



Pier 3 / 501 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3194  
[www.aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org)

## *The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Waterfront Park*

*The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Waterfront Park* is a 90,000 square foot urban park and an attractive new addition to Baltimore's Inner Harbor. In addition to serving as a distinctive plaza entrance to the Aquarium, the park provides a carefully conceived educational setting that explores Maryland's diverse ecosystems—from the ocean, coastal plains and Chesapeake Bay through the Piedmont region and west to the Allegheny Mountains.

### **A Place for Relaxing and Learning**

Designed by award-winning landscape architecture firm of Rhodside & Harwell of Alexandria, Virginia, the publicly accessible Weinberg Waterfront Park features an expansive plaza with sunny and shaded areas, generous native landscaping and ample seating. Guests may use the park as they approach the Aquarium, as they wait to enter the building and for learning, meeting friends, picnicking or just relaxing.

### **Exploring Maryland's Ecosystems**

Visitors arriving from Pratt Street step onto the park's opening expanse of water-themed paving, featuring an organic, curvilinear pattern of gray-toned pavers. The custom pavers are shaped into elegant waves with details resembling fish scales. A series of mature river birch trees provides a green gateway to the park's educational exhibits and native plantings, with winding pathways and informal seating areas leading to the dramatic new glass entry to the Aquarium.

Interpretive maps and exhibits line the park, detailing the plant and animal life native to each of Maryland's regions. Speakers hidden within plantings project the sounds of water and wildlife. Aquarium instructors have set up portable learning stations, and help people learn more about the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the progression of ecosystems within the state and Bayscaping - landscaping using native plants.

Native plants are installed throughout the park. The coastal zone includes salt marsh grasses, loblolly pines and shrubs like salt bush and winterberry. In the park's Piedmont region, magnolia and swamp tupelo trees share space with swamp rose, Allegheny blackberry, highbush blueberry, cinnamon ferns, wild ginger and bog plants including pickleweed and arrow arum. Eastern redbud and red cedar trees, witch hazel, wild hydrangea, sassafras, grasses and groundcovers take people to the mountainous portions of Maryland, leading them to the 35-foot waterfall representing the Allegheny Cascades.

## **Sustainable Systems**

*The Weinberg Waterfront Park* includes many sustainable features in its design, engineering, construction, and plantings. The native plant materials used throughout the park are sustainable because they withstand both extensive sun and rain common in the Baltimore region. Also conservation-minded are the custom pavers, composed of recycled materials.

The trees were installed within an innovative series of underground soil panels that are deep enough to generously accommodate the root balls of large trees. Prior to construction of the park, extensive debris (most likely discarded along the waterfront following the Great Fire of Baltimore in 1904) was removed from the pier area in order to accommodate the large trees. The underground soil panels supply the trees with rich, aerated soil and an expansive, protected system for roots to grow.

The park's design also uses reclaimed water, collected in a cistern, for irrigation of the landscaping.

## **About the Designers**

Rhodeside & Harwell worked with the Aquarium's design team and CSP, the Aquarium's architecture team, to create this unique waterfront park.

Since 1986, Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated has been providing landscape architecture and planning services. Located in Alexandria, VA, RHI is a woman-owned enterprise that provides services to clients locally, nationally and internationally. RHI employs nearly 20 professional landscape architects and planners. RHI projects varied from the development of long-range master plans to the establishment of specific design guidelines; and from the establishment of community revitalization plans to planning of major urban spaces. RHI has received many national and local awards, including the Best Small Business Award of 2000 from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

## **Snapshot**

- ~ **90,000 square feet** urban waterfront park
- ~ **70 species** of native plants
- ~ **237 seats** for relaxing, learning and enjoying the Inner Harbor
- ~ **120,000 custom-made, recycled pavers** line the pathways to the Aquarium's entrance
- ~ **19 volunteers** to create a wetland in the Inner Harbor
- ~ **6 boulders** were brought in to represent the mountainous regions
- ~ **35 feet** the Allegheny cascades waterfall tumbles