

East Bay Public Plaza

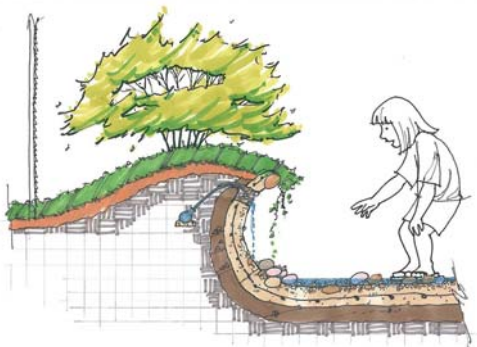
The new East Bay Public Plaza will serve as the heart of the East Bay district, providing a vibrant, inviting open space filled with thought-provoking interpretive elements focused on the importance of water. The project is a joint effort of the LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, City of Olympia, and the Hands On Children's Museum. Construction of the plaza will cost approximately \$3.4 million, and be complete by summer 2012.

Project Description: This project involves the construction of a stream-like water feature, walking paths, public seating, a restroom, landscaping, and interpretive elements. It will be open to the public as a gathering space, serving to improve connections between the Port peninsula, downtown Olympia, and the East Bay waterfront.

The East Bay Public Plaza includes a 0.74-acre parcel located just south of the new Hands On Children's Museum site, on Olympia Avenue NE between Marine Drive and Jefferson Avenue. The plaza also extends west across Jefferson to the undeveloped space next to the new LOTT Regional Services Center.

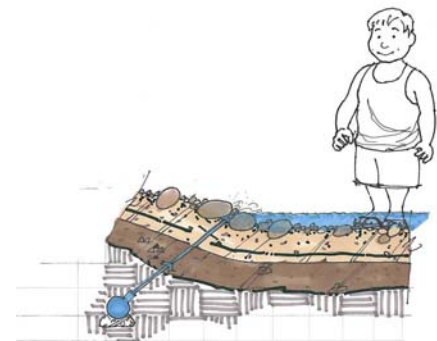


Project Vision: The East Bay Public Plaza will serve as a public meeting space, drawing the public toward the East Bay waterfront for everyday visits and special events, such as the Hands On Children's Museum annual Sand in the City event. The plaza is intended to improve public access to the waterfront, and complement existing open spaces such as Percival Landing, Port Plaza, and North Point. It will also serve to link the Hands On Children's Museum with LOTT's WET Science Center, supporting the district's educational theme with interpretive elements that reflect the importance of water to our communities, our health, and the environment. The landscape architectural firm Robert W. Droll & Associates of Lacey designed the plaza to create an inviting, safe, vibrant public space. The design has qualified the project as one of only eleven pilot projects for the new national Site Initiatives Certification Program for sustainable landscape design.



The focal point of the main plaza will be a stream-like water feature that uses Class A Reclaimed Water produced at LOTT's nearby Budd Inlet Reclaimed Water Plant. Visitors will be invited to interact with this urban "stream," and learn more about our local water resources. Simulated springs, bronze sculptures of wildlife, and other natural features will create opportunities for exploration and learning. Waterlines – thought-provoking quotes artistically inlaid in the surrounding concrete – will encourage reflection on the

role and importance of water in our everyday lives. A series of bronze markers will offer insights to the area's history. Public art in the southeast corner of the plaza will share the focus on water with a unique steel gateway reflecting the water cycle. Across Jefferson



Street, a demonstration habitat site will feature a small wetland also fed by reclaimed water and supporting aquatic vegetation.

Construction Activities: Construction will require soil testing, removal of contamination, excavation, installation of equipment and utilities, and construction of the water feature, hardscape surfaces, interpretive elements, restroom structure, and landscaping. Noise and increased truck traffic related to construction activity is expected. Environmental cleanup will occur as part of the project, under an Interim Action Plan east of Jefferson Street and a Voluntary Cleanup Work Plan west of Jefferson Street. Both cleanup plans are under the guidance of the Washington State Department of Ecology. Soil and groundwater testing will be conducted throughout the construction activity to ensure proper removal of contamination. The contractor for plaza construction is Berschauer Phillips Construction of Tumwater.



Cost: The construction cost of the East Bay Public Plaza is estimated at \$3.4 million. The 0.74-acre parcel for the main plaza east of Jefferson Street was sold to LOTT by the Port of Olympia for \$1.00. The Port is also contributing approximately \$30,000 for interpretive elements. The City of Olympia will contribute \$500,000 toward construction costs, with the remainder provided by LOTT. LOTT will own and operate the plaza, with assistance from the City of Olympia to maintain the restroom facility and provide solid waste pickup. All four partners of the East Bay revitalization effort – LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, City of Olympia, and the Hands On Children’s Museum – have contributed to the plaza to ensure that it is a valuable community asset for years to come.

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