

Focus on: Field work at Blakely Harbor Park



Figure 1. Research vessel collecting photographs of seafloor in Blakely Harbor, 2020. Photo: Port Blakely

Studies planned for Late Summer/Fall 2021

Neighbors and visitors to Blakely Harbor Park may notice extra activity as field crews conduct surveys and collect samples over several weeks. This field work is part of an investigation into the nature and extent of pollution left from historical mill operations - key information needed to plan for any cleanup that may be necessary. Minimal impacts are expected for the area during investigation activities; limited noise is expected during the fieldwork, and recreational use of some areas may be temporarily interrupted during sampling activities. Page two shows an estimated timeline for each event, which can be categorized into three types of activities:

1: Upland Investigation

Field staff will collect soil and groundwater samples in the upland areas of the park, mostly along the north shore of the Harbor. Access to small areas of the Park may be temporarily limited during this work.

2: Surface Sediment Surveying & Sampling

Field staff will survey the shoreline at low tide, assessing substrate conditions and looking for structures, outfalls, seeps, and other features. Next, a research boat will be deployed to collect sediment samples from the Harbor floor, mill pond and intertidal properties. A diver will be deployed to survey the harbor floor. Access to public mooring buoys in the harbor and kayak areas along the shoreline may be temporarily limited during this work.

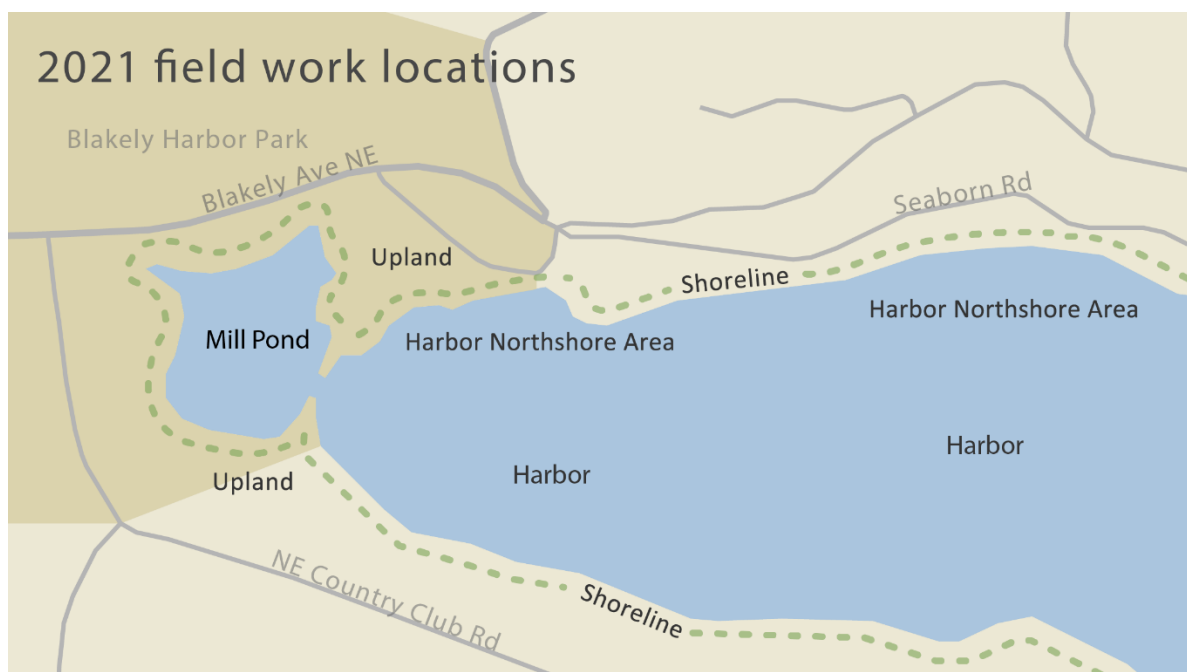


Figure 2. Field work locations corresponding with the detailed table on page two.

3: Subsurface Sediment Coring

Staff will collect sediment cores using a boat-based vibracoring system. Vibracore equipment resembles a small drill that will be used to pull ten-foot-long tubes filled with sediment from the Harbor floor. A small barge may be used to support this process. Access to public mooring buoys in the Harbor may be temporarily limited during this work.

Fieldwork details

Location	Description	Expected start/duration
Shoreline	Visual inspection conducted at low tide to identify habitat, structures, outfalls, seeps and physical features	Late August/1 week
Upland	Soil samples collected using hand augers	Late August/1 week
Harbor	Boat-based sediment samples collected using a grab sampler	Late August–early September/2 weeks
Harbor Northshore	Divers inspect the Harbor along transects perpendicular to the northern shoreline to identify physical features and structures and collect samples from submerged remnant wood pilings in the Harbor	Late August–early September/1 week
Mill Pond	Sediment samples collected using a grab sampler deployed from a boat or by hand at low tide and substrate probing	Early September /1 week
Upland	Soil samples collected by drilling rig and groundwater sample collection along the shoreline	Mid-September/1 week
Harbor	Sediment cores extracted using a vibracore deployed from a boat; a small barge may be used for core processing	Mid–late September/2 weeks
Mill Pond	Sediment cores extracted either by hand, or by using a vibracore system deployed by boat; a small barge may be used for core processing	Mid–late September/1 week

Questions & answers

Will the park remain open and accessible?

Yes. Some areas may have limited access during the upland investigation sampling. Access to paddling launch sites, areas along the shoreline, and public mooring buoys located in the Harbor may be temporarily limited. Check the [project website](#) link below for updates.

What are you looking for? What do you expect to find in this investigation?

The investigation will determine concentrations in soil, sediment and groundwater for a suite of contaminants and gather other information to learn how the site has been impacted. You can read more about contamination at the site online by following the links below.

Related information

- You can find project timing updates and read more about the site at Ecology’s Blakely Harbor Park website: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=14770>



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-688-3730 or email at megan.macclellan@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or T