

RAMPS TO NOWHERE HISTORIC MARKER

Washington Park Arboretum and the RH Thomson Expressway

Client: Seattle ARCH, seattle-arch.org

Year: 2021



Celebrating Seattle's Environmental and Social Justice Activism, Past and Present

You may have noticed this small but significant SR 520 freeway remnant – a simple structural arch, or “bent,” recently preserved and integrated into the Washington Park Arboretum landscape. It will be integrated into a larger redesign of the north end of the arboretum. It is a physical and temporal marker, symbolizing the citywide movement of a diverse coalition of activists that stopped the freeway expansion and destruction of homes, neighborhoods, and parks. It stands as an enduring reminder of what could have been and celebrates the power of grassroots civic activism.

Definition

Bent: A load-bearing substructure unit that supports a bridge's superstructure/ roadway. A bent typically consists of columns/piles and a beam/cap.

“It is proposed for Seattle to have the densest system of highways of any city in the entire world. Will the city we are making be livable for this and coming generations?”

*Maynard Arsove, President,
Citizens Against the RH Thomson*