

O & Railroad Avenues Interventions: Five Small-scale Retrofits with Big Public Impact

With grant funding received from the Skagit Marine Resource Committee, HBB assisted the Port of Anacortes in a retrofit of O Avenue and Railroad Avenue in downtown Anacortes. The interventions mitigated ecological impacts created by shipyard operations. The improvements integrated low-impact stormwater design features and provided public access in five locations along an industrial waterfront. The first replaced approximately 15 parking stalls with permeable unit pavers and a stormwater treatment system adjacent to the Port's Transit Shed. The second improved planting above a rock embankment. It also integrated a small "amphitheater" staircase into the embankment that provides public access to a 500 LF stretch of beach as well as seating during low tides. The third intervention redirects rainwater collected from adjacent warehouse roofs through over-scale, brightly colored, and whimsical, watering cans into four small rain gardens. The fourth retrofit improved a 200SF pocket park with the addition of solar-powered bollards, a picnic table with seating, and buffer plants. A large redwood tree, valued by the local community, was preserved and integrated into the pocket park design. The final intervention involved turning a large concrete slag pile into a public outdoor viewing terrace. The terrace incorporates recycled glass aggregate paving, cable guardrail, seating, and an ornamental, wave-like "screen." Reused steel pilings used in bulkhead construction form the basis of the screen, with art tiles painted by school children embedded in its base. The combined interventions provide residents and visitors to Anacortes with access and views to a section of shoreline that was previously inaccessible, while enhancing water quality through a variety of treatment methods.