

# Northport Waterfront Cleanup

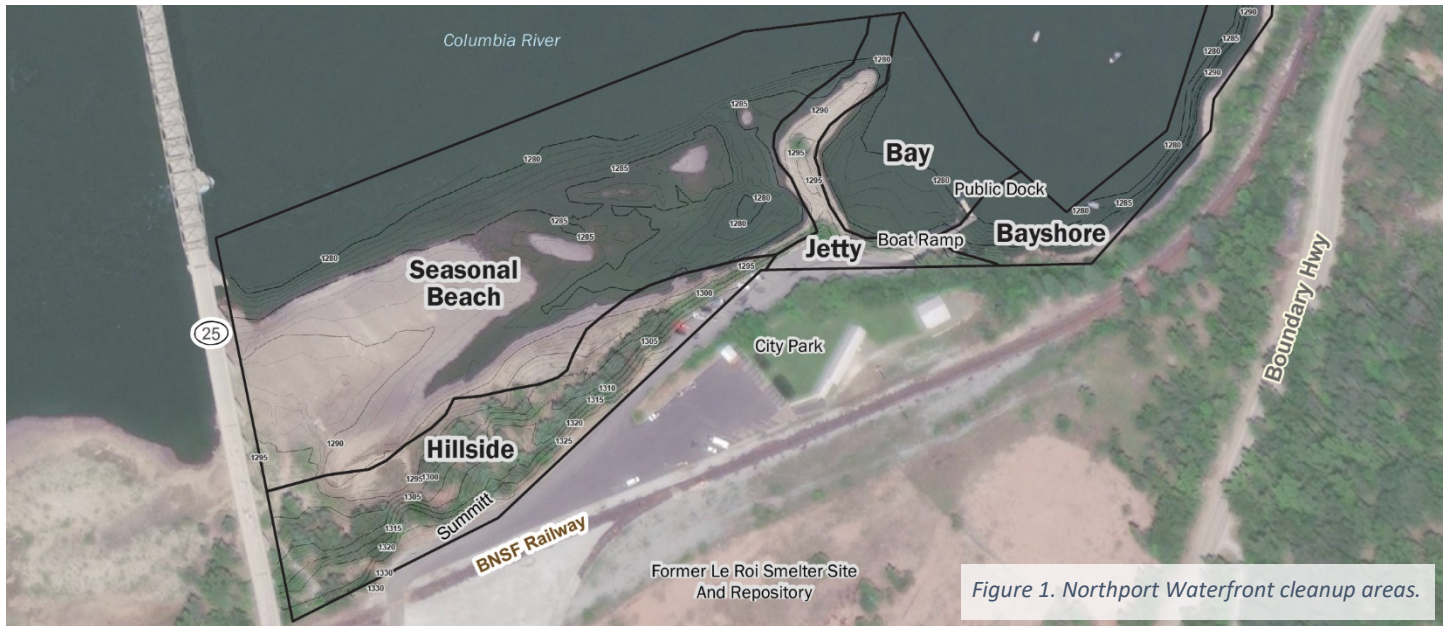


Figure 1. Northport Waterfront cleanup areas.

**Comments accepted:**

May 3 – June 2, 2021

**Submit comments:**

Online at:

<http://cs.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=FmQR5>

Or by mail or email to:

John Roland, site manager  
 4601 N. Monroe St.  
 Spokane, WA 99205  
 Email: [john.roland@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:john.roland@ecy.wa.gov)

**Document review locations:**

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=14874>

Due to coronavirus, in-person document reviews are not currently available. Please contact Erika Beresovoy at [erika.beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:erika.beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov) or 509-385-2290 if you need printed documents.

Facility Site ID: 96239  
 Site Cleanup ID: 14874

**Public invited to comment on draft contamination and cleanup options reports**

The Washington Department of Ecology is directing cleanup of smelter-related metals contamination on Northport’s Town Park and waterfront (site). You are invited to comment on the draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI explains the extent and locations of contaminants, and the FS evaluates cleanup options.

This project is funded by the Eastern Washington Clean Sites Initiative. The money comes from a voter-approved tax on hazardous substances. Funds are used to clean up properties where the responsible party couldn't be found or can't pay cleanup costs.

**Online public meeting, May 19, 6:30 p.m.**

We invite you to an online public meeting where we’ll share details and answer questions about the RI/FS.

**Join via WebEx:**

<https://watech.webex.com/watech/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8395fb3f266fe97e3bf9f49a8fbfba9f>

**Join by phone:** 1-415-655-0001, Access code: 133 245 0665

**Sources of contamination**

The Le Roi Smelter (also known as the Northport Smelter), which handled copper ores between 1901 and 1911, and lead ores between 1916 and 1921, was just south of the Northport waterfront. Le Roi Smelter operations deposited clinker and granular slag wastes on the waterfront.

## Toxics Cleanup Program

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Wastes discharged into the Columbia River until 1995 from the still-operating metal smelter in Trail, British Columbia, Canada, are part of a broader series of investigations directed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Northport waterfront project is separate from the EPA-led efforts.

### Investigation findings

To better determine the extent and locations of contamination, 26 four-foot-deep test pits dug with a mini-excavator, three hand samples from shoreline areas inaccessible to the excavator, and 109 surface samples were collected for metals analysis. After 59 samples were collected from 6-inch intervals on the sidewalls of the pits, they were backfilled. The surface samples were analyzed using a hand-held device in the field.

Investigation results showed that copper, lead, and zinc were found most frequently throughout the site at levels posing a risk to human health and the environment. Cleanup alternatives were then focused on protecting people and aquatic life from these contaminants.

### Site areas

The site was divided into five areas (Figure 1) in the RI/FS:

1. Seasonal Beach (beach) – the seasonally exposed sand and cobble shoreline and nearshore beach between the Highway 25 bridge, the hillside, the main channel flow of the Columbia River, and the jetty. The beach is underwater some of the year.
2. Hillside – the upland area south of the seasonal beach that slopes down to the river from the parking pavement and is heavily vegetated. This area is outside of the river’s influence year-round. Clearings within this area show evidence of recreational use.
3. Jetty – the manmade jetty constructed in the river near the boat launch to provide calmer water for launching and loading boats.
4. Bay and Public Dock – the protected area between the jetty and the boat ramp.
5. Bayshore – the shoreline area northeast of the boat dock at the base of the riverbank and vegetated hillside.

### Cleanup options

Three site-wide cleanup options, or alternatives, are presented in the FS. They are combinations of removing and capping the contaminated soil, river rocks, and slag. The differences between the cleanup alternatives are in the larger, more contaminated Seasonal Beach area. One option is presented for the Hillside, Jetty, Bay and Public Dock, and Bayshore areas. Costs for these areas are included in the three beach options.

#### Beach Option 1

This option combines capping near the main channel edge of the river, and excavating and replacing contaminated material 2 feet deep in the areas that would not be capped. In addition, up to six areas 40 feet in diameter could be excavated 6 feet deep to remove potential localized deeper contamination (hot spots).

In this and the other beach options, the top 2 feet of excavated material could be screened to remove larger, uncontaminated river cobbles and large gravels, and the screened material could potentially be available for reuse as backfill. The possible savings for screening excavated material or reusing the screened material as backfill are not included in the cost estimates.

The excavated area would be backfilled with about 2 feet of imported, appropriately sized sand, gravel, and cobble river-type rock mixtures. The boundary between the capped and excavated/backfilled areas will be graded to transition the change in elevations. Capping the main channel edge would make this option easier to construct because excavation would not occur along the swift main channel edge where variable river levels occur.

## Toxics Cleanup Program

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The excavation and replacement would cover around 5.1 acres, and the hot spot removal areas would be 0.17 acre, approximately. About 17,600 cubic yards of contaminated material would be removed from the excavation and disposed at a permitted solid waste landfill. The approximate capped area would be 1.46 acres.

**Estimated cost:** \$5,450,000 to \$6,177,000, depending on where the waste was disposed. For each option, two permitted landfills (facilities in Stevens County and Spokane County) were evaluated to estimate a range of potential disposal costs (Table 1).

### Beach Option 2

In Option 2, the cap would be expanded to the crest of the outer bar in the downstream half of the beach. The river-bottom excavation would be adjusted to construct a more prominent side channel in the river, excavating it up to 10 feet deeper than it is currently. The channel edges would be sloped back for stability. This option also includes excavating up to six 40-foot-diameter areas 6 feet deep. The approximate excavation area would be 3.75 acres. The approximate area capped would be 2.98 acres. About 21,800 cubic yards of contaminated material would be removed and disposed at a permitted landfill.

**Estimated cost:** \$6,528,000 to \$7,570,000, depending on waste disposal/transport costs (Table 1).

### Beach Option 3

This option is similar to Option 1, except an area near the main river channel at the downstream end of the beach would remain unchanged, and a larger area near the downstream end of the beach roughly centered between the main channel and shore would be capped. Excavation and capping would occur as described in the previous options. This option also includes excavating up to six 40-foot-diameter areas 6 feet deep. The approximate areas capped and excavated would be 2.25 and 3.54 acres, respectively, and about 12,500 cubic yards of contaminated material would be removed and disposed at a permitted landfill.

**Estimated cost:** \$4,602,000 to \$5,120,000, depending on waste disposal/transport costs (Table 1).

### Hillside Area

The goals for this area are to reduce exposure, optimize recreational and pedestrian use, and protect and enhance the established vegetation. At a minimum, this proposed action would include the following:

- Removing easily accessible debris in a way that does not disturb mature vegetation.
- Removing contaminated soil and slag from three areas to depths between 2 to 4 feet, based on sample results and exposed slag. The contaminated soils would be disposed at a permitted landfill.
- Removing soil hot spots (estimated at 100 cubic yards) that may designate as a hazardous waste, based on data from the RI. To estimate costs, disposal of these wastes is assumed to be at a Subtitle C landfill.
- Upgrading/stabilizing the trail that leads from the parking area to the shoreline, including adding a seating area with park benches and a picnic shelter accessible from the main trail. About 1 foot of existing soil would be excavated and replaced in the trail and recreation areas. The trails would be re-surfaced. Native plants would be added to fill in bare areas, and rail fencing would be installed along the trails to discourage off-trail use.
- Installing 500 feet of access control fencing along the top of the hill, picnic zone, and existing trail.

The estimated volume of soil and slag debris excavated is about 1,331 cubic yards.

### Jetty Area

Excavating contamination was not considered for the jetty because it protects the boat launch. Therefore, the proposed action is to cap the jetty with imported fill to limit public exposure to the contaminated materials and assure long-term durability. The slopes of the jetty would be capped with 2 feet of 12-inch loose riprap

# Toxics Cleanup Program

armoring keyed into the toe of the slope. Some of the screened larger rocks and boulders from the Seasonal Beach could be integrated into the riprap. The top of the jetty would be capped with 2 feet of an imported river-type cobble and gravel mixture to create a walkable surface. The jetty could be slightly altered to better protect the beach cleanup from wave erosion. Any modifications to the jetty will consider river dynamics during the design phase. The estimated volume of imported fill to cap the jetty is about 1,000 cubic yards of riprap and 200 cubic yards of a cobble/gravel mixture.

## Bay and Public Dock Area

This proposed action would place approximately 1.5 feet of imported streambed mixture, mostly sand, as a cap to reduce exposure to contamination. The area around the dock would be excavated 6 feet and replaced with approximately 1.5 feet of imported streambed sand and gravel mixture. The estimated costs for this action include installing a temporary silt curtain or other best management practices to protect the Columbia River while excavating within the river. The deeper excavation around the dock would add about 4.5 feet of water depth and improve boat access at the dock, reducing cap disturbance, especially during periods of lower water. The approximate volume of imported capping material is 2,600 cubic yards.

## Bayshore Area

This proposed action would install a 1.5-foot cap of imported shoreline-type river rock. The cap would extend upstream of the paved boat ramp, along the shoreline about 300 feet. This area is accessible for public use during lower river levels. Capping this area would minimize exposure to contaminated shoreline soil. Enough excavation and replacement along the boat ramp would occur to maintain a level transition along the concrete boat launch.

Table 1. Estimated costs for site-wide cleanup alternatives

Cleanup option	Cleanup description (Beach) <sup>1</sup>	Lower cost estimate <sup>2</sup>	Upper cost estimate <sup>2</sup>
1	2-foot cap along shoreline; 2-foot excavation with selected 6-foot-deep excavations; and disposal	\$5,450,000	\$6,177,000
2	2-foot excavation with selected 6-foot-deep excavations, and replacement; 2-foot capped areas; side channel construction; and disposal	\$6,528,000	\$7,569,000
3	2-foot excavation with selected 6-foot-deep excavations, and replacement; 2-foot capped areas; a no-action area; and disposal	\$4,602,000	\$5,120,000

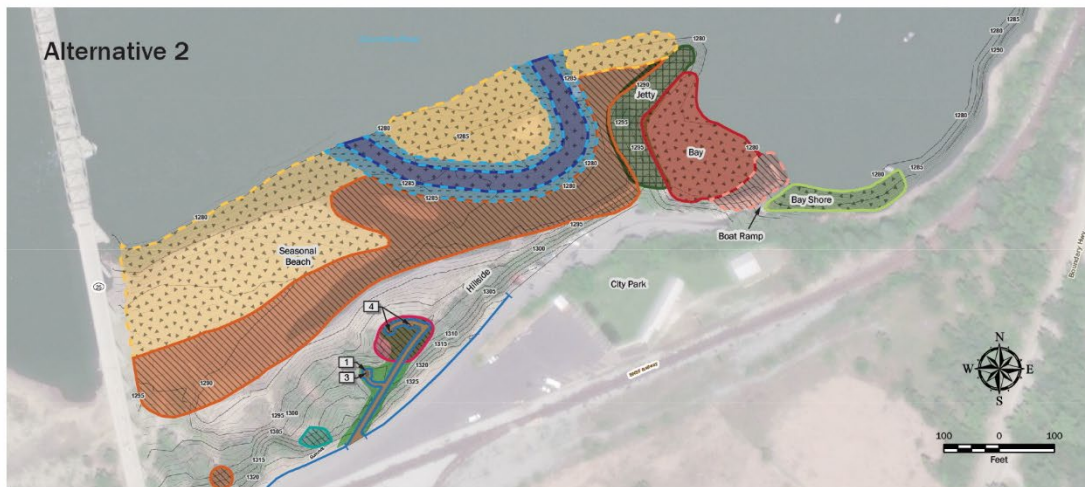
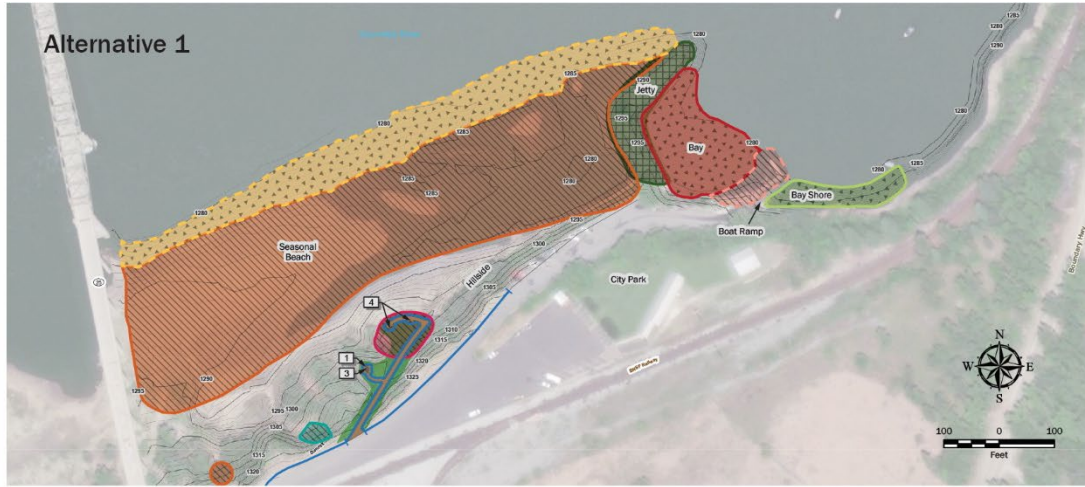
Notes: <sup>1</sup> Includes cleanup costs for all other areas (Hillside, Jetty, Bay and Public Dock, and Bayshore areas).

<sup>2</sup> Costs include a 20 percent contingency.

## Next steps

We will respond to all the comments we receive during the comment period and publish our responses. Then, we will use our assessment of the RI/FS and public input to draft a cleanup action plan. The draft plan will be available for public review and comment before final cleanup begins.

**Figure 2. Northport waterfront cleanup alternatives**



- |   |  |                             |                                     |                           |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Excavate 2 feet and Replace                         | Stabilized/Armored/Cap (2-foot Keyed into Toe of Jetty)    | Excavate 3 feet and Replace | Stabilized Soil Cap Trail/Path Area | Picnic Shelter, 12' x 12' |
| Capped (2-foot Cap)                                 | Cap with 1.5 feet  | Excavate 4 feet and Replace | Native Revegetation Area            | Picnic Table              |
| Side Channel (2-foot Cap) (Flowing Elevation 1275') | Excavate 6 feet and Replace 1.5 feet (Float Dock at 1275') | No Action                   | Pedestrian Park Fencing             | Bench                     |
| Side Channel Sloped Setbacks (2-foot Cap)           | 1.5-foot Cap   |                             |                                     |                           |

Toxics Cleanup Program  
4601 North Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99205

## Draft cleanup options for the Northport waterfront



### Public comment period

May 3 – June 2, 2021

#### Review documents:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=14874>

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#### Join by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 133 245 0665

For information about how to protect yourself and your family from arsenic and lead in dirt, please visit our Dirt Alert website:

[Ecology.wa.gov/HealthyActions](https://ecology.wa.gov/HealthyActions)