

Jetboat tour gives a glimpse at what's to come on the Columbia at Waterfront Vancouver (Photos)

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A view from the north side of the Columbia River looking south from Vancouver, near where the new Waterfront Vancouver development is starting to take shape. Click through the gallery for a look at scenes of the site, as well as others captured during a jetboat tour from Portland to Vancouver organized by Gramor Development and Colliers International.

Gramor Development and [Colliers International](#) had wanted to give local brokers a glimpse of [Waterfront Vancouver, the 32-acre, \\$1.5 billion development](#) planned along the banks of the Columbia River.

[Daren Duke](#), a senior vice president with Colliers — the firm heading up the office leasing on the project under lead broker Tamara Fuller — had an idea: Why not take a tour up to the site with Willamette Jetboat Excursions.

And so yesterday, a jetboat full of local brokers and representatives from Gramor and Colliers jetted up the Willamette, past [the disappearing Centennial Mills](#), [Terminal 1](#) and [Daimler Trucks North America's new headquarters](#), alongside massive shipping freighters and underneath the city's iconic bridges, to the future home of Waterfront Columbia.

Located just west of the Interstate Bridge on about 32 acres of land that Gramor acquired in 2008, the forthcoming development could eventually add 3,300 new residential units, 1.25 million square feet of new office space, a seven-acre park, a luxury hotel and an array of new shops and restaurants across 21 city blocks.

The land has been largely vacant for years, and though [Barry Cain](#), who's Gramor Development heads up the partnership known as Columbia Development LLC, has been working to bring Waterfront Vancouver to fruition for more than a decade, early construction work just began last year.

But now, [work is well underway on the park](#), which will include a cable stay pier that spans out over the Columbia River, and excavation on several of the building sites has already begun. By next year, [six new buildings](#)— including offices, mixed-use buildings with apartments, [a hotel](#) and two restaurants — will be on their way up.

"I don't do a lot over here, but this is something," said [Jeff Valdes](#), a senior vice president with [Capacity Commercial Group](#) and one of the brokers on the tour. "This is phenomenal. It's huge."

For some scenes from the jetboat tour and a few early glimpses of what's taking shape at Waterfront Vancouver, click through the gallery above. There will also be more about the development in this week's print edition of the Portland Business Journal.

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.



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On the way to the Waterfront Vancouver site, the jetboat passed what's left of Centennial Mills. Much of the former grain mill site has been demolished over the past year as the Portland Development Commission struggles to find a new use for the site.



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The Centennial Mills site is backed by the Cosmopolitan, the Pearl District's newest condo tower and the tallest residential structure in the city.



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The jetboat, full of brokers like Daren Duke (right), a senior vice president with Colliers International, zipped past the brand new headquarters office of Daimler Trucks North America, which opened in April.



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Daimler's sparkling new headquarters sits right along the Willamette River.



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Cruising up the Willamette past one of the scores of freighters that ply the waters on a daily basis.



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The Columbia River is a busy place with plenty of cargo ships coming and going every day.



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Initial excavation and site work has begun on the Waterfront Vancouver development, which at full build-out could span 32 acres, add 3,300 residential units and more than 1.25 million square feet of office space. Shown here is the site of a new 7.3-acre park that is part of the development and currently under construction.



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Banners near the Waterfront Vancouver site, which sits just west of the Interstate Bridge on the Columbia River, show renderings of what the development will look like when it's fully built out.



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Early infrastructure work has tended to new streets and intersections that will eventually handle new traffic in the Waterfront Vancouver development.



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Barry Cain, president of Gramor Development, talked about the grand vision for Waterfront Vancouver, a project he's been working on for 11 years now.



Waterfront Vancouver will likely have six new buildings, ranging from office to mixed-use, under construction by next summer.



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Initial excavation work is already underway on several of the blocks.



A banner shows the office building that will rise from Block 6 at Waterfront Vancouver.



Barry Cain, president of Gramor Development, said that for 10 years, he has been telling people that construction on Waterfront Vancouver would begin in two years. Now the first phases of development are finally underway.



Jim Edwards, Gramor's project director for Waterfront Vancouver, talks to brokers about what's planned for the 32-acre site.



Heavy equipment is scattered about several blocks of the Waterfront Vancouver development site.



Construction on the development's \$25 million waterfront park, which will include a cable stay pier that extends out over the Columbia River, is already underway.



Barry Cain, president of Gramor Development, with a rendering of Grant Street Pier, which will be a showcase park and pier in the heart of the Waterfront Vancouver development.



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Colliers International and Gramor Development set up a reception tent for brokers on a jetboat tour of the Waterfront Vancouver site yesterday. The tent sat on Block 4 of the development, which will be home to the Hotel Indigo by the end of 2018.