

1. RB Urban Farm & Wetlands

The Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands project is Seattle's largest urban farm, transforming a former nursery site into one of the nation's first publicly supported, working urban farms. The mission of the farm is to create a multifaceted, sustainable, urban agriculture education center with a high level of community participation. Resources to support the community include nutrition and garden education programs, fresh affordable produce, green jobs training and small business incubation and preservation of critical wetlands. The farm is set to become a demonstration site for organic and sustainable best practices, using a sustainable social enterprise business model.

The property is located in the heart of southeast Seattle, home to one of the most diverse zip codes in the country. Highlights of the farm's include 17,000 hours of educational programs, more than 4,000 pounds of food grown and distributed to the community, and 3,500 people reached through volunteer, educational and paid programs.

The design approach focuses on applying innovative green infrastructure practices for both the farm and the restoration of wetlands to support experiential learning on multiple levels. New programs include classroom, restrooms, a farm stand, an improved access road, an entry plaza, composting infrastructure, a maintenance building, and relocation of greenhouses.

2. Ethiopian Community in Seattle

ECS envisions a vibrant and active Ethiopian Community in the Puget Sound area. Its aim is to preserve a rich Ethiopian heritage and to ensure that all members are actively involved and share mutual respect.

- Empowering community members to lead dignified lives in the Greater Seattle area.
- Helping mold, guide and mentor the next generation of Ethiopians to be educated, responsible, law-abiding and respectable members of society.
- Extending advocacy services which focus on critical needs in our community, particularly in education, job training and healthcare services.

This will be achieved by establishing close partnership with schools, government agencies, employment agencies and healthcare providers.

ECS large hall, meeting rooms, and/or kitchen are available for rental for weddings, meetings, and graduations.

3. Rainier Valley Food Bank

Since 1991, Rainier Valley Food Bank (RVFB) has operated out of a tiny, crumbling building just north of Columbia City. Their new Rainier Beach location will feature roughly 8,400 sq. ft. for the food bank's operations and offices, and will be the culmination of RVFB's vision of opening Washington state's first "community food center," an innovative Canadian model featuring a full-scale commercial kitchen at the heart of the ground-floor facility, and a hydroponic farm on the rooftop.

This unique partnership between Mt Baker Housing Association and RVFB will play an

active role in Rainier Beach's 'Food Innovation District' plan by including community space, economic stimulus for the neighborhood and multiple ways to engage the public around food.

4. RB Community Center & Pool

The Rainier Beach Community Center was built on the site of the former community center and pool of the same name, accommodating programs that attract many in the neighborhood and beyond.

The aquatics center includes three bodies of water. The six-lane lap pool — with 1-meter springboard and competition-level scoreboard — attracts lap swimmers, swim lessons and citywide swim meets. The spa and leisure pool — with water slide, vortex and current channel — are the active, family-oriented features of the center.

The community center includes a large gym, a social hall, a commercial teaching kitchen, a computer lab, an arts-and-crafts room, and multi-use meeting/classrooms.

The owner and design team set goals of reducing energy and water use, which helped the building achieve LEED Gold certification. Heat-recovery dehumidification units were used along with radiant slab heating, ground-source heating and cooling, and evacuated tube solar water heating. Activity rooms and the gymnasium are cooled through natural ventilation. Rainwater provides 90 percent of the water for toilets and urinals. Construction materials from the old center were salvaged and reused, including wood beams for siding and concrete foundations for structural fill.