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Ohno Construction Receives Grand Award In WALP's 2011 Environmental Landscape Awards Program

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Public Works Award Recipient From Ohno Construction **Lighthouse Park Shines On The Shores Of Puget Sound**



Two new covered picnic shelters permit use of the park by groups even in inclement weather.

Thousands of people travel daily through Mukilteo on their way to and from Whidbey Island on the Washington State Ferry system. Thousands more periodically enjoy the City's historic and picturesque lighthouse that has guided ships in and out of Everett's harbor and points north. And, thousands more are taking advantage of Mukilteo's newly renovated Lighthouse Park.

The park is a 14.4-acre facility that recently underwent a major face-lift that earned Seattle-based Ohno Construction a Grand Award in WALP's 2011 Environmental Landscape Awards Program. New parking and site furnishings, restroom and picnic facilities, and significant shoreline erosion control measures were all part of the project.

To begin with, Ohno imported 20,000 tons of material to aid soil compaction in the older, existing filled tidelands. The fill had to be re-distributed in the spring to raise the low areas that developed during high tides and winter storms.

In mid-November, the Park was completely under water when a storm hit the Puget Sound area. All work had to be stopped until the water receded. The storm and tidal damage was so severe that the project was featured on the cover of *Pacific Builder & Engineer* magazine.

"Drainage was a constant challenge as work progressed throughout the rainy season," according to Barbara Ohno. "To mitigate erosion of the new fill, more than 80 large logs and bounders were anchored in along 1,500 feet of beachfront to prevent water intrusion during high tides, and the sand dunes were re-built."

Following that, excess soil and waste materials were removed and the existing restrooms demolished. Following demolition, grading was initiated along with the installation of sewer, water, and power lines.

The project involved construction of two picnic shelters, a restroom/maintenance building along with significant site lighting, and installation of native vegetation in planting areas.

A new parking lot was installed, replacing the existing asphalt with Grasspave – a porous pavement that offers the durability of concrete or asphalt with the aesthetics of lawn.

"The use of Grasspave and the corresponding reduction of impermeable surface area at the Park allowed for construction of the new restroom and shelter areas for visitors," Ohno explained.

Permeable drainage was further supported by the installation of a native drainage collection area along the east side of the Park in addition to paver walkways.

While the Park and beach along Mukilteo's beach south of the ferry terminal had been a site for beachcombers, picnickers, and boat launchers for the past six or seven decades, the transformed site has become a much busier and much appreciated addition to the amenities that make Mukilteo a great place to live and visit.

Ohno Construction has been doing major projects since 1966 when the Ohno brothers started the firm while working their way through the University of Washington. The company has evolved into an organization that specializes in public works projects including parks, wetland mitigation, habitat restoration, shoreline enhancement, and athletic facilities. To-date more than 400 projects have been completed, mostly in the Puget Sound region. And, this is not their first project to be a WALP Environmental Landscape Award recipient.

Yoshio Ohno, co-founder and President, is actively involved in the management of every Ohno project and works hard to preserve the company's reputation for high ethical standards, safety, workmanship, and project management.

Cover Photo: Mukilteo's Lighthouse Park has been transformed into a source of community pride and draws thousands of families and individuals throughout the year.



Photo 1

Before: A truck unloads one of the 80-plus logs that were anchored to the beach to mitigate erosion.

Photo 2

During construction: Pilings were installed on the new beach to provide stability to the new buildings.

Photo 3

Fire pits were installed for nighttime bonfires on the beach - very popular with groups who utilize the renovated park.

Photo 4

New benches were installed along the beach walk to provide opportunities for sitting and enjoying the spectacular view across Puget Sound to the Olympic Mountains and Whidbey Island.

Photo 5

The park is a family-friendly facility with a terrific new play area for kids.