

First projects hit the home stretch in giant waterfront development metamorphosis



The latest rendering of the Waterfront Vancouver. Some of the first projects will be wrapping up in the next few months.

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By [Jon Bell](#)

– Staff Reporter, Portland Business Journal

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In less than a month, metro region residents and visitors could be able to dine on fresh Northwest clams and smoked salmon while taking in expansive views over the Columbia River.

That's when [WildFin American Grill](#) plans to open its fourth Washington restaurant, this one at Block 9 in the Waterfront Vancouver development. The restaurant will be the first to open in the development, which at full buildout could deliver \$1.5 billion worth of projects, including 3,300 residential units, more than 1 million square feet of office space and plenty of retail and restaurant spaces.

"It's all great being in Vancouver," said [Barry Cain](#), president of [Gramor Development](#), which is spearheading much of the Waterfront Vancouver development. "Being south-facing there on the Columbia, the park and all the restaurants, it's going to make for a really nice spot for people to live and work and visit."

About a month after WildFin opens its doors, a second restaurant, Twigs, should open in a nearby building on Block 12. Barlow Public House, a brewpub, should open later this year on the floor above Twigs.

Cain said the adjacent park and the Grant Street Pier should open around the same time as the restaurants.

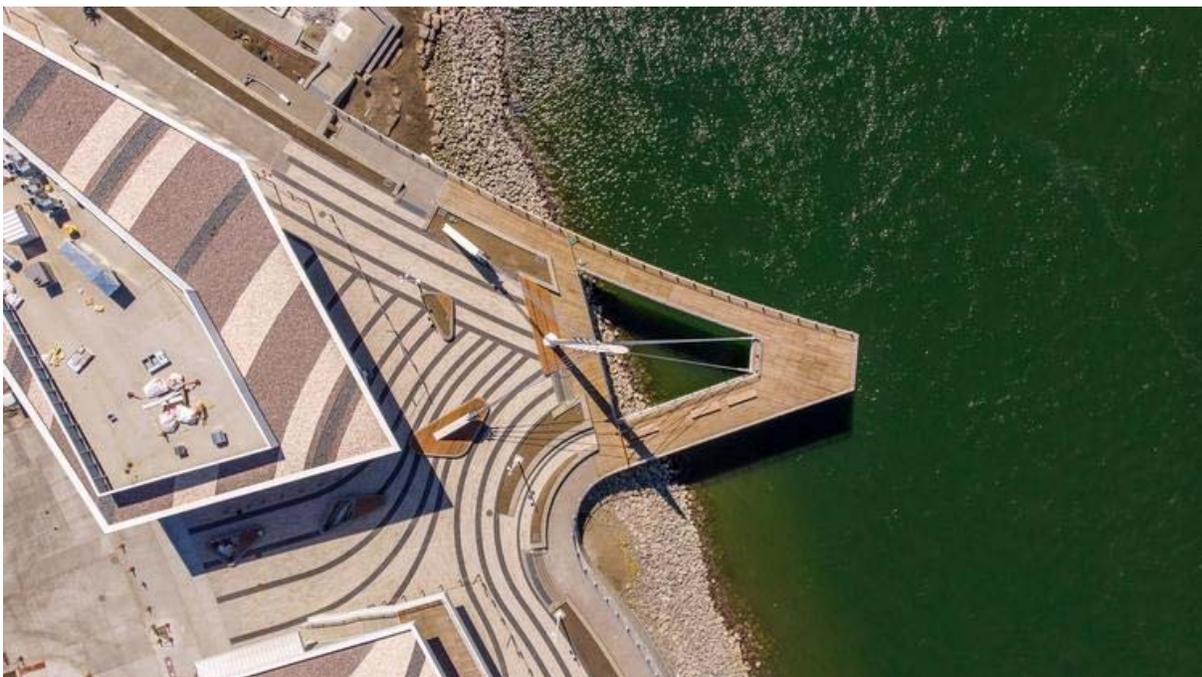


Two restaurant buildings and a new park will be the first projects to open in the Waterfront Vancouver development starting in about a month. (Photo by Eric Anderson, Colliers International)

HOME OF THE DAY

Later this fall, the development's first office building will open. [Its tenants include](#) the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Chicago Title & Fidelity National Title Company and the law firm [McKean Smith](#).

Right around the same time, the project's first residential building will welcome tenants. After that, Gramor has a second apartment building under construction; Kirkland Development is also building the Hotel Indigo and a 40-unit condo project on a nearby block.



An aerial view of the ongoing development. (Photo by Eric Anderson, Colliers International)

If all that sounds like a lot of development, it is. But it's also not all that's in the works. Cain said he sold Block 3 to Lake Oswego's [Summit Development Group](#), which plans to add a 251-unit mixed-use building made of cross-laminated timber. Gramor also plans a 14-story condo building on Block 16 that is expected to break ground next year.

"On top of that, we have 14 more blocks," Cain said, "so there's still quite a bit to go."

He believes the waterfront development is just one of many new projects that are re-energizing Vancouver.

"I think when people see how quickly everything fills up and how amazing it is to be south-facing on the Columbia River, then there will be more people wanting to participate," he said. "It's a pretty positive situation over there."