



Waterfront revitalization still going strong in Vancouver

For [Visit Vancouver WA](#)

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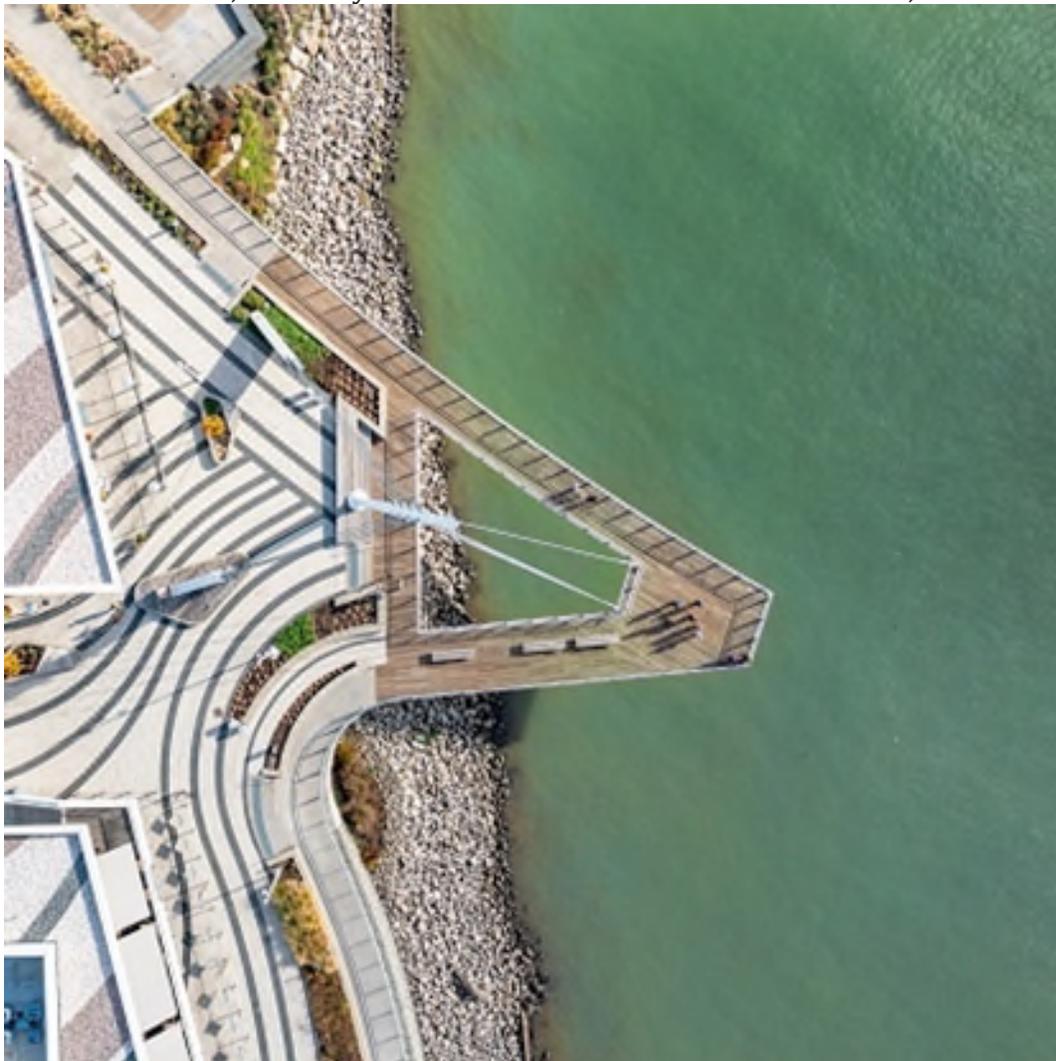
Where the Columbia River meets the shoreline, Vancouver's small-town hospitality meets big-city sophistication.

The Vancouver Waterfront boasts open public spaces as expansive as views across the Columbia — punctuated with shops, restaurants and cultural experiences as diverse as the people who flock here.

“There’s so many different things for different types of people to do,” says Erica Lindemann, director of marketing for Visit Vancouver WA. “It’s definitely lively all parts of the day.”

Morning joggers, dog walkers and coffee drinkers get their fix along the Waterfront’s half-mile stretch of south-facing vista. Local favorite [Kafix Roasters Gastro Café](#) got its start years ago at the Vancouver Farmers Market and now serves certified organic and fair trade coffee from brick-and-mortar spots downtown and at the Vancouver Waterfront.

Hustle and bustle hits the Waterfront around lunchtime, says Lindemann, when diners have their pick of traditional fish ‘n’ chips, artisan pizza, Latin cuisine and American favorites. The new [Waterfront Taphouse](#) serves upscale pub fare overlooking scenic Grant Street Pier, which symbolizes the riverfront’s revitalization, said Lindemann.



“It’s a really great spot to grab a local beer, paired with one of the best patio views in Vancouver.”

Ruse Brewing’s [Crust Collective](#) prepares Detroit-style pies in a family-friendly taproom pouring brews popular in nearby Portland. [The Yard Milkshake Bar](#) entices young and

old alike with 25 ice cream flavors, 60 toppings, eight cookie doughs and gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options.

Families can take their treats to Waterfront Park. Here, more than seven acres of open lawn, beach and picnic areas inspire afternoons of cartwheeling on the grass, sculpting in the sand and soaking up summer's slower pace. Kids are compelled to cool off in the Headwaters Wall's interactive play feature, which highlights regional geography in a bronze topographical map of the Columbia watershed.

"It's a really fun spot for parents to bring their kids to play in the water on a hot summer day," said Lindemann.

Waterfront fun continues into the evening with live music, fine dining and wine, beer and spirits to please any palate. Waterfront wineries and breweries meet a tequila bar at [DOSALAS Latin Kitchen](#), a martini bar at [Twigs Bistro](#) and whiskey bar at [Stack 571](#). Friday evenings through mid-August host the Waterfront Park Concert Series, where music lovers can savor their own picnics during the show. The venue also offers boaters a unique opportunity to enjoy concerts while on the water.

Lighting around the Waterfront after sunset is among the thoughtfully designed aspects of this 20-block mixed-use development, said Lindemann. Completion in 2018 of the Waterfront's first phase beckoned people back to the site — with any tangible sense of accessibility — for the first time in more than 100 years, she said.

"Nearly two decades ago, the waterfront space was home to a paper mill, and even before that, it was a shipyard," said Lindemann. You'll see symbols of that history around the waterfront now, ultimately telling the story of opportunity that first began with the native peoples establishing diverse villages along the north shore.

"I think it's important we didn't forget where we started."



Journeys along the [Clark County Wine Trail](#) can start from the Waterfront. [Maryhill Winery](#), [Airfield Estates](#), [Brian Carter Cellars](#), [Barnard Griffin Winery](#), [Valo Cellars](#) & [Massalto Wine](#) and [Pepper Bridge Winery](#) & [Amavi Cellars](#) each are within just a few blocks. The group soon will expand to include Evoke Wine Bar inside the forthcoming Hotel Indigo, as well as Willamette Valley Vineyards' new foray into full-service restaurants.

Traveling the Wine Trail is as easy as downloading the pass from the [Visit Vancouver WA](#) website. Then chart a course from the Waterfront through the outskirts of Clark County and north to the rolling hills around Ridgefield. Check in at eight participating wineries or tasting rooms by Sept. 6 for a chance to win a \$50 winery gift card, etched wine glass and Washington state cutting board.

The Wine Trail is one of several free, mobile-friendly passes available for download under Visit Vancouver WA's "free things to do" tab online. The "Find Your Couve" Scavenger Hunt unlocks nine key places that tell Vancouver's story.

The Clark County Parks & Trails pass guides locals and visitors to 20 of the area's best outdoor spots for recreation and relaxation — with prize drawings through Sept. 30. Among pass destinations are Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and Esther Short Park, a five-acre gem in the heart of downtown Vancouver, touted as Washington's oldest public square. Both are within a half-mile of the Waterfront, said Lindemann.

"It's kind of this triangle of our greatest attractions," she said. "It's very walkable."

The route conjures nostalgia for American Main Streets, where newcomers encounter friendly greetings from welcoming residents and business owners — qualities commonly associated with Vancouver, said Lindemann.

“People still consider our downtown a small community vibe,” she said “We’re still holding onto some of those small-town amenities people really enjoy.”

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