

# sbəq<sup>w</sup>a? Village Park and Shoreline Habitat

sbəq<sup>w</sup>a? is the Great Blue Heron

sbəq<sup>w</sup>a? Park and Shoreline Habitat (s-bah-qwah), formerly known as Terminal 108 Park/Diagonal Park, is situated near the ancestral location of ćəqas (TSU-kas), an Indigenous water-related site. This area, once part of Mud Island, marked the division of the original Duwamish River into major channels, characterized by diverse wildlife and fish habitats. The site's largest branch, known as tcE'btcebid, holds significance as a place for harvesting bark from fir trees.

The river and estuary underwent changes for industrial purposes beginning in the early 1900s. During the Great Depression, the site housed informal settlements due to housing needs. Later, King County acquired the land to build a sewage treatment plant that redirected treated sewage from Lake Washington to the Duwamish River, an action tied to discriminatory practices and racial biases. After the plant's closure in 1968, the site transitioned into a chemical processing plant.

In the 1980s, the Port of Seattle took ownership, cleaning up the area for marine cargo usage over the following decade. The current public shoreline access site was developed in three phases from 1986 to 1994, including intertidal habitat restoration, native vegetation installation, and erosion control. Today, this land holds cultural significance for various Indigenous and immigrant communities, contributing to its rich ethnic and linguistic diversity.