

ACID BALL

CONSTRUCTED

1938

HEIGHT

39.5 FEET

WEIGHT

438,000 LBS

This 438,000-pound orb was part of the cooking equipment used to turn raw wood chips into pulp on Bellingham's downtown waterfront. Wood chips were loaded into digester tanks and cooked in acid under high temperature and pressure with the acid ball used as a relief vessel to draw out acid and gas and maintain ideal cooking conditions inside the tanks. The acid ball was moved from next to the digester tanks

to Waypoint Park in 2018 to create a symbol of the transition between historic and new uses of the site. The Port and City hosted a public art competition to engage the community and establish a highly-visible attraction for the waterfront. Of 26 different proposals, an art committee selected a minimalist approach covering this industrial icon with reflective glass beads and using LEDs to light it up at night.

