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## PIER 68 FACT SHEET

**Location:** Pier 70 Blvd and the Delaware River Waterfront, 1751 S. Columbus Blvd in the Pennsport neighborhood of Philadelphia

**Size:** 0.5 acres

**History:** Pier 68 was once a W.J. McCahan raw sugar warehouse. To its south, Pier 70 was once the site of Baugh & Sons, importers and collectors of animal bones ground into fertilizer for nearby farms. Pier 67 to the north was Eugene Cathrall's lumber mill. More history on the Southern Piers can be found [HERE](#).

**Design and build:** Pier 68 was designed by [Studio Bryan Hanes](#). Other members of the design team include [Digsau](#), [Azavea](#), [Anchor Consultants](#), [Stantec](#), and [TEND Landscape, Inc.](#) [Scungio-Borst](#) provided construction management services. The park was built over a period of seven months by [Bittenbender Construction](#) and [Hydro Marine Construction](#).

### Design elements:

- **Entrance Deck:** The pier is accessed through the parking lot at the Walmart in South Philadelphia. The entrance is marked with whimsical painted poles and repurposed maritime bollards to create a distinctive gateway for the pier. Located just off the future Delaware River Trail extension, this space serves as a resting spot for those using the trail and as a place where shopping center visitors can quickly experience the Pier Park. Bike racks will be installed when the trail is built out in the near future.
- **Tree Canopy:** The tree canopy was intentionally placed to help conceal the parking lot and traffic to the west. These trees serve as a threshold, marking that visitors have crossed into a new environment. Trees in this area include Northern Catalpa, Kentucky Coffeetree, Golden Weeping Willow, Eastern Red Cedar and Multistem London Plane trees, which come from regional nurseries in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Along the southern edge of the pier, visitors will find 4 picnic tables which can be used for casual meals or table-top games.



- **Aquatic Cut:** A 4.5' deep cut through the pier surface, fill, and lower wood deck allow the semidiurnal tidal activity of the Delaware River to raise and lower a plant bed filled with native, aquatic species such as soft rush, prairie dropseed, little bluestem, swamp sunflower and shoreline sedge. Bags of soil are fitted on top of a Filtrex net to hold the plants in place. Plugs and live branches from buttonbrush and silky dogwood have been used to start creating what will become a microcosm of the Delaware River's pre-industrial ecology. Steel tie-rods which hold the pier together are made visible in the cut. More plants will be added next spring to continue the growth of plants in the aquatic cut.



- The end of the pier features an **Angled Lawn** for lounging and sun-bathing. With proximity to the water and restored concrete paving, the **Water-Side Walk** and the open **Pier Terminus** supports a variety of events and activities such as recreational fishing or gathering to watch holiday fireworks. Special accommodations have been made for wheelchair access to prime fishing locations along the perimeter of the park. Steel mooring bollards remain to remind us of the pier's working past and have been painted a bright blue.
- Custom-designed wave-shaped benches were inspired by the mustaches worn by Philadelphia sailors in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and were built in collaboration with the [Challenge Program](#) in Wilmington, Delaware, a nonprofit that [teaches construction skills to at risk youth](#). The benches are made out of ½" steel and cumaru wood chosen for resilience in marine applications and ease of maintenance. In addition, salvaged granite benches from Penn's Landing are located at the pier terminus to provide seating areas while fishing. These benches are capped with cumaru slat seats and have specially bored holes to be used as fishing pole anchors.



- The Pier will be lit by solar light poles of the same design found on the Penn Street Segment of the Delaware River Trail that DRWC opened two years ago.

**Funding:** Pier 68 had a total construction budget of about \$1.8 million. It is a model for how a non-profit can work with multiple private and public funding sources to finance public space. DRWC has multiple organizations to thank, including:

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (\$500,000)
- William Penn Foundation (\$450,000)
- City of Philadelphia (\$325,000)
- Department of Community and Economic Development (\$250,000)
- Walmart (\$200,000)
- Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Service (\$75,000)

**More details:**

- Pier 68 will be open year-round, seven days a week from dawn until dusk
- Fishing is permitted. Rules and regulations set out by [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#) must be followed.
- All fishing requires a proper [PA license](#). Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#), by mail, or in person at local retailers including Walmart (1675 S Columbus Blvd) and Nelson's Messenger Service (1632 Christopher Columbus Blvd).
- For more information about Pier 68, please use the [Delaware River Waterfront website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).
- Photos found in the Delaware River Waterfront [Press Room](#) (password: aidemdrwc)