# Duwamish Waterway Park Meeting: Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Ecology and Seattle Parks and Recreation (January 27, 2021)

## Attendees:

Paulina López –DRCC

James Rasmussen –DRCC

Bob Warren –Ecology

Tamara Cardona-Marek –Ecology

Rick Thomas – Ecology

Anthony Wenke –Ecology

Jean Lee –Seattle Parks and Recreation

Garrett Farrell –Seattle Parks and Recreation

Crystal Thimsen –Seattle Parks and Recreation

## Meeting Summary:

* Seattle City Parks and Recreation (Parks) provided a summary of how contamination was discovered at the Duwamish Waterway Park (DWP):
	+ In process of acquiring property from King County, Parks found a report from 2014 (Eco Compliance) indicating contamination at the DWP. However, the report was lost during staff transition and found again during property acquisition. Parks notified Ecology and enrolled in the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) submitting the available documents (including Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study – RI/FS).
	+ Environmental knowledge came with the property acquisition, when improvements were already planned; which is different than most contaminated sites.
* Parks discussed contamination, sampling history, and preliminary feedback from Ecology:
* Ecology reviewed RIFS and commented in August 2020, no additional formal submissions have been made through VCP.
* Remediation at DWP is driven by the renovations and its schedule.
	+ Contamination: PCBs were sampled for in some areas and not found. Petroleum was also sampled for and not found. It appears that the contamination is mostly arsenic and lead, with isolated areas of PAHs.
	+ Parks plans to revise and resubmit the RI/FS draft and interim action report for review under the VCP (a maximum of 90 days response turnaround by Ecology is expected).
	+ Timeline was discussed with an emphasis on clearer communication and engagement so that DRCC can effectively communicate with the community.
	+ The goal of the cleanup is to remove arsenic to be protective of the LDW Superfund site (to 7 mg/kg) as it is adjacent to the river. Arsenic is a naturally-occurring contaminant, and Ecology understands that it will be present at low levels.
	+ Exposure to contamination is expected to be controlled by caps (playground area, concrete slabs) and vegetation buffers to the arsenic.
	+ Some of the constraints to deep excavation and removal of contaminated soil include the need to preserve trees and the presence of Port of Seattle (Port)-owned land with unstable riprap/bank.
* Discussion about the Port-owned property:
	+ Ecology plans to sample the Port-owned land to determine if contamination extends to the bank.
	+ The Parks design and strategy is to maintain a buffer from the Port property to avoid destabilizing the rockery/riprap. Not including that area allowed Parks to get the permit to proceed with renovations and interim cleanup.
	+ Additional discussions with the Port regarding their plans are necessary to determine future actions.
* Timeline of Park’s formal report submission to Ecology:
	+ Parks is revising document in tandem with renovations and sampling; so there should be a short turnaround time after sampling is done and submission of the report to Ecology.
	+ A firm date will be determined by Parks and communicated to Ecology.
* DRCC discussed the importance of community outreach, messaging, transparency, and the community’s expected timeline of completion this summer:
	+ DRCC emphasized the need for an honest schedule, when milestones will be made, and what Parks is doing to ensure transparency with the public about the cleanup.
	+ Park’s goal is to get the DWP to a safe cleanup; it will be occurring in stages.

## Takeaways and Action Items:

* DRCC would like better communication and coordination.
* Parks have entered the VCP and are committed to working with Ecology and communicating with DRCC.
* Ecology will provide the necessary review and comments and will sample the Port property.
* Parks will put together a timeline of when the formal report will be submitted to Ecology.
* Communication will be maintained by all parties.