

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.

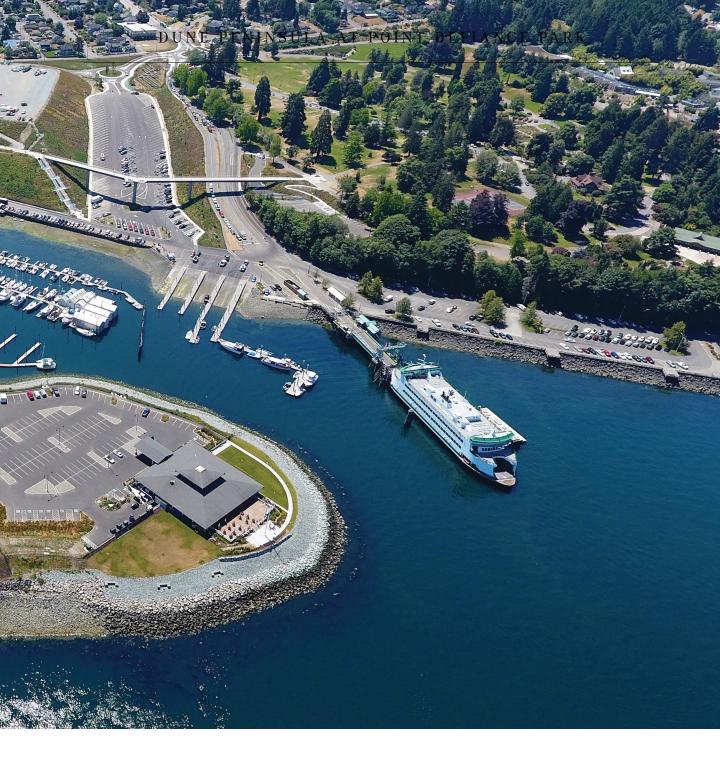
During ASARCO's more than 70-yearlong tenure, the smelter had formed a manmade peninsula by dumping lead and arsenic slag into Puget Sound, polluting 1,000 square miles of soil across the sound's main basin. This past August, Seattle's Site Workshop Landscape Architecture completed a decades-long project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

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CONTRACTOR OF



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." 業

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

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