

## Waterfront Renaissance Trail

*“The Waterfront Renaissance Trail connects Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver with Marine Park along a paved five-mile long riverfront trail perfect for walking, jogging, biking or rollerblading. With gorgeous views of the I-5 and I-205 bridges and Mount Hood, this trail is a west Vancouver stunner.”*  
(City of Vancouver Washington Parks and Recreation)

**Key features:** Placement of large wood, riparian plantings, and bank stabilization measures

**Location:** Vancouver, Washington

**Lead entity:** City of Vancouver

**Status:** Complete

**Cost:** \$2,066,000 (City of Vancouver 2015)

**Size:** 5 miles (restored area approximately 3000 feet of shoreline)



**Figure 1, Waterfront Renaissance trail with views of natural and built features.**

### 1.1 WATERFRONT RENAISSANCE TRAIL

The Vancouver Renaissance Trail was rebuilt between 2013 and 2015 in response to a 2011 flood that eroded much of the foundation underneath the existing trail, rendering it unsafe. This 5 mile trail connects downtown Vancouver with Kaiser Viewing Tower, the Marine Park, Water Resources Education Center, and Wintler Park. While erosion control was the main goal of this project, steps were taken to also improve shallow water habitat along the banks. (City of Vancouver 2015)

370 rootwads were installed in the streambank to provide erosion control and aquatic habitat, while barbs constructed out of rootwads, rock, and pilings help to slow water velocities near the bank. 16,000 tons of rock and 2,500 trees and shrubs were brought in to stabilize the bank (the pre-2011 bank was sand). (City of Vancouver 2015)



**Figure 2, Stabilized bank, rootwads, and barbs along the trail. Shown immediately after construction.**

This trail takes advantage of both built (I-5 and I-205 bridges) and natural (Mt. Hood and the Columbia river) features by providing gorgeous views. (City of Vancouver 2015)



**Figure 3, View of I-5 and I-205 from the Waterfront Renaissance trail.**

## References

- City of Vancouver. "Vancouver's Columbia River Waterfront Trail Reopens." City of Vancouver, Washington. January 23, 2015. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/vancouver%E2%80%99s-columbia-river-waterfront-trail-reopens>>.
- City of Vancouver. "Waterfront Renaissance Trail (5 miles)." City of Vancouver, Washington. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec/page/waterfront-renaissance-trail-5-miles>>.

## Figure References

- Figure 1: Intertwine Alliance. *Photo 1*. Digital Image. The Intertwine. 2013. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://theintertwine.org/parks/waterfront-renaissance-trail>>.
- Figure 2: City of Vancouver. *Vancouver's Columbia River Waterfront Trail Reopens*. Digital Image. City of Vancouver, Washington. January 23, 2015. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/vancouver%E2%80%99s-columbia-river-waterfront-trail-reopens>>.
- Figure 3: City of Vancouver Washington Parks & Recreation. *Waterfront Renaissance Trail (5 miles)*. Digital Image. City of Vancouver Washington Parks & Recreation. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec/page/waterfront-renaissance-trail-5-miles>>.

## Image References

- Bikers and Mt Hood: Intertwine Alliance. *Photo 1*. Digital Image. The Intertwine. 2013. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://theintertwine.org/parks/waterfront-renaissance-trail>>.
- Walkers: City of Vancouver Washington Parks & Recreation. *Waterfront Renaissance Trail (5 miles)*. Digital Image. City of Vancouver Washington Parks & Recreation. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec/page/waterfront-renaissance-trail-5-miles>>.
- Habitat: City of Vancouver. *Vancouver's Columbia River Waterfront Trail Reopens*. Digital Image. City of Vancouver, Washington. January 23, 2015. Web. September 4, 2015. <<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/vancouver%E2%80%99s-columbia-river-waterfront-trail-reopens>>.