

Ground breaks on the Portland region's newest waterfront park (Photos)

Jul 19, 2016, 11:13am PDT

[Jon Bell](#) Staff Reporter *Portland Business Journal*

The golden shovels were out in full force yesterday for the groundbreaking of a unique Columbia River pier and the region's latest waterfront park.

[Barry Cain](#), president of Gramor Development, members of the Vancouver City Council and other elected officials turned out to turn the ground at the construction site for the Grant Street Pier.



A groundbreaking ceremony yesterday heralded the start of construction of a unique cable-stay pier that will be the centerpiece of a new waterfront park along the Columbia River.

Located on the banks of the Columbia River just west of the Interstate Bridge, the unique cable-stay pier will be the center point of a larger, 7.3-acre park that's set to start construction in the fall.

The pier, designed by public artist [Larry Kirkland](#) and being built by Rotschy Inc., is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

"This groundbreaking ceremony (marks) an exciting moment in time as we begin to see the plans for the waterfront pier and park become a reality," said Vancouver Mayor [Tim Leavitt](#), in a release.

"This project represents a successful public/private partnership and a culmination of years of planning to create a world class waterfront park right here in the city of Vancouver on the shores of the Columbia River."

Unlike most traditional piers, the new one in Vancouver does not rely on traditional pilings. It will instead be suspended 90 feet above the river on cables.

According to the release, the waterfront park construction will go out for bids in the fall.

The park is part of the larger, \$1.5 billion Vancouver Waterfront development, which could eventually add up to five million square feet of new office, retail and residential development across 32 waterfront acres.

After the groundbreaking, Gramor also announced that restaurant WildFin American Grill has signed on for 7,500 square feet in Block 9 of the waterfront development. That building is along Waterfront Way, near the intersection of Esther Street.

WildFin joins [Twigs Bistro and Martini Bar](#), the [Hotel Indigo](#) and the [M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust](#) on a growing list of early tenants and projects set to be part of the waterfront development.

According to Gramor, [there will be six new buildings, including the new hotel, under construction along the waterfront by next summer](#). The others include two restaurant buildings on Block 9 and Block 12, and two residential structures and an office building on Block 6.



Dignitaries and officials turned out for a golden shovel groundbreaking for a new waterfront pier and park in Vancouver yesterday. From left to right: Ty Stober, Vancouver council member; Jack Burkman, Vancouver council member; Alishta Topper, Vancouver council member; Anne McEnery-Ogle; Barry Cain, Gramor Development; Bart Hansen, Vancouver Council member; Eric Holmes, Vancouver city manager; Tim Leavitt, mayor of Vancouver; Annette Cleveland, Washington State Senator; David Hodges, Southwest Washington director for Sen. Patty Murray; and Sharon Wylie, Washington State Representative.



A good crowd turned out for the groundbreaking on the banks of the Columbia River.





Jon covers real estate for the Portland Business Journal. [Sign up for his daily newsletter](#) to hear about new projects and get behind-the-scenes looks at Portland's rapidly changing built environment.