# Duwamish Waterway Park Meeting: Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Ecology and the Port of Seattle (March 22, 2021)

## Attendees:

Paulina López –DRCC

James Rasmussen –DRCC

Robin –DRCC

Rick Thomas – Ecology

Anthony Wenke –Ecology

Jean Lee –Seattle Parks and Recreation

Garrett Farrell –Seattle Parks and Recreation

Crystal Thimsen –Seattle Parks and Recreation

George Blomberg –Port of Seattle

Jessica Michalak –Seattle Parks and Recreation

## Seattle Parks and Recreation Follow-Up Meeting Agenda

* Introductions
* Contamination Background
* Site Remediation to Date
	+ Location of work
	+ Area constraints
	+ Trees
	+ Port Property
* Schedule
* Future Work
* Questions

## Meeting Summary

* Seattle City Parks and Recreation (Parks) presents on the contamination background:
	+ Sample results and a diagram of the site and parcel ownership. Areas in the NE meadow, including the Port of Seattle’s (Port) sliver area, showed several exceedances for arsenic.
	+ 2014 sampling results were analyzed for other Contaminants of Concern (COCs) including Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and dioxin/furans. PAHs and metals were analyzed later during the boring event, and excavation confirmation samples were analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and PAHs.
	+ The only two contaminants with exceedances in soil were lead and arsenic. The area with the single lead exceedance was removed during soil excavation activities.
* Parks presented info on renovation-driven interim actions:
	+ Soil removal focused on the NE corner area. Parks emphasized protection of trees using air-knifing procedure for soil excavation. 6-8” of soil was removed near the tree roots, and 12-24” of soil removed around the trees in the NE meadow corner. Excavated soil was removed off site and disposed of according to waste protocol.
	+ Parks described using a cap over remaining arsenic contamination (geotextile layer and 12-24” of clean topsoil) for filling the area to height of the concrete path. Parks described the use of the hard cap in the NE meadow area follows procedures and guidance used in the Asarco Smelter cleanup for arsenic contamination.
	+ Confirmation sampling indicates most of the contaminated soils were removed.
* Parks discussed the schedule and future work:
	+ The park is ~50% renovated, with confirmation samples to be completed in April.
	+ Parks plans to submit to Ecology the RI/FS draft and interim action report in May. Parks plans to include sampling at the bottom of trenches and confirmation surface soil samples with their submission.
	+ Ecology is proceeding with contract to sample for the Port sliver/strip area (6 hand borings going to 4 ft, and the full suite for LDW COCs). Ecology was able to follow up after the meeting and expedite the sampling schedule to occur in late April. Ecology emphasized that future work and or assistance will depend on the sampling results.
	+ Parks does not plan to conduct any further sampling after park renovations are complete.
* Discussion on the NE Port sliver and bank area:
	+ Parks and the Port of Seattle discussed the compromised rock wall, long-term repair timeline and feasibility for near-term actions to expand beach access and enhance bank features.
	+ Much of what is possible will depend on emerging information (sampling results) on the extent of contamination. And continued discussions and coordination is needed between the Port, Parks and Ecology; with consideration and guidance from DRCC and the community.
	+ If the results of the soil sampling expected in late April indicate further contamination, then there is justification and potential for Ecology to utilize MTCA funds to support further cleanup of the park.
	+ Parks discussed temporary actions while sampling is resuming in the NE area, including removing a foot of soil and capping. Ecology thinks adding soil and grass to those areas should not interfere with sampling efforts too much, but is somewhat concerned about the cap. Options were presented, and Ecology advised that coordination with Ecology’s sampling contractor and Parks will need to happen to discuss logistics.
	+ Port discussed potential interim actions to extend the park by enhancing the area. Port gave the example of using large anchored wood to make a terraced landscape that would be walkable and stable. It would not be beach, so there is a compromise there. But it is important to the Port that the park is useable by the public as soon as possible and is committed to working on the areas of concern. Interim measures in the port sliver and bank areas will require coordination by federal and state agencies.
	+ In order to gauge what is practical considering site conditions and bank stability, the Port advised to assess the area first, and offered to walk the site with DRCC to discuss options in the near future. Ecology staff does not have agency permission to conduct any site visits during this time due to COVID related restrictions, and will not be able to attend.
	+ The extent of what is physically possible for the Port’s interim actions is limited by access to the area. The group discussed the Park’s acquisition process for the neighboring properties SDOT and United Site Services, and how that will likely provide greater access.
* Parks mentioned there will be a rinsing station included in the renovations so the public has a way to rinse themselves off of soil or sediment they may come into contact with while using the park.

## Takeaways and Action Items

* Park’s renovations at the Duwamish Waterway Park is ~50% completed. Submission of the RI/FS and interim report expected in May. Ecology will provide the necessary review and comments as soon as possible.
* Parks is not expecting to sample the park after renovations are complete, nor for areas on the Port or SDOT properties. However, additional soil sampling is expected to occur at the Port sliver property in April supported by Ecology MTCA funds. The results of these samples can affect the planning and outcome of the Port sliver and strip areas, as well as the feasibility of the interim actions discussed by Parks and the Port. Parks and Ecology will coordinate on sampling logistics.
* Potential short-term interim actions were discussed for the key areas of the park (beach area, NE Port sliver area sampling and fill, failing rockery and interim walkable green-structures). Considerations and factors were discussed including: sampling results and future remedial work, property acquisition and access to key areas of the park, and feasibility for interim activities by the Port.
* The Port offered to meet with DRCC for a walk-through of the park, to discuss short-term enhancements to further protect public health and the shoreline structure as park activities continue (additional sampling and park renovations).
* The group discussed the importance of coordination between parties, and for effective communication with DRCC and the public as park activities continue.
* DRCC is interested in meeting again within a month, and to conduct a visit/walkthrough of the park within the next couple of weeks.