

Eagle Staff

Name: Robert Eagle Staff Middle School	Enrollment: 769
Address: 1330 N 90th Street	Nickname: Ravens
Configuration: 6-8	Colors: Black and red



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Following a community engagement outreach process, the district opened a new middle school in 2017. It was named in honor of local Native American community leader Robert Eaglestaff, who previously served as principal at the Indian Heritage School (also known as American Indian Heritage School) for seven years (1989-1996). The Indian Heritage School had been housed at the Wilson Pacific school (see Wilson) and was a Native American-focused curriculum program that ended in 2013. Within the Seattle School District, Robert Eagle Staff Middle School was the first building to be named for a contemporary Native American leader. The school has a variant spelling of “Eagle Staff” at the request of Eaglestaff’s family.

The comprehensive Robert Eagle Staff Middle School opened with 716 students and was co-located in the new building with Licton Springs K-8. The Wilson school building had been used as the home of various programs and services since 1990, until it was demolished in 2015. Though the Eagle Staff Middle School program was new to the district, the Licton Springs K-8 program had a long and varied history (see Webster).

Eagle Staff also shares a campus with Cascadia Elementary on the former Wilson Pacific school site (see Wilson). The Eagle Staff/Cascadia campus totals 16.8 acres, comprising 11 acres of open space with 5.8 acres of buildings. The two schools share design elements and complement each other but are separated by a shared sports field. The central synthetic turf playfield includes a walking track as well as a

Details:

Name:	Robert Eagle Staff Middle School
Location:	1330 N 90th St
Building:	33-room, 3-story precast concrete & cement board
Architect:	Mahlum Architects, Inc
Site:	16.7 acres (shared campus with Cascadia Elementary School)

2014:	Site received landmark designation, no landmark controls imposed
2015:	Demolition of 7 Wilson Pacific buildings
2016:	Construction of new school
2017:	New comprehensive middle school opened (BEX IV)
2017:	Licton Springs K-8 relocated from Lincoln and co-located at Eagle Staff
2019:	Licton Springs Park designated landmark
2020:	Licton Springs K-8 relocated to Webster

versatile field with lighting that can be used as a baseball/softball field or a soccer field. The synthetic field replaced a large natural turf field and serves community athletics.

Funded by the BEX IV levy and designed by Mahlum Architects, Eagle Staff is an approximately 140,000-square-foot school that can accommodate up to 1,000 students. It consists of three classroom wings with a variety of flexibly organized learning environments that can change over time. The commons, located in the heart of the school, was designed to accommodate presentations and performances, as well as gatherings and dining. The adjacent stage was built to accommodate typical middle school band and choir performances, with room for an audience of up to 700. The new construction was permitted even though the site had been landmarked in 2014, because there were no landmark controls imposed on the site.

The project included the preservation, stabilization, removal, and reinstallation of eight onsite murals originally located at the Wilson site, created by local artist and Apache and Haida tribal member Andrew Morrison (see Wilson). Along with the restored murals, four of which are reinstalled at Robert Eagle Staff, an interactive mural in the main corridor and an Honor Circle outside were included at the school. All of these artistic and interpretive elements recognize the site's cultural significance for the Duwamish people.

Licton Springs Park, a watershed located just north of the campus, was designated a City of Seattle Landmark in 2019. Licton Springs, a sacred site of natural medicinal springs, was the first Indigenous site to be recognized by the Landmarks Board. Though the springs are now mostly underground, wetlands in the park are used for storm-water retention. The design for the two new schools, Eagle Staff and Cascadia, included significant storm-water detention measures since the hidden hydrology of the area and the culverted and buried stream that runs through the property have historically caused flooding at the site during large rainstorms.

Pilling's Pond is part of the history of Licton Springs and the Eagle Staff/Cascadia campus. The privately owned land breaks up the campus (see Wilson). It was created almost 100 years ago by damming the stream that ran through the school property and is still used as an urban waterfowl reserve and breeding site.

In 2020, the Licton Springs program relocated from Eagle Staff to Webster. The school did not officially open to students until April 2021, when students returned to in-person learning following remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. This move created more space for both programs to expand and removed the challenges of housing two programs in a single school.



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