mountains, Hamilton View Point Park showcases Seattle's urban and natural beauty. The 16.9 acres of land were purchased in 1914, but would not become a public park and viewpoint until 1954, when benches, lawn and plants and parking were developed. In 1957, the park was named to honor Rupert Lehn Hamilton in recognition of his efforts to promote parks and viewpoints in West Seattle and his work to develop the community while serving as the editor and publisher of the West Seattle Herald.

Don Armeni Boat Ramp
Located on Harbor Avenue and Maryland Street, Don Armeni boat ramp is the most popular of Seattle's saltwater boat ramps due to its proximity to many favorite fishing spots on the south end of Marine Area 10. This boat ramp is particularly popular with fishermen during salmon season. Owned by the City, it is one of several Seattle Parks & Recreation properties on the Bay. In 1984 it was remodeled and expanded to include a viewpoint, where from Downtown Seattle can be seen across Elliott Bay, and a paved parking lot. Don Armeni boat ramp is a popular spot for ceremonies, photographers, and sightseers alike.
Seacrest Park
A 6.4 acre Seattle Parks & Recreation property, Seacrest Park includes the Seacrest Pier, a boathouse and restaurant, waterfront trails, sandy beaches, fishing piers, a kayak launch and a land-based access point for protected Scuba diving. Most of the diving area is under the authority of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, while local diving clubs maintain the area’s markers and buoys.

Salty’s
A private property on the shores of Elliott Bay, Salty’s is a popular waterfront restaurant destination.

Jack Perry Memorial Shoreline
This shoreline provides public access of 120 feet and 1.1 acre park, as well as a viewpoint including views of T30, T18 Crane Operations and the US Coast Guard Station.
Bell Harbor Marina + Pier
Bell Harbor Marina provides moorage to approximately 70 boats, that are between 30 to 150 feet long. Bell Harbor is Seattle’s only downtown recreational marina.

CENTRAL WATERFRONT

Harbor Island
Also known as Terminal 18, Harbor Island is the largest man-made island in the United States. Located in the mouth of Seattle’s Duwamish Waterway, the island was built by the Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging company in 1909 from 24 million yards of dredged soils from the Duwamish River and the soil from the Jackson Hill and Dearborn Street re-grades. The island hosts a variety of commercial and industrial activities, including ship building and repair, lead-smelting, petroleum storage, metal fabrication and containerized cargo shipping. Fringed by wharves and cranes, the island houses numerous warehouses, laboratories, industrial buildings, and railroad yards. It is the Port of Seattle’s major point of entry for cargo transferred from oceangoing vessels to trucks and railcars. The Port of Seattle created the Terminal 18 Public Access Park on Klickitat Avenue. The Port also owns and operates the Harbor Island Marina at the island’s southern tip, which can accommodate 77 vessels. The marina has 90 slips, including 35 boathouses and 55 open slips for permanent moorage only.

Jack Block Park
15 acres that include a walking pier, 45 foot high observation tower, children’s play area, and views of Terminal 5 operations, Seattle Skyline and Mount Rainier.

DESTINATIONS AROUND THE BAY RING
Pier 69
Adjacent to the large Bell Harbor Marina, Pier 69 is home to the Victoria Clipper Terminal, which services cruises to Victoria, Vancouver and other regional destinations. Pier 69 is also the headquarters of the Port of Seattle.

Bell Street Pedestrian Bridge
The Bell Street Bridge offers direct pedestrian access to the Bell Harbor International Conference Center from Belltown. It also connects to a roof deck with excellent views of both the bay and the neighboring Bell Harbor marina.

Lenora Street Bridge and Viewpoint
This pedestrian bridge connects areas north of Pike Place Market to the Waterfront near Bell Harbor Marina. The also bridge offers great views of the bay.
DESTINATIONS AROUND THE BAY RING

QUEEN ANNE AND MAGNOLIA

**Myrtle Edwards Park**
A 4.8 acre Seattle Parks and Recreation public amenity, Myrtle Edwards Park is easy to access from downtown and Magnolia, and links to the bike and pedestrian trails headed north. It includes the only beach on the central waterfront and is adjacent to the Seattle Art Museum’s 8.5 acre Olympic Sculpture Park. Additionally, the new Thomas Street Pedestrian Bridge will connect uptown to Myrtle Edwards Park.

**Elliott Bay Park**
Extending north from Myrtle-Edwards Park, Elliott Bay Park continues along Elliott Bay to the Smith Cove Waterway. The park includes the Elliott Bay Trail and a popular fishing pier.

**Smith Cove Park**
This Port of Seattle park is just west of Pier 91 and is 7.3 acres. From the water’s edge, there are excellent views of Downtown Seattle’s skyline and Mt. Rainier.
**Magnolia Park**
Located on the Magnolia Bluff, the 12.1 acre Magnolia Park has magnificent views of Puget Sound.

**Perkins Lane West**
South of Magnolia Boulevard West, and close to the water’s edge, several private properties line the waterfront along Perkins Lane. Perkins Lane West was built along a mostly continuous geologic bench, about 25 meters above sea level, that runs along the Esperance Sand-Lawton Clay contact, a landslide debris zone. The geologic conditions that occur along Perkins Lane West are present in several other parts of the city, making it a very interesting place to visit. The waterfront is lined with beaches and is surrounded by mature vegetation.

**Fort Lawton Historic District + Discovery Park**
Fort Lawton was built on 703 acres of land, donated by the City of Seattle to the Federal Government, for the construction of a US Army fort. It has commanding views of the confluence of Elliott Bay and Puget Sound. The best preserved collection of early Fort Lawton buildings was declared a landmark district in 1988.
CONNECTIONS AROUND THE BAY RING

Connecting existing and future destinations along the Bay with multiuse trails is critical to the realization of the Bay Ring. A small number of trails for bicycles and walkways exist today and are very popular. In the future these trails will need to be renovated, lengthened and augmented with new segments to create a continuous circulation network.

The Alki Trail Starting at Hamilton View Point Park, the Alki Trail follows the shoreline and links the Don Armeni Boat Ramp, Seacrest Park and the popular waterfront restaurant Salty’s. Unfortunately, it does not reach the Jack Perry Memorial Shoreline Public Access or Jack Block Park. Instead it follows the southern side of the SW Spokane Street Bridge before it turns north to run along Terminal 18 and join the Elliott Bay Trail on Alaskan Way. A new connection between the Alki Trail and the Elliott Bay Trail provides a designated path at the south end of the Central Waterfront, creating a seamless route for recreational riders and commuters alike.

The Elliott Bay Trail (Terminal 91 Bike Path) The trail starts at the southern end of Terminal 25 and runs north to Smith Cove Park and Marina. It stops short of connecting to Magnolia Park, Perkins Lane, Fort Lawton and Discovery Park to complete the Bay Ring.

The Myrtle Edwards Park Trail The Myrtle Edwards Park Trail runs parallel to the Elliott Bay Trail and can be accessed from many points within the park. A new point of access, the West Thomas Street Bridge, will connect the Lower Queen Anne and Belltown neighborhoods to Myrtle-Edwards Park, the Elliott Bay Trail and the Bay Ring. The trail features a rose garden and stunning views across the bay, to the Olympic Mountains, and to Mount Rainer. The trail provides access to popular bike routes at 20th Avenue West and runs a 1/2 mile from the Smith Cove Marina restaurants. Amenities along the trail include a kiosk outside Smith Cove Park highlighting the area’s railroad and shipping history and the Happy Hooker bait and tackle shop by the Fishing Pier.
Several ‘early win’ initiatives around the Bay Ring are currently in use or under construction. These projects promote connectivity to the waterfront and provide early visibility for the Central Waterfront project. Two of these projects, the Portside Trail and the West Thomas Street Bridge, are described in detail in the previous section of the book, titled “Connections Around the Bay Ring”. These two projects increase bicycle and pedestrian connectivity from the waterfront to existing trails to the North and South of the project site. In addition, the Lake-to-Bay Trail, which connects the waterfront to South Lake Union, will be completed as an early win.