

The
Waterfront
Center



Excellence on the Waterfront

2021

The Waterfront Center



Excellence on the Waterfront 2021

This year's jury was led by Domenica Stasiak of Indigo River, New York. Her jury colleagues included Matt Grady, Gramor Development, Inc, Tualatin, OR and Steve Dumez, EskewDumezRipple+ New Orleans, LA. Waterfront Center co-directors Ann Breen and Dick Rigby hosted and facilitated the jury event.

The jury reviewed the submittals and selected eight honorees according to the Center's award criteria. It was impressed by the caliber and geographic range of entries. Winners included a diversity of scales within each selection criteria:

- Regional (e.g Yangtze River) to local (e.g Fritz Hedges Waterway Park)
- Complex (Learning from the Yimin River, Vishakapatnam, Andrah Pradesh) to straightforward (Bee Branch Creek Restoration)
- Artful and beautiful (Illuminated River) to playful (Juneau Downtown Seawalk)

The entries exhibited serious attention to the resolution of environmental issues and to design detailing. Entries also emphasized a strong belief in the capacity of waterfronts to become sites for public use and appreciation after reclamation and restoration. These transformations continually reinvigorate communities and their economies, and highlight the importance of precious water resources as critical environmental and community values.

Dick Rigby & Ann Breen
Co-Directors
The Waterfront Center



The Waterfront Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary year in 2021, an anniversary that emphasizes the enduring power of our and our partners' commitment to how water enhances the public realm along its natural and community shorelines. May that commitment long endure, especially in these troubled times.

Dick Rigby & Ann Breen
Co-Directors
The Waterfront Center

The **Excellence on the Waterfront Awards** program was initiated in 1987 through grants from the Design Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Marine Manufacturers Association. The honor awards recognize high quality design and development work. Entries are accepted from around the world for plans, built projects and student submissions. The Center also recognizes citizen efforts through the Clearwater Award.

Top: Illuminated River, The Thames, London, UK

Opposite: Fritz Hedges Waterway Park Seattle, WA USA

Opposite bottom: Juneau Downtown Seawalk, Juneau, AK USA

Cover: Illuminated River The Thames, London, UK

Awards Book Produced by:
Chris Carlson
Steve Durrant, FASLA
Seattle, WA USA

The 2021 Jury

Chair: Dominica Stasiak
Principal, Indigo River
New York, New York USA

Steve Dumez, FAIA
Principal - Director of Design
EskewDumezRipple+
New Orleans, Louisiana USA

Matt Grady
Vice President
Director of Development
Gramor Development Inc.
Tualatin, Oregon USA





Photo: Walker Macy



2021 Excellence
on the Waterfront
Awards

Criteria

An interdisciplinary jury of professional planners, designers, city officials, and community, business and development representatives determine the awards using the following qualitative criteria:

Sensitivity of the design to water. Document how the entry makes use of the waterfront and water resource, how it provides for active public enjoyment of the waterfront, and, where possible, provides for physical and visual access to and along the waterfront.

Quality and harmony of design. Show how the entry fits into the natural or man-made surroundings, and incorporates and celebrates the unique historic and cultural features of the community, particularly as they relate to the waterfront. The human scale of the project/plan is also a consideration.

Civic contribution. State how the project has helped the economy of the community, boosted civic pride or has otherwise had a positive affect on the area. Show how the work is sustainable and how it is economically viable over the long run.

Environmental values. Show how environmental values are stressed. This aspect and the importance of sound science is very important to juries.

Enrichment. Show how the project or plan contributes to the overall cultural richness of the community. Where applicable, relate how the entry provides interpretive information, art or other facilities to explain an area's waterfront heritage and natural values.

Degree of difficulty. Describe how various natural, political, jurisdictional, economic or permitting obstacles were overcome.

TOP HONOR PROJECT

The Shipyards

North Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

HONOR AWARDS – PROJECTS

Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project

Dubuque, Iowa USA

Fritz Hedges Waterway Park

Seattle, Washington USA

Illuminated River, The Thames

London, United Kingdom

**Juneau Downtown Seawalk:
Douglas Bridge to Gold Creek**

Juneau, Alaska USA

**Learning through the Yimin River:
Resilient Waterfront Design**

Hailar, Inner Mongolia China

**Returning to The Yangtze River:
The Resilient Riverfront Design of The Kowloon Bund**

Chongqing China

HONOR AWARDS – PLAN

**Vishakapatnam Beachfront
Redevelopment Project**

Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh India

CLEARWATER AWARD

Nisqually Land Trust

Lewis, Thurston and Pierce Counties, Washington USA



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC



**Top Honor Award
PROJECT**

The Shipyards
North Vancouver
British Columbia
Canada

**Historic Maritime
Preservation/Adaptive
Reuse**



Photo: City of North Vancouver

Submitted by:

Magda Kwaterska

City of North Vancouver
British Columbia
Canada

The Wallace Shipyards, located across Burrard Inlet from downtown Vancouver, BC, opened in 1906 becoming one of the most important industrial operations in western Canada and a leader in innovative ship building and production. Its long list of accomplishments include the schooner Mabel Brown (1917), the CPR Ferry Princess Louise (1921), and the RCMP schooner St. Roch (1928).

It was also the largest employer of shipyard labour in BC during World War II, producing 109 of the 312 Victory cargo ships that provided supplies to the European theater. During that era thousands of employees settled into surrounding neighborhoods, making it Vancouver's oldest and one of its densest neighborhoods. After the war the shipyard focused on ship repair and the construction of super ferries and icebreakers.

In 1971 the Wallace family sold the shipyard and over time it passed through various ownerships, finally closing as Versatile Pacific Shipyards in the 1990s. Today the eastern portion of this extensive site continues to operate as the Vancouver Dry Dock Company.

Easily reached by frequent ferries from Vancouver, the site now houses commercial, recreational and residential uses. The restored wharf buildings create a dynamic urban setting that visually captures their history and the vitality of Vancouver's northern waterfront.

The Shipyards includes a commercial market, an art museum, skating rink, splash park, event stage, and other heavily programmed year round spaces. Bars and restaurants and a small boutique hotel exist within its 'campus'.

Several small well-designed plazas dot the site with interesting water features, chairs and artwork.

The St. Roch pier and the Burrard Dry Dock pier extend into the Inlet. An historic yellow crane dominates the central waterfront plaza in its original position. A continuous walkway connects buildings and plazas, providing easy beach access and, of course, glorious views of downtown Vancouver, Burrard Inlet and its constant maritime activity. Residential apartments anchor the east end of the site.

Overall, The Shipyards is an exciting scenic waterfront destination in a special Canadian city.

In addition to the Waterfront Center's 2021 Top Honor Award, the project won 2021 top honours from the BC Economic Development Association in its Community Project category.



Photo: Carlson/Durrant

Resources:

mkwaterska@cnv.org



Photo: City of North Vancouver



Photo: City of North Vancouver



2021 Excellence on the Waterfront Awards



Photo: City of North Vancouver



Photo: City of North Vancouver



Photo: City of North Vancouver



Photo: City of North Vancouver



Photo: City of North Vancouver

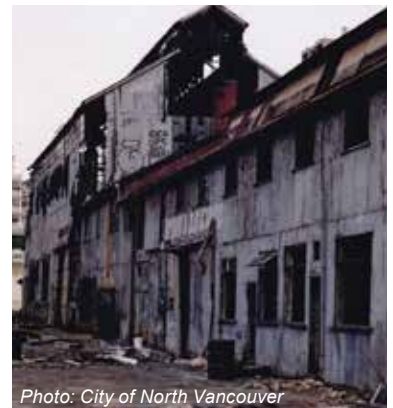


Photo: City of North Vancouver



**Honor Award
PROJECT**

**Bee Branch Creek
Restoration Project**

Dubuque, Iowa
USA

**Stormwater/Environment/
Park**



Photo: City of Dubuque

Submitted by:
Kristin Hill

City of Dubuque
Dubuque, Iowa
USA

Howard Isnor

Strand Associates, Inc.
Madison, Wisconsin
USA

The Bee Branch Creek Restoration project, located in Dubuque, Iowa, covers a 6.5 square mile area in the north-east part of the city that houses over 50% of its population. Steep slopes and bluffs in this part of the larger Mississippi watershed, over development, derelict sites, and burial of the creek itself, have consistently caused flooding of these north end properties during major rain events.

The project reclaims the creek's original floodplain, daylight the creek and restores its native shoreline to capture floodwaters and provide green recreation space for north end neighbors.

Two distinct sections characterize the creek's restoration. The Lower Bee Branch includes a large expanse of open water that serves as part of the Mississippi Flyway. It is surrounded by a multi-use trail, interpretive signs, benches and lighting. Another water feature wraps around an industrial site that will be redeveloped as a retail center. Both sites include riparian meadow plantings, water viewpoints and access to kayaking and fishing.

The Upper Bee Branch replaces a buried storm sewer with an 'historic' floodway. This more formal greenspace fills with stormwater during heavy rains without flooding adjacent properties. During dry weather it is a multi-use linear greenway with interpretive signs, benches and lighting, an outdoor

classroom area/amphitheater, a playground, community garden and orchard. New shrubs and trees cover the site.

The Bee Branch Creek restoration project reconnects Dubuque's waterfront to its historic urban core and provides much needed green space and community gardens for this low-income neighborhood.



Photo: City of Dubuque

Resources:

khill@cityofdubuque.org
howard.isnor@strand.com



Photo: City of Dubuque



Photo: City of Dubuque



Photo: City of Dubuque

An incredible transformation of a previously derelict site



Photo: City of Dubuque



Photo: City of Dubuque



**Honor Award
PROJECT**

**Fritz Hedges
Waterway Park**
Seattle, Washington
USA

**Park/Walkway/
Recreational**



Photo: Walker Macy

Submitted by:

Lara Rose

Walker Macy
Portland, Oregon
USA

David Graves

Seattle Parks and Recreation
Seattle, Washington
USA

Resources:

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david.graves@seattle.gov

Fritz Hedges Waterway Park is located on Portage Bay, a recreational, industrial and ecological waterway within Seattle and adjacent to the University of Washington's campus neighborhood. Users reach the park via Seattle's major urban regional bike and pedestrian trail, the Burke-Gilman Trail, the Brooklyn Greenway, U-Transit and by automobile.

The site and shoreline once supported historic canoe portages, water meadows, timber processing, a marine industry, and the Chris Craft boat distribution center. As a result, park design and construction required several interventions to remove bulkheads, dilapidated piers and piles, excavate and contain contaminated soils, and restore native shoreline. The ground level was raised to meet street grade and accessibility requirements.

The two-acre site is small for its heavily programmed uses but is designed to feel larger through clever organization and installation including:

- A small plaza and central terraced lawn used for play, informal seating, picnics, and larger events. Timber walls, removable chairs and pebble 'boulders' provide seating. Bright yellow chairs create a beacon against the dense backdrop of the university neighborhood from both land and water.
- A trail moves from the street through the park to the pier and beach.
- A new pier propels people out into the bay and transmits light for improved aquatic habitat.
- A timber hand-carried boat slides to the beach.
- A restored naturalized fresh water beach with "fish mixed" gradated gravel builds juvenile salmon habitat.

- Customized interpretive signs use historic materials, (e.g. old growth timbers, exposed aggregate paving) to pay homage to the park's indigenous and industrial history.
- Vegetation types flow from street edge through an interpretive meadow of historically important perennials to restored native bank and emergent species.
- Unique views include the city's houseboat community, the University Bridge, working and maritime activity on Portage Bay, sunrises and sunsets.

Development limits public access to Seattle's waterfront and impacts salmonid and other migratory species' habitat throughout the city. Waterway Park is a vital physical and visual oasis along this ever-evolving waterway.

It is particularly significant as one of only three south facing naturalized public shorelines along the 5-mile waterway between Lake Washington and Puget Sound.



Photo: Walker Macy



Walker Macy

*Fritz Hedges
Waterway Park
is a vital physical
and visual
oasis along this
ever-evolving
waterway.*



Photo: Walker Macy



Photo: Walker Macy



Walker Macy

Honor Award
PROJECT

Illuminated River

The Thames, London
United Kingdom

Artistic/Cultural/
Educational



Photo: James Newton

Submitted by:

Alex Lifschutz / Leo Villareal
Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands /
Leo Villareal Studio
London
United Kingdom

Richard Dye

The Illuminated River Foundation
London
United Kingdom

Resources:

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richard.dye@illuminatedriver.london

Traveling upstream:

Below: London Bridge,
Cannon Street Bridge,
Southwark Bridge (above),
Millennium Bridge,
Blackfriars Bridge.

Opposite: Waterloo Bridge,
Golden Jubilee Footbridges,
Westminster Bridge,
Lambeth Bridge

Illuminated River is a 3km art and architecture project that creates random sequences of light patterns across nine Thames bridges at nighttime. Colours illuminate the walkways and undersides of each bridge and reference historic periods (e.g. Impressionist, Romantic era painters) and other contexts of their design. The illuminations highlight the bridges' rich heritage along the city's riverfront and transform its urban nighttime atmosphere into a safe public amenity.

The project spans the Tower of London and the Palace of Westminster (UNESCO World heritage sites) seven local authorities, twenty-two wards, six parliamentary constituencies, and four Greater London Authority divisions.

Over eighty organizations and forty eight planning and listed building applications consented to the project, including an endorsement from UNESCO. A large coalition of environmental, business and philanthropic collaborators catalyzed the project into reality.

Four families of luminaires cross the entire river scheme using standardized detailing and fixings so controls can address every pixel in over 23,000 fittings. The maintenance and replacement system for the project is simple and reliable over its ten-year life with maintenance kits seamlessly attached to each bridge structure.

Overall this brilliant art project:

- Illuminates the design and historic character of each bridge.
- Refocuses and strengthens relationships between neighborhoods on either bank of the River Thames.
- Pioneers technical lighting and the ability to research luminance impacts on wildlife (fish and birds, and bats).
- Reduces light pollution on bird and fish species.
- Improves safety in public areas after dark.
- Activates the river and its banks as a viable nighttime transportation mode.



Photo: James Newton



Photo: James Newton



Photo: James Newton



Photo: James Newton

**Case Study:
Southwark Bridge**

Southwark Bridge is a highly articulated Grade II-listed crossing that links Southwark and the City. It has the lowest traffic of any of London's bridges and is one of the prettiest, with its series of five steel arches decorated with bands of painted teal with golden yellow detailing supported by four granite piers and topped by pierced decorative lunettes.

The lighting activates the inside and underside of the structure with fields of light in subtly shifting hues in order to emphasise the elaborate structural latticework. The illumination is limited to the granite piers and the undersides of the bridge, picking out the massive masonry abutments and the delicate metal fretwork they support.

The colour scheme for this bridge is reminiscent of atmospheric tones at sunrise and sunset. Drawing inspiration from the colour palettes of the Impressionist masters, the bridge's illumination continues, with slightly more saturation, the colours used on Cannon Street Railway Bridge.



The light reveals all of the beautiful intricacies of the lattice steelwork inside the bridge arches

Considered light fitting placement is key to ensuring the light is consistent within the structure of the bridge and that the light fittings themselves are discrete

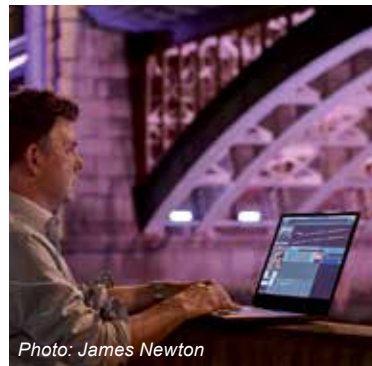


Photo: James Newton

Southwark Bridge Case Study
Opposite top: Southwark Bridge
Above: Testing lighting
Right: Leo Villareal programming lighting
Below: Lighting diagram



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“Our city has a rich heritage of showcasing public art, and I am delighted that Illuminated River is bringing more free and accessible artwork to Londoners. The Thames has played a key role in the growth and development of our capital for centuries, and this unique artwork will help Londoners and visitors see it in a whole new way. The Illuminated River will celebrate the unique architecture and heritage of our bridges, showcase creativity, boost life at night and transform the way we think about the Thames.”

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

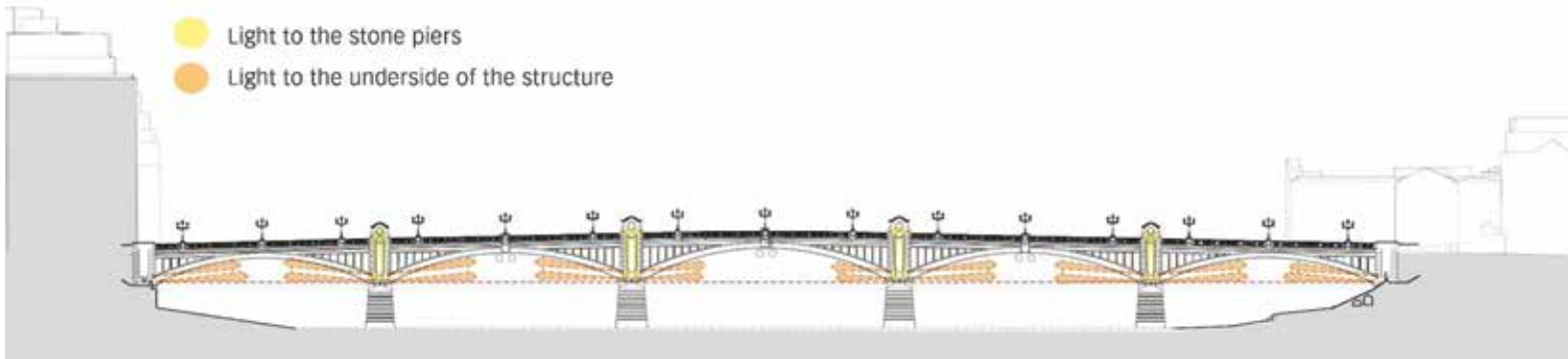


Photo: James Newton



Photo: James Newton



Photo: James Newton



Photo: James Newton



**Honor Award
PROJECT**

**Juneau Downtown
Seawalk
Douglas Bridge to
Gold Creek**
Juneau, Alaska
USA

**Park/Walkway/
Recreational**

Submitted by:

Jim Brennan, ASLA

J.A. Brennan Associates, PLLC
Seattle, Washington
USA

Michele Elfers

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USA

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Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC



J.A. Brennan PLLC



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC

The Juneau Downtown Seawalk provides much needed public access to downtown Juneau along the Gastineau Channel in Southeast Alaska.

The Downtown Seawalk, part of Juneau's *Long Range Waterfront Plan*, is a continuous pedestrian and bike trail from its cruise ship terminal into the city's central district. It includes passage over Gold Creek, an important salmon run, and ends at Overstreet Park, a new public plaza near downtown. Multiple sites for picnicking, fishing, interpretation and views occur along the route.

Historically Juneau's waterfront was disconnected from its downtown by industry and shipping. Today, the Seawalk reconnects the Gastineau Channel to the city's urban core using:

- A continuous safe pedestrian and bike waterfront trail connecting visitors from the cruise ship terminal into the inner city.
- An engineered intertidal island, supported on piles and connected to the shoreline walkway via elevated boardwalks, restoring intertidal and riparian habitat for birds, mammals and

salmonids. Multiple species of native intertidal and wetland plants inhabit the island and shoreline.

- An urban plaza anchoring the current end of the project. It includes a dramatic life-size humpback whale sculpture, a wave pool, and spaces for picnicking, public gathering, fishing and viewing.

Creative solutions dealt with significant environmental, budget and construction challenges that had stymied the project for some time.

Downtown Seawalk now provides urban residents and office workers with attractive outdoor recreation places, including steps to tidelands and the beach. It also relieves downtown street congestion and creates a higher quality water experience for visitors and residents. It is a stunning visual and interpretive experience for Juneau.



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC

Downtown Seawalk is a stunning visual and interpretive experience for Juneau.



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC

Honor Award
PROJECT

Learning through
the Yimin River:
Resilient Waterfront
Design

Hailar, Inner Mongolia
China

Environmental Protection/
Enhancement



Photo: WeiWei

Submitted by:
MYP, Inc.
Shanghai
China

The vast Hulunbuir Steppe in Inner Mongolia is the origin of the Yimin River.

Creek 626, a branch of the Yimin, flows through the center of Hailar's historic district. Human activity and erosion have dried up the Hulunbuir grasslands over time and polluted Creek 626 severely enough to render its water and shoreline unusable. Since implementation in 2018, the project has slowed desertification and erosion processes and stimulated renewal along the creek's urban waterfront.

Key components include:

- Systematic restoration of the original riverway, riverbank vegetation, wetlands, native topsoil, preservation of existing poplar trees and the addition of new species.
- 5-meter wide continuous pedestrian greenway along the creek composed of permeable bricks to offset flood discharge. The walkway gives residents an opportunity to appreciate their waterfront and this grassland city's character.
- 7-hectare lagoon that reduces flooding, supports bird habitat and facilitates fishing.



Photo: WeiWei

- “Dike Park Belt” – an urban park located beyond the floodplain and designed for recreation and sightseeing. Sport fields, an open lawn and amphitheater, outdoor fitness centers, trails and sightseeing platforms, provide residents with various ways to enjoy the views of the river, its beaches and wetlands, and the larger panoramic views of the Mongolian grasslands. Native plants form a seasonal landscape within and around the park.
- Two squares within the park pay homage to Mongolian history through earth-covered architecture, sculpture and interpretive signs summarizing regional stories.

The project has activated a comprehensive restoration program for the Yimin River and its watershed. As such it is a precedent-setting model for river restoration and resilient waterfront development in Inner Mongolia.



Photo: WeiWei



Photo: WeiWei

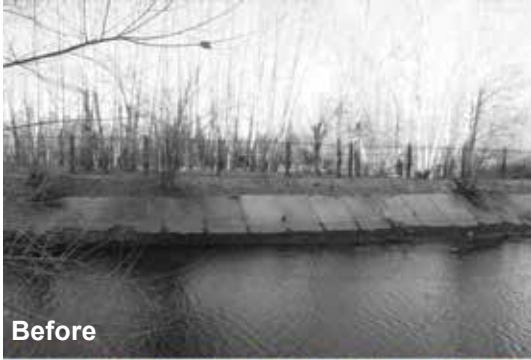


Photo: WeiWei

The Waterfront Center



2021 Excellence on the Waterfront Awards



Before



After



Photo: MYP



MYP



Honor Award
PROJECT

Returning to The
Yangtze River:
The Resilient
Riverfront Design of
The Kowloon Bund

Chongqing
China

Park/Walkway/
Recreational

Submitted by:
MYP Inc.
Shanghai
China

**T.Y.Lin International
Engineering
Consulting(China) Co., Ltd.**
Chongqing
China

Resources:
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The Resilient Riverfront Design of the Kowloon Bund is the first phase of a larger initiative called *Two Rivers and Four Banks* in Chongqing, China, a mountainous region of the Yangtze and Jialing rivers in southwestern China.

The long term goal of the project is to bring urban life back to the north side of the Yangtze River through layered cultural and environmental zones that respond to the river's dramatic water fluctuations.

Significant elevation differences between the city's urban residential zone and an unsightly riverfront area have kept residents away from the waterfront. This project returns the city to its historic relationship with the Yangtze.

The design team used "Seasonal Use" as its core concept. It created a multi-dimensional public space system that responds to varying river elevation differences by reshaping the waterfront landscape into tiered public areas that become available during different times of the year. The layers provide linear corridors for multiple activities, highlight the Kowloon Bund, the Kowloon Bridge and the Kowloon Steps, and protect the river's fragile ecology.

While the larger context of *Two Rivers and Four Banks* serves as the overall vision for the city's re engagement with the river, the Resilient Riverfront Design focuses on how to directly and safely interact with the river during dramatic water elevation changes throughout the year.

Three layered spaces along the river and a bridge and stairway transportation system bring residents safely over the Chengyu Railway to the riverfront.

An upper commercial area provides shops and a large plaza for programmed activities, events and leisure space. The Kowloon Bund Steps, an extension of the giant historic Chongqing staircase, connects this upper area with the other two lower levels.

A second layer, the 'active way' two meters below the commercial space, follows the riverfront. Creative lighting and highly designed green walls using *Ficus Virens*, the city's heritage tree, line the walkway to limit upper level flooding.

Kowloon Gardens, the lower ecological layer, consists of native plants visible during low water. The Kowloon Gardens enhance the river's landscape during dry seasons helping residents understand the river's riparian ecology.

Chongqing's innovative and resilient public space design reactivates city life along this shore of the Yangtze River and adds creative green space to the river's newly evolving urban landscape.





MYP

The Waterfront Center



2021 Excellence on the Waterfront Awards



MYP



Photo: PRISM



Photo: PRISM



Photo: MYP



Photo: PRISM

Honor Award
PLAN

Vishakapatnam
Beachfront
Redevelopment
Project

Vishakapatnam
Andhra Pradesh
India



Submitted by:
Harsh Goel
INI Design Studio
Ahmedabad, Gujarat
India

**Greater Vishakapatnam
Municipal Corporation**
Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
India

Resources:
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This project is a comprehensive master plan for a 30 km beachfront in Visakhapatnam, a city of 2 million people on the Bay of Bengal on India's eastern shore. It includes detailed restoration plans for beach and urban infrastructure damaged during Hud-Hud Cyclone in 2014; redesign of the entire site to conserve cultural sites and ecologically sensitive habitats (e.g. turtle nesting sites and sand dunes), and; improvements to mixed uses that range from urban areas to parks, fishermen settlements, tourist and vendor areas.

Dense uses along this beach create its diverse character but fragment its visual and experiential quality for residents and visitors. Sporadic development, severe beach erosion and a dramatic elevation difference

between the existing beach promenade and the water's edge illustrate serious issues facing the area.

The goal of the master plan is to recreate a healthy active beachfront that accommodates all users within a restored urban beach ecology zone that can withstand heavy use and evolving climate changes.

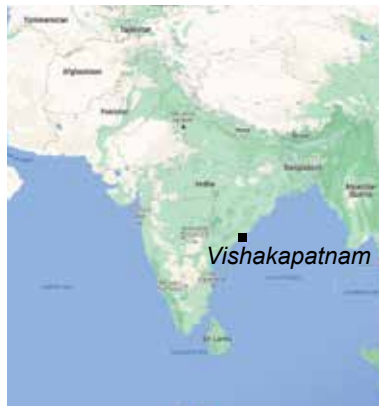
Seven strategies define the plan based on extensive site analyses and consultations with stakeholders and related groups. They include:

- 1 Restore the natural ecology of the beach to offset storm surges.
- 2 Restore and build man-made assets.
- 3 Enhance and strengthen coastal livelihoods.

- 4 Build resilient beachfront infrastructure.
- 5 Strengthen physical and experiential public spaces along and with the beachfront.
- 6 Integrate the beachfront into the larger city and development network.
- 7 Develop additional public spaces based on current and anticipated needs.

The plan's unifying design details include a continuous 14 km cycling path, consistent signing, bench and lighting design, retaining walls with stepped seating focused on key water views, and native vegetation to revitalize the beachfront's ecology and to better integrate it into the larger urban waterfront landscape.

Nine location-specific intervention plans identify detailed designs for or improvements to existing uses, multi-use destinations and facilities that respond to specific user needs (i.e. vendors, fishermen).



Proposed Rushikonda Beach

The Waterfront Center

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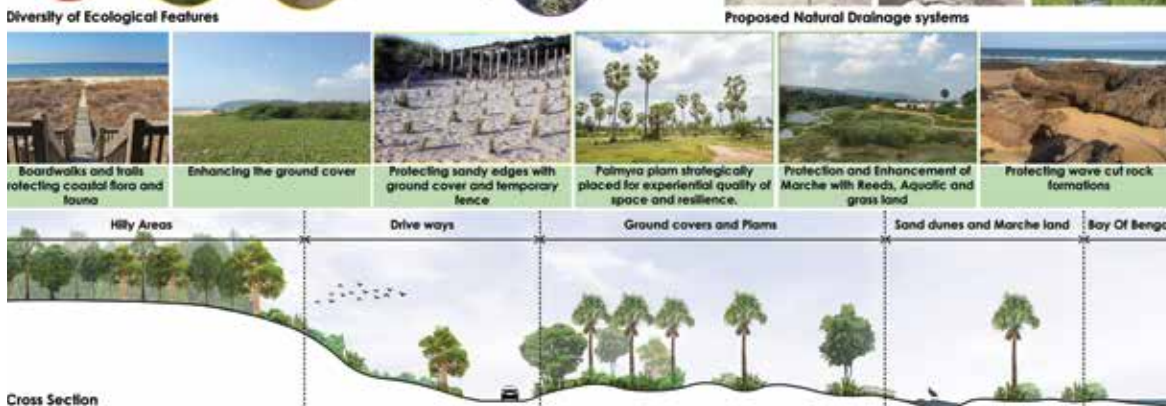


INI Design Studio



The goal of the master plan is to recreate a healthy active beachfront that accommodates all users within a restored urban beach ecology zone that can withstand heavy use and evolving climate changes.

LANDSCAPE STRATEGIES- ADDRESSING THE ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF THE SITE





Clearwater Award
Citizen and non-profit group
waterfront accomplishments

Nisqually Land Trust
Lewis, Thurston & Pierce Counties
Washington
USA



Photo: Tom Leeson, Western Rivers Conservancy

Submitted by:
Chris Carlson & Steve Durrant
Seattle, Washington
USA

Jeanette Dornier
Executive Director
Nisqually Land Trust
Olympia, Washington
USA

Resources:
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The Clearwater Award is named for the group of volunteers based in Beacon, New York, whose mission was to help clean up the Hudson River. The organization was formed by the late Pete Seeger

The Nisqually Land Trust, founded in 1989, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the acquisition, management and permanent protection of critical lands, water, and wildlife within the Nisqually River watershed in Washington state. The Nisqually River drains a large watershed off the southern slope of Mt. Rainier National Park and flows over 81 miles into the southern end of Puget Sound through the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Five species of salmon and steelhead trout, and important upland wildlife inhabit the watershed. The river is also the territorial center of the Nisqually Indian Tribe's traditional homeland, as it has been for thousands of years.

The Land Trust's conservation and protection priorities are guided by the *Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan*, developed and managed by the Nisqually River Council in response to a 1985 state legislative directive, and by the *Nisqually Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plans* coordinated by the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The Land Trust was formed in response to the need by the Tribe and other conservation advocates for an independent organization to assist in accomplishing the goals of these plans through acquiring and stewarding important lands in the watershed.

The Land Trust works in three zones of the watershed: the anadromous salmon producing reaches of the Lower Nisqually River; the heavily forested timberlands of the Upper Nisqually River below Mt. Rainier, and; the marine habitats within the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve on Puget Sound. It acquires them where possible, restores them to the highest quality habitat levels, and stewards these watershed lands through its extensive volunteer and partner programs.

Key examples of the Trust's projects and initiatives include:

Wilcox North Property. Acquisition of 174 acres of intact upland and shoreline property, including 100 acres of pristine floodplain and one mile of intact wild salmon and steelhead trout river habitat (photo above). A very complex land transaction for the Land Trust but one of its most rewarding, and an outstanding example of how it works with the Nisqually Tribe and other partners in the watershed.

Ohop Creek Restoration. The second largest fish-producing tributary of the Nisqually River and one of the largest stream restoration projects in Washington state. The Land Trust has acquired and restored over 2.4 meander miles of the creek with partners and volunteers.

Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve. Protection of a 2,500-acre wildlife corridor that connects federal, state and county lands to the main entrance to Mount Rainier National Park.

Nisqually Community Forest Project. Creates a landscape-scale working forest to manage environmental, economic and recreation values in the upper Nisqually River watershed. In 2014 the Forest was legally incorporated as a subsidiary of the Land Trust. Today, the Community Forest and the Nisqually Tribe manage thousands of acres of critical upper valley tributary forest lands near the Mount Rainier Gateway Reserve. The Community Forest is the largest locally owned forests in Washington state and the first in the Puget Sound region.

Nisqually Carbon Project. The first forest carbon credit project in the Pacific Northwest was launched by the Land Trust five years ago. Microsoft was the first buyer of carbon credits



Photo: Nisqually Land Trust



Photo: Nisqually Land Trust



Photo: Nisqually Land Trust



Photo: Nisqually Land Trust



Photo: Nisqually Land Trust



Photo: Nisqually Land Trust



from the original 520-acre project in the foothills of Mt. Rainier. The Land Trust and the Community Forest are now working with carbon credit broker Bluesource to quantify and sell carbon credits generated on an additional 3400 acres of forest. The sale of these credits will be available for the Land Trust to reinvest in forest stewardship.

Nisqually Indian Tribe

The Nisqually Indian Tribe is a Coast Salish federally recognized nation that has lived in and managed the Nisqually River watershed for thousands of years. It has always been a fishing people with salmon as the core of its diet and the foundation of its culture. As the prime steward of the Nisqually River's fisheries resources, it is a critical partner with the Land Trust in the protection of the watershed's water and land habitats.

For hundreds of years the Nisqually Indian Tribe fought a civil rights struggle to uphold its traditional fishing rights, including the right to manage its own fishery resources. In 1974, the Boldt Decision in the US Court of Appeals finally affirmed and upheld the treaty rights of Washington tribes to harvest up to 50% of the returning salmon within their traditional territories, and to co-manage the fishery with the State of Washington, a landmark decision for the Nisqually and other treaty tribes.

Billy Frank Jr., a tribal leader in the treaty rights battles, became the fisheries manager and wrote a recovery plan for the Tribe's traditional fishery, including actions to recover the river's capacity to regenerate the resource. Billy became a hero among conservation advocates in the Pacific Northwest for his tireless work and his innate ability to collaborate with diverse interests. He died in 2014 but his legacy lives on through the Nisqually River Council and the Land Trust's continuous commitment to the river's protection through acquisition and collaboration with partners and volunteers.

Today

Pressures on the Nisqually River and its tributaries continue to intensify and threaten salmon and wildlife habitats as the Puget Sound region grows. As the lead nongovernmental on-the-ground conservation organization focused on the Nisqually watershed, the Land Trust possesses a well-earned reputation for its successes. Today some 78% of the Nisqually River's shoreline and riparian habitat is in permanent conservation status thanks to Land Trust and other public ownerships, making it one of the most protected rivers in the state of Washington.

The Trust has also received awards for its persistence in working with diverse interests throughout the watershed, and for its extensive volunteer programs. It began as a volunteer organization with a river focus and continues to emphasize this essential mission, whether in leadership, governance, coordination or stewardship.



Photo: Nisqually Land Trust

The Land Trust's creation was inspired by Billy Frank Jr's vision for the river 'to bring justice back to the Nisqually Indians who for so long have witnessed their fishing economy and way of life attacked and destroyed, and who now have hope and trust they will witness its steady recovery thanks to their long standing commitment to this place.'

George Walter

Founding Executive Director
Nisqually Land Trust

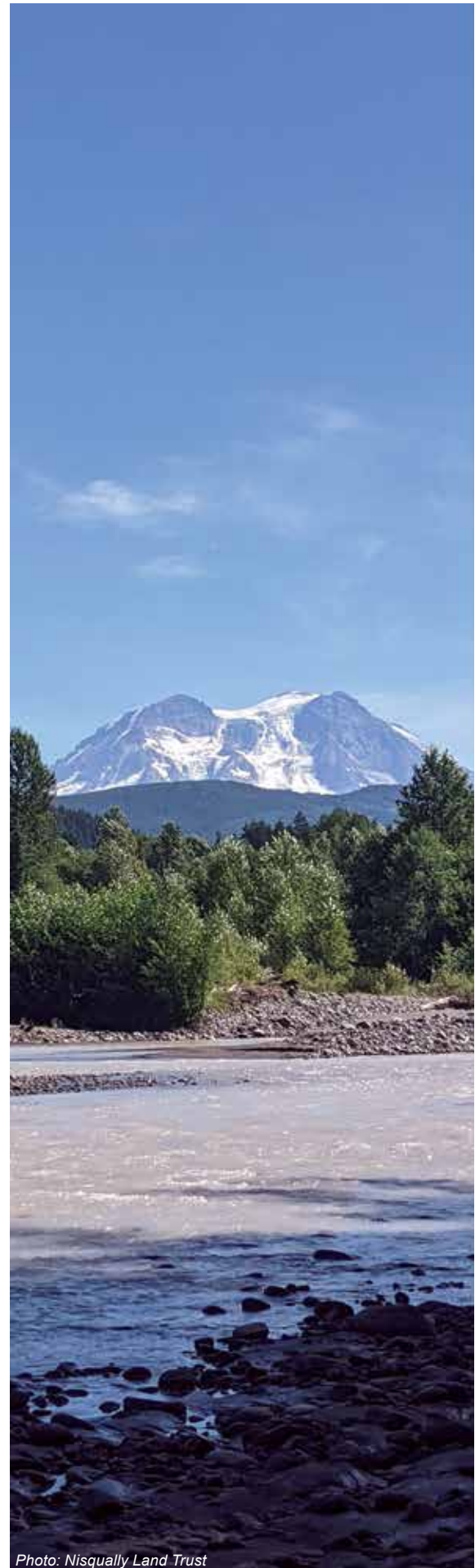
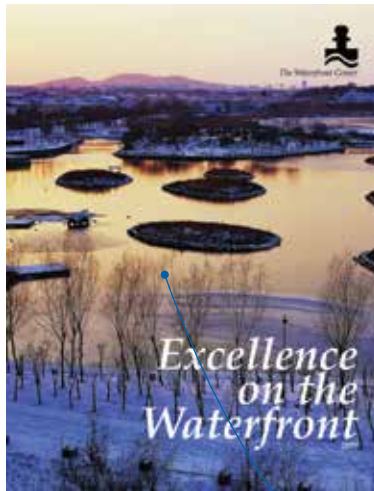
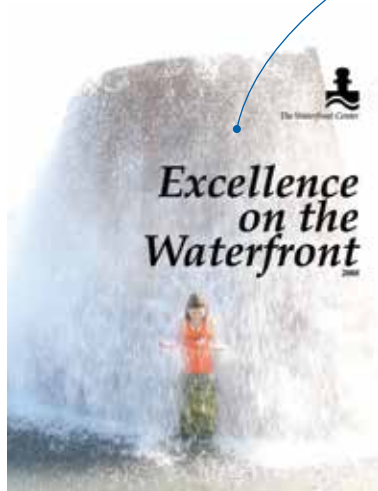


Photo: Nisqually Land Trust



From the editors

The *Excellence on the Waterfront Awards* program began in 1987. Since at least 2004, we have been producing awards booklets showcasing the inspiring images and characteristics that bring these projects to life.

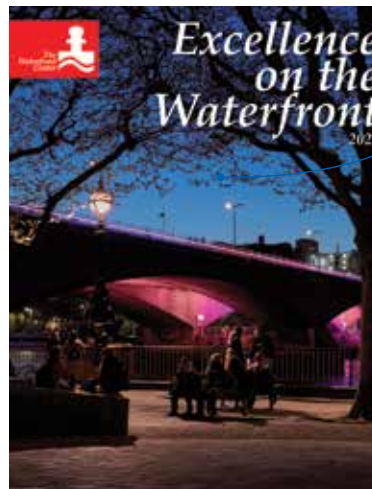
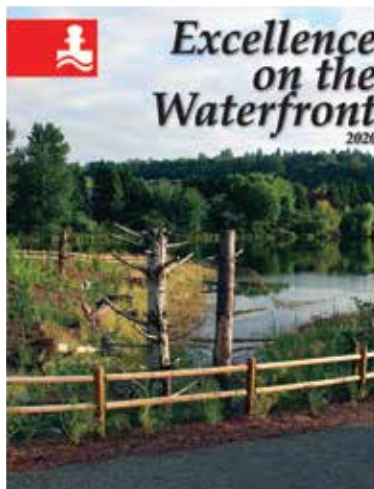
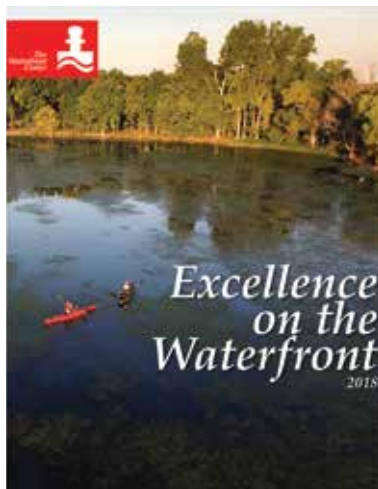
Its often a challenging assignment to choose the most expressive and honest images from 20 or more available per submittal. It is equally challenging, in such limited space, to describe what makes them special.

The covers are another matter. Some years the cover image makes itself known immediately like the **playful** Harborside Fountain Park in Bremerton, Washington (2008) the **solo kayaker** in Silo Park in Auckland, New Zealand (2012) or the **winter** scene in Qinhuangdao, China (2009).

Erie Basin Park, Brooklyn New York (2010) and Illuminated River, London (2021) leapt to cover slots with their dramatic views of **nighttime** public space.

2021 has been a bumper year for project awardees so we have expanded the booklet to 24 pages packed with material. We hope you enjoy the show.

Chris Carlson
Steve Durrant



Many of the *Excellence on the Waterfront* books are available in print at mail@waterfrontcenter.org



The Waterfront Center is a non-profit, public interest educational organization working to assist waterfront communities make the wisest long-term use of their urban waterfront resources. Based in Washington D.C. and consisting of members throughout the world, the Center uses workshops, community consultations, conferences, awards programs and publications to help communities understand how their waterfront resources can contribute to community economic, social, recreational and aesthetic vitality. Since its founding in 1981, the Center has helped hundreds of communities of every size on every continent. For more information about its philosophy and work, contact:

www.waterfrontcenter.org

*Juneau Downtown Seawalk
Juneau, Alaska
Photo: J.A. Brennan Associates, PLLC*