

# Maritime Center Fact Sheet



## Building the Future of Tacoma's Maritime Workforce

The Maritime Center is a partnership between the Port of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Schools designed to build the region's future maritime workforce. Located on a 20-acre waterfront campus along the Foss Waterway, the project brings together the Port's new business offices and the Maritime|253 Skills Center, which provides free, hands-on training for students across Pierce County. By directly connecting education with industry, the Maritime Center expands access to maritime careers, strengthens community connections, and positions Tacoma as a hub for maritime innovation and growth.

### At a Glance

- 20-acre waterfront campus on the Foss Waterway, across from downtown Tacoma
- 600 students served annually through Maritime|253
- Workspace for 150 Port of Tacoma staff
- First Salmon-Safe certified project in Tacoma
- Maritime|253 opens September 2026; Port offices open Spring 2027

### A Unique Public Partnership

The Maritime Center reflects a collaborative partnership between the Port of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Schools to align education with real-world workforce needs. The partnership creates direct pathways into high-demand maritime careers for students while strengthening the regional economy and expanding opportunity across Pierce County.

### Port of Tacoma Business Offices

- Workspace for approximately 150 Port staff
- Port Commission meeting chambers
- Public walkway and waterfront access

### Maritime 253 Skills Center

Operated by Tacoma Public Schools, provides free, hands-on career and technical education for high school students across Pierce County.

#### Program Highlights

- Serves approximately 600 students annually
- Career pathways aligned to industry needs

#### Areas of Study:

- Sustainability
- Technology
- Port Operations & Logistics
- Advanced Maritime Manufacturing

### Why it Matters

The Maritime Center addresses critical workforce needs while delivering long-term community and environmental benefits:

- Expands access to family-wage maritime careers
- Provides tuition-free training for local students
- Activates and restores a key waterfront site
- Strengthens Tacoma's role as a maritime innovation hub



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## Sustainability & Environmental Leadership

The Maritime Center transforms a historically contaminated industrial site into a resilient, restored waterfront, going beyond regulatory requirements to protect natural resources and improve habitat along the Foss and Wheeler-Osgood Waterways.

### Environmental Cleanup

- 39,000 tons of contaminated soil removed
- 300+ creosote pilings removed from the waterway

### Habitat Restoration

- 2.7+ acres of restored habitat
- Nearly 100 native plant species
- Shoreline restoration improving water quality and salmon habitat

### Sustainable Construction & Design

- Salmon-Safe certification—first in Tacoma and first for a port – recognizing protection of water quality and fish habitat during construction and ongoing site management
- LEED-targeted building design with high-efficiency systems
- 700 rooftop solar panels generating a significant portion of the Port building’s energy
- Solar-paneled parking canopy supporting clean energy for the Port’s EV fleet
- Green stormwater infrastructure to reduce runoff and protect waterways
- Water-efficient landscaping systems
- Design-Build Team: TCF Architecture and BNBuilders



## Community Engagement & Outreach

- Public groundbreaking event: January 8, 2025
- 30-member Community Advisory Committee
- Public open houses: November 2023 and May 2024
- December 2023: Online open house and feedback

## Project Timeline

### Upcoming Milestones

- Spring 2027: Port offices open
- September 2026: Maritime | 253 opens

### Construction Phase

- April 2025: Port building construction begins
- March 2025: Maritime | 253 construction begins
- January 2025: Site preparation
- October 2024: Environmental remediation begins

### Planning & Design

- October 2024: 60% design complete
- March 2024: 30% design phase complete
- November 2023: Design & planning begins
- August 2023: Design-Build team selected
- March 2023: Partnership formalized



## Learn More & Stay Connected

- [This is Maritime](#) video series
- [Working Waterfront](#) news show
- Port [press releases](#)
- Ongoing media coverage
- Port’s social media channels
- Port website: [Portoftacoma.com](http://Portoftacoma.com)
- Maritime | 253 website: [Maritime253.org](http://Maritime253.org)

