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Blaine treatment plant sits on a half-acre site

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The city of Blaine has completed the \$30 million Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility. It has been a decade in the making and is the largest municipal project in the city's history.

The 25,000-square-foot wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat a peak flow of 3.1 million gallons per day, enough to support a population of 11,000. Blaine now has a population of about 5,000.

Construction started in May of 2008 on one acre of Marine Park, which is surrounded on three sides by Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor.

Harris & Associates of Bellevue provided construction management. Woodland-based Stellar J Corp. was general contractor. The project was designed by Brown and Caldwell of Walnut Creek, Calif.

Lighthouse Point replaces the 30-year old Semiahmoo Wastewater Treatment Plant on Semiahmoo Spit. A planned expansion there was scrapped in 2000 after the contractor unearthed American Indian remains and artifacts on the site.

In June, Lighthouse Point began treating about 80 percent of the city's wastewater. The Semiahmoo plant treats 20 percent and will continue to do so until a new \$2.5 million pump station is completed next year.

TetraTech is designing the pump station. Blaine will likely advertise for a contractor early next year. Steve Banham, Blaine's public works director, said the pump station will handle about 200,000 gallons of water per day.

Once the pump station is complete, the Semiahmoo plant will be decommissioned and the area around it will be turned into a Native American memorial. The city is working with the Lummi Nation on the memorial.

Banham said the decision to build a new plant at Marine Park wasn't easy because nobody wants a wastewater treatment plant in their backyard. To address concerns, the team integrated the plant into the park.

The wastewater treatment process is concealed almost entirely below ground. The process control room, laboratory and support equipment are above the treatment area in a building that mimics the style of surrounding marina and park structures. The plant has an unusually small footprint: about half an acre.

The project also included a pedestrian bridge, restrooms, public art, landscaping and picnic tables.



Photo courtesy of Harris & Associates [\[enlarge\]](#)
The 25,000-square-foot Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility is designed to treat a peak flow of 3.1 million gallons per day.

Lighthouse Point has a number of sustainable features including an advanced membrane filtration treatment system that will produce Class A reclaimed water suitable for agricultural and industrial uses. Some of it will be used on the Semiahmoo Resort Golf Course.

Other team members include SvR Design Co., Zervas Group Architects, Wilson Engineering, G.E. Water, GeoEngineers, Herrera Environmental Consultants, SeaHurst Electric, Hennessey Plumbing and Portland Mechanical.

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