

ʔəlalx^w Village Park and Shoreline Habitat

ʔəlalx^w is where herring live and spawn

ʔəlalx^w Village Park and Shoreline Habitat (t-oo-ah-lal-too-wx), formerly known as terminal 105 Park, marks the convergence of the original Duwamish River channels and tidal bay saltwater, creating a habitat-rich marshland. The site is located between the historic villages of yile'qwud (yee-LU-kwuud) and tla'ltu (tol-AHL-tu). Though it was destroyed in 1893 by settlers aiming to expand into West Seattle, there is archeological evidence of tla'ltu village encompassing much of what is now 17th Avenue S.W. In the early 1900s, industrialization prompted the straightening and deepening of the Duwamish River, resulting in the creation of Harbor Island using sediment from downtown construction. Harbor Island is still visible today when looking north from ʔəlalx^w Village Park and Shoreline Habitat.

A century ago, this river section was bustling with maritime industries like shipbuilding and metals processing, leading to pollution and contamination. This park served as a storage site and marina for floating homes, one of which was occupied by renowned poet Richard Hugo. The Port of Seattle then purchased the land, and between 1997 and 2012 enhanced the park with restoration features such as a habitat channel that fills and empties with the tide, offering shelter to aquatic wildlife as it mimics the original Duwamish estuary.

Today, volunteers from [People for Puget Sound](#) and [EarthCorps](#) practice habitat restoration in the park, while the Port of Seattle's interns utilized the land for hands-on learning in environmental stewardship and. Community members, including recent immigrants, also use the pier for subsistence fishing, with efforts from King County Public Health to promote safe seafood consumption.