

## Southeast False Creek

**Location:** Vancouver, Canada **Designer:** PwL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc **Photographer:** PwL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc **Completion date:** 2008 **Size:** 320,000 sqm



1. Community Gardens
2. West Pedestrian Promenade
3. Timber Boardwalk
4. Wetland Bridge

Waterfront Park Phase 1 represents the first phase of Southeast False Creek's primary park and open space system and a 650-metre extension of Vancouver's iconic seawall. Through walkways, bicycle paths, diverse seating and gathering areas the park provides a variety of vital green spaces that will reconnect people with the heritage-rich waterfront and offer unique experiences unlike any other in Vancouver.

Social opportunities and cultural heritage were carefully integrated with the project's ecological design features. The site's past life as a shipyard, rail yard, and industrial centre are reflected in the design narrative, material selection, and construction detailing. People have been reintroduced to False Creek through a series of stone terraces and a tidal amphitheatre that lead to the water; all were constructed with locally-sourced granite.

Naturally, an important part of this public space's ecology is its ability to engage people and impart a sense of discovery and fun. Distinctive lounge chairs inspired by the wings of a seagull are enjoyed by people of all ages and have become one of the most recognisable features of the new Waterfront Park. Metal swivel chairs allow 360° views of the neighbourhood, downtown peninsula, and mountains. To complement the industrial materials in the park, native plantings punctuated by strips of ornamental grasses provide movement and texture to the landscape while reintroducing long-absent living materials to the site.

Waterfront Park – Phase 1 completes the existing waterfront promenade and bike lanes found throughout the False Creek and Downtown Vancouver areas. This innovative project demonstrates that environmentally sensitive design is completely at home in a dense residential and commercial neighbourhood and shines even brighter when layered with historical references, social spaces, and recreational opportunities.

### Award description:

2010 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Lovable Communities Awards  
 2010 Canadian Institute of Planners – Award of Excellence in Neighbourhood Planning  
 2010 Canadian Urban Institute Brownie Award  
 2009 The Waterfront Centre – Honour Award  
 2009 CSLA Professional Awards – National Merit  
 2008 Design Exchange Awards – Award of Merit  
 2006 Royal Architecture Institute of Canada Urban Design Award – Honour Award



Right: Bridge to science world

