



Trex was used to build a bridge over a restored wetlands area, and to build a viewing area easily accessible for disabled persons.

**R**ecycled plastics have been used to refurbish sections of Golden Gardens Park, a natural area on Puget Sound, six miles northwest of downtown Seattle.

Peter Hummel, landscape architect for the project, and a principle in Bruce Dees & Associates, says the City of Seattle encourages recycling by setting goals for amounts of recycled products to be used for various parks and public works projects.

The Golden Gardens Park project involved a \$1 million upgrade of the shoreline areas.

The park was originally built in the 1930s, and has one of the largest, most heavily-used beaches in the Seattle Metro area.

"The City of Seattle Department of Parks &

Recreation is very supportive of conservation and recycling," says Hummel.

**Natural, accessible area**

"Our approach to Golden Gardens was to incorporate recycled materials as often as possible, while creating a natural and accessible environment for visitors."

Bridges were made with Trex Wood-Polymer Lumber, an alternative decking product made primarily from recycled plastic grocery sacks, shrink wrap and waste wood. The material has been used throughout the U.S. and Canada for residential and commercial decking, playgrounds, marinas and boardwalks. The product, determined Hummel, would be compatible with the Golden Gardens shoreline project.

The Trex product was used to build a bridge over a restored wetlands area and for a second bridge over a newly "daylighted" year-round stream, which replaced a buried concrete storm drain.

The Trex Company, Winchester, Va., says the product is weather-resistant and durable. It won't rot, crack or splinter due to moisture, insects or sunlight, and does not require sealants for surface protection.

**Utility poles as ground barriers**

To restore the wetlands area, 25,000 square feet of asphalt was removed, pulverized and used as the base for asphalt paths accessible for disabled persons. The local electric utility saved on landfill costs by supplying 1500 linear feet of salvaged utility poles. Hummel used the utility poles as log barriers to keep people on the new pathways and out of natural habitats that have also been restored.

The Golden Gardens improvements are part of the Adopt-A-Park program, as led by Janine Van Sanden and ecologist Mike Williams. The area now features restored sand dunes and newly-planted native beach grass, woody shrubs and small trees.

New pathways provide disabled persons with access to the parking lot and beach.

The restored wetlands dune areas and wildlife habitat now surround a large, popular open meadow. In the distance are views of Puget Sound and the snow-capped Olympic Mountains. **LM**

**Bridges of recycled plastic renew shoreline area**