

# Concept D: Context Connections

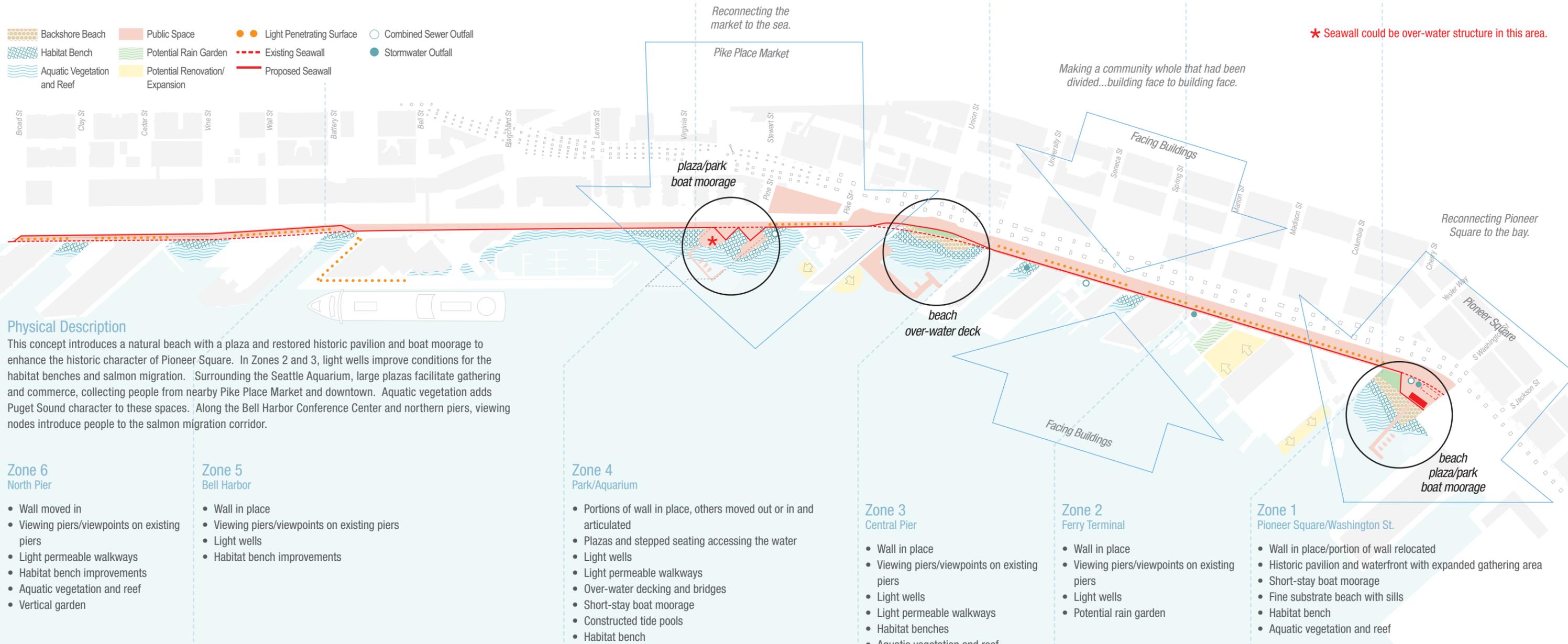
A waterfront connected to adjacent neighborhood character, function, and aesthetic. This concept links distinct waterfront communities at the heart of one of the world's most diverse intersections, producing an environment that connects water and land and enriches as each element passes another.

This concept connects the waterfront to the unique character of the adjacent city neighborhoods. The history of Pioneer Square and the bustle of Pike Place Market are reflected in the waterfront and the seawall design. Pioneer Square may embrace the space south of the Ferry Terminal as its front porch. The threshold of the Central Pier Zone between historic piers and facing buildings currently east of the Viaduct will unify and stimulate a now divided waterfront neighborhood. Near Pike and Union Streets, large plazas and gathering areas and sustainable interventions will extend and make whole a shared public realm of Pike Place Market, the Seattle Art Museum, and Seattle Aquarium. To the north, the seawall will embrace boat moorage serving and complementing the Belltown neighborhood. Throughout, viewing piers will focus attention inward to the city skyline and outward to Puget Sound.

Habitat will flow throughout the waterfront, as a reminder that Seattle, the Emerald City, was born from the cedar, stone, and salmon of Puget Sound. Walkways will include openings to welcome the presence of water. Kelp and other aquatic vegetation will soften and naturalize urban spaces. Below and beyond walkways, salmon will continue their annual migration along habitat benches as they have throughout the development and evolution of Seattle's neighborhoods.



-  Backshore Beach
-  Habitat Bench
-  Aquatic Vegetation and Reef
-  Public Space
-  Potential Rain Garden
-  Potential Renovation/Expansion
-  Light Penetrating Surface
-  Existing Seawall
-  Proposed Seawall
-  Combined Sewer Outfall
-  Stormwater Outfall



## Physical Description

This concept introduces a natural beach with a plaza and restored historic pavilion and boat moorage to enhance the historic character of Pioneer Square. In Zones 2 and 3, light wells improve conditions for the habitat benches and salmon migration. Surrounding the Seattle Aquarium, large plazas facilitate gathering and commerce, collecting people from nearby Pike Place Market and downtown. Aquatic vegetation adds Puget Sound character to these spaces. Along the Bell Harbor Conference Center and northern piers, viewing nodes introduce people to the salmon migration corridor.

- Zone 6**  
North Pier
- Wall moved in
  - Viewing piers/viewpoints on existing piers
  - Light permeable walkways
  - Habitat bench improvements
  - Aquatic vegetation and reef
  - Vertical garden

- Zone 5**  
Bell Harbor
- Wall in place
  - Viewing piers/viewpoints on existing piers
  - Light wells
  - Habitat bench improvements

- Zone 4**  
Park/Aquarium
- Portions of wall in place, others moved out or in and articulated
  - Plazas and stepped seating accessing the water
  - Light wells
  - Light permeable walkways
  - Over-water decking and bridges
  - Short-stay boat moorage
  - Constructed tide pools
  - Habitat bench
  - Aquatic vegetation and reef

- Zone 3**  
Central Pier
- Wall in place
  - Viewing piers/viewpoints on existing piers
  - Light wells
  - Light permeable walkways
  - Habitat benches
  - Aquatic vegetation and reef

- Zone 2**  
Ferry Terminal
- Wall in place
  - Viewing piers/viewpoints on existing piers
  - Light wells
  - Potential rain garden

- Zone 1**  
Pioneer Square/Washington St.
- Wall in place/portion of wall relocated
  - Historic pavilion and waterfront with expanded gathering area
  - Short-stay boat moorage
  - Fine substrate beach with sills
  - Habitat bench
  - Aquatic vegetation and reef