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LANDSCAPE DESIGN • CIVIC, RESIDENTIAL

2019 WINNER

LANDSCAPE DESIGN:
CIVIC, RESIDENTIAL

Dune Peninsula at Point Defiance Park

Site Workshop Landscape
Architecture





IN 1993, THE 571-FOOT-TALL ASARCO SMELTER SMOKESTACK ON TACOMA'S POINT DEFIANCE WAS DEMOLISHED, MARKING A TURNING POINT IN THE AREA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS.

During ASARCO's more than 70-year-long tenure, the smelter had formed a manmade peninsula by dumping lead and arsenic slag into Puget Sound, polluting 1,000 square miles of soil across the sound's main basin. This past August, Seattle's Site Workshop Landscape Architecture completed a decades-long project with Metro Parks

Tacoma and the local community to transform the slag peninsula into a park. "The project highlights the tension between the site's productive industrial past and its rich natural surroundings," writes Site in its awards submission, reflecting, "the complex identity of Tacoma and its aspirations for the future."

Sprawling across 11 of the park's 46 acres, the project includes three sail mounds (or artificial hills) composed of contaminated landfill capped with clean soil and stone terraces. On the north end of the peninsula, one mound's slope

forms an amphitheater, and a concrete stage was added to host outdoor events. The top layer of the site is covered with naturally sourced native-prairie flora of the type once seen throughout Pierce County but now found in only 3 percent of the Puget Sound area.

Site commissioned Portland-based artist Adam Kuby to commemorate Dune Peninsula's checkered past with interactive art installations. He installed a series of increasingly smaller steel pipes to represent the dismantling of the notorious smokestack—once the world's tallest—that once dominated

DUNE PENINSULA AT POINT DEFIANCE PARK



the plot. Site also designed a slender 550-foot-long pedestrian bridge to connect the park to the redeveloped waterfront and a trail to downtown Tacoma, providing urbanites with immediate access to nature. From the bridge, park-goers can take in unobstructed views of Commencement Bay and the Puget Sound mountain ranges. “The park connects visitors to this story with engaging forms, details, and art,” Site writes, “while creating a diverse array of recreational spaces for discovery, play, and enjoying the natural beauty of the region.” ✱

PROJECT DETAILS

COLLABORATORS

Adam Kuby
BOEarchitects
Center for Natural Lands Management
COWI
Cross Engineers
GeoEngineers
Jacobs Engineering Group
Michael Courtney Design
Parametrix
Project Delivery Analysts
Resource ISWP
Rozewood Environmental Services

LOCATION

Tacoma, Washington

DATE OF COMPLETION

August 2019