

# Northport Waterfront Cleanup

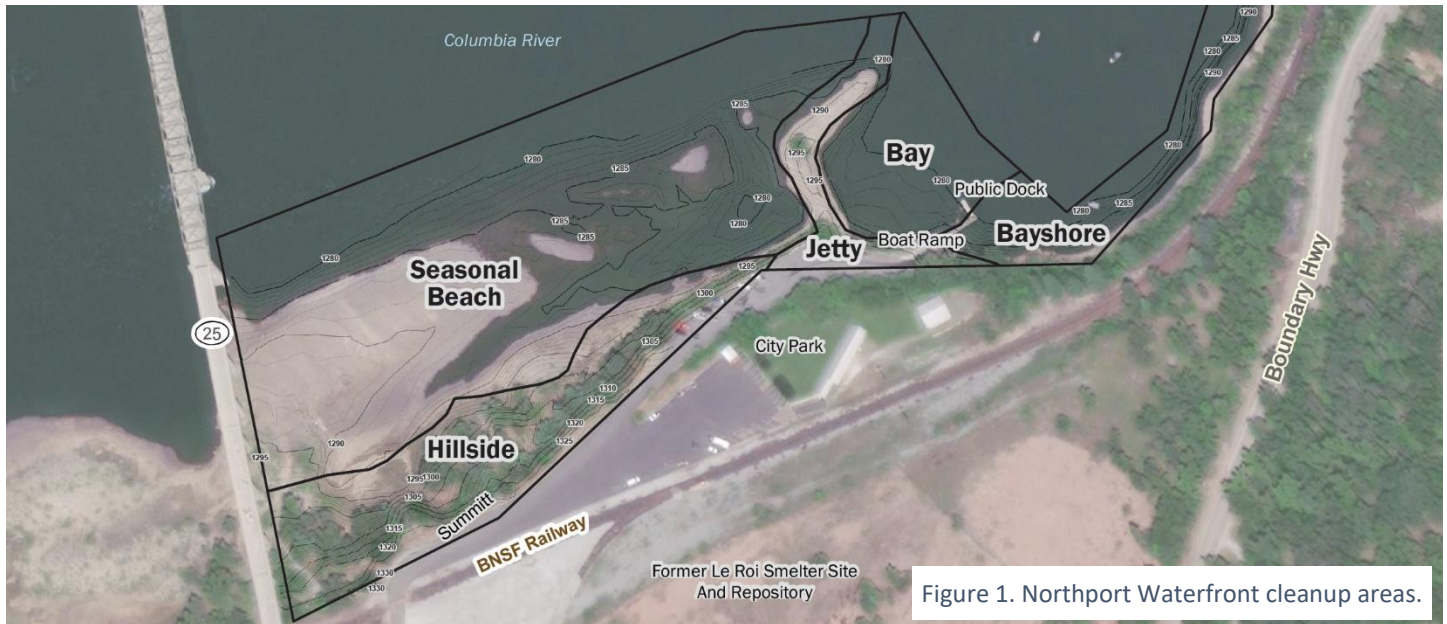


Figure 1. Northport Waterfront cleanup areas.

## Comments accepted:

May 2 – June 1, 2022

## Submit comments:

Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=3WKmj>

Or by mail or email to:

Justin Rice, site manager  
4601 N. Monroe St.  
Spokane, WA 99205  
Email: [justin.rice@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:justin.rice@ecy.wa.gov)

## Document review locations:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/14874>

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 cleanup plan

The Washington Department of Ecology is directing cleanup of smelter-related metals contamination on Northport’s waterfront area (site) next to the Town Park. You are invited to comment on the draft Cleanup Action Plan, which explains the cleanup we are proposing for the site.

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 17, 6 p.m.

We invite you to an online public meeting where we’ll overview the cleanup proposal and answer questions.

**Join on Zoom:** <https://bit.ly/NorthportCAP>

**Join by phone:** Dial 253-215-8782, enter the Meeting ID 881 7536 0585 #, and the Passcode 480648 #.

## Proposed cleanup

We are proposing to remove and cap contamination, and encourage recreation in cleaned up areas. Each area of the site (Figure 1) has a different proposed cleanup plan. Figures 3 and 4 (pages 4 and 5) illustrate the proposed plans.

We will plan work near the water when levels are lowest and in stages that will not risk impacts to the site or Columbia River due to rising water. Excavated soil, sediment (beach sand and gravel), and slag (smelter waste) will be taken to a permitted landfill for disposal. The estimated cost of cleanup is \$4.9- to \$5.4-million.

# Toxics Cleanup Program

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## Seasonal Beach

The proposed cleanup would remove smelter waste from the most contaminated areas and cap remaining contamination, including:

- Capping portions of the beach near the main channel edge of the river and the gravel bar along the downstream part of the beach with 2 feet or more of clean sand and gravel. Areas next to the jetty would be capped with up to 6 feet of clean sand and gravel. The engineering design will use site-specific hydraulic modeling when selecting the cap material to account for river dynamics.
- Excavating contamination from the areas not capped and backfilling them with 2 feet of clean sand and gravel. When possible, excavated boulders and cobbles would be saved and included in the caps.
- Re-grading parts of the beach to promote surface water drainage back into the river. This would prevent stagnant water, and potentially smelter waste from upstream, from building up in depressions. In general, the cleanup would fill the lower spots on the beach next to the jetty with clean sand and gravel so it gently slopes toward the river.

The actual area of excavation and capping will depend on river conditions at the time of construction.

## Jetty

The proposed cleanup is to cap the sides of the jetty with 2 feet of 12-inch riprap armoring keyed into the end of the jetty. Some of the larger rocks and boulders from the Seasonal Beach would be added to the riprap for a natural look. The top of the jetty would be capped with 2 feet of clean river-type cobble and gravel to create a walkable surface.

## Bay and Public Dock

The proposed cleanup is adding a 2-foot cap of clean sand and gravel. Contamination around the dock would be excavated 4 feet deep and capped to prevent exposure to deeper contamination.

## Bayshore

The proposed cleanup is adding a 2-foot cap of clean sand and gravel. A small amount of excavation and replacement would be done along the boat ramp to maintain a level transition.

## Hillside

The proposed cleanup (Figure 4) is excavating and capping contaminated spots and encouraging recreation in cleaned up areas, including:

- Removing contaminated soil and slag from two areas to depths between 3 and 4 feet deep. Excavations would be backfilled with clean sand and gravel and finished with 6 inches of topsoil and native plants.
- Improving the existing trail from the parking lot to the bottom of the hill by excavating and replacing 1 foot of soil to reduce exposure to deeper contamination. Vehicle access would be limited and erosion controls used to protect the cleanup and stabilize the trail.
- Excavating visible slag and up to 2 feet of contaminated soil from areas that are easily accessible and won't disturb mature plants. Excavations would generally focus on the southwestern part and be backfilled with clean sand and gravel and finished with 6 inches of topsoil and native plants.
- Installing rail fencing, two benches, and a picnic shelter with a table along the top of the hillside to provide recreational opportunities in cleaned up areas.
- Placing rail fencing and new native plants along the trail to encourage people to stay on the trail.

## Contaminants

Investigation results showed that copper, lead, and zinc were found most frequently throughout the site at levels posing a risk to people and the environment. The goal of cleanup is protecting people and aquatic life from these contaminants.

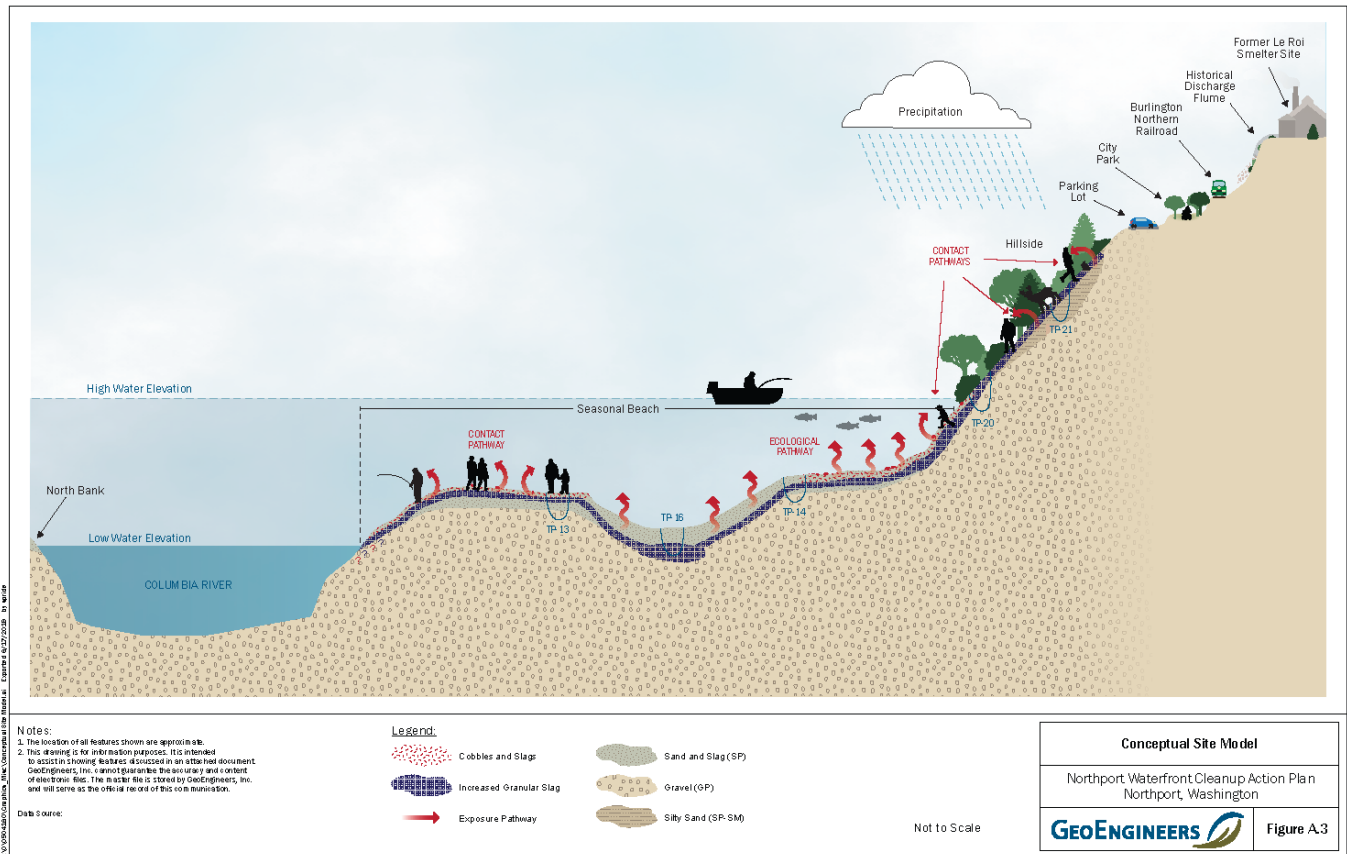


Figure 2. The conceptual site model shows how people and aquatic life could be exposed to contamination.

## 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.

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 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is doing. The Northport waterfront project is separate from the EPA’s work.

## Next steps

We will respond to all the comments we receive during the comment period and publish our responses. Then, we will begin working on the engineering design for the cleanup. The draft engineering design report will be available for public review and comment before final cleanup begins.



**Figure 3. Proposed cleanup for the Seasonal Beach, Jetty, Bay and Public Dock, and Bayshore areas**

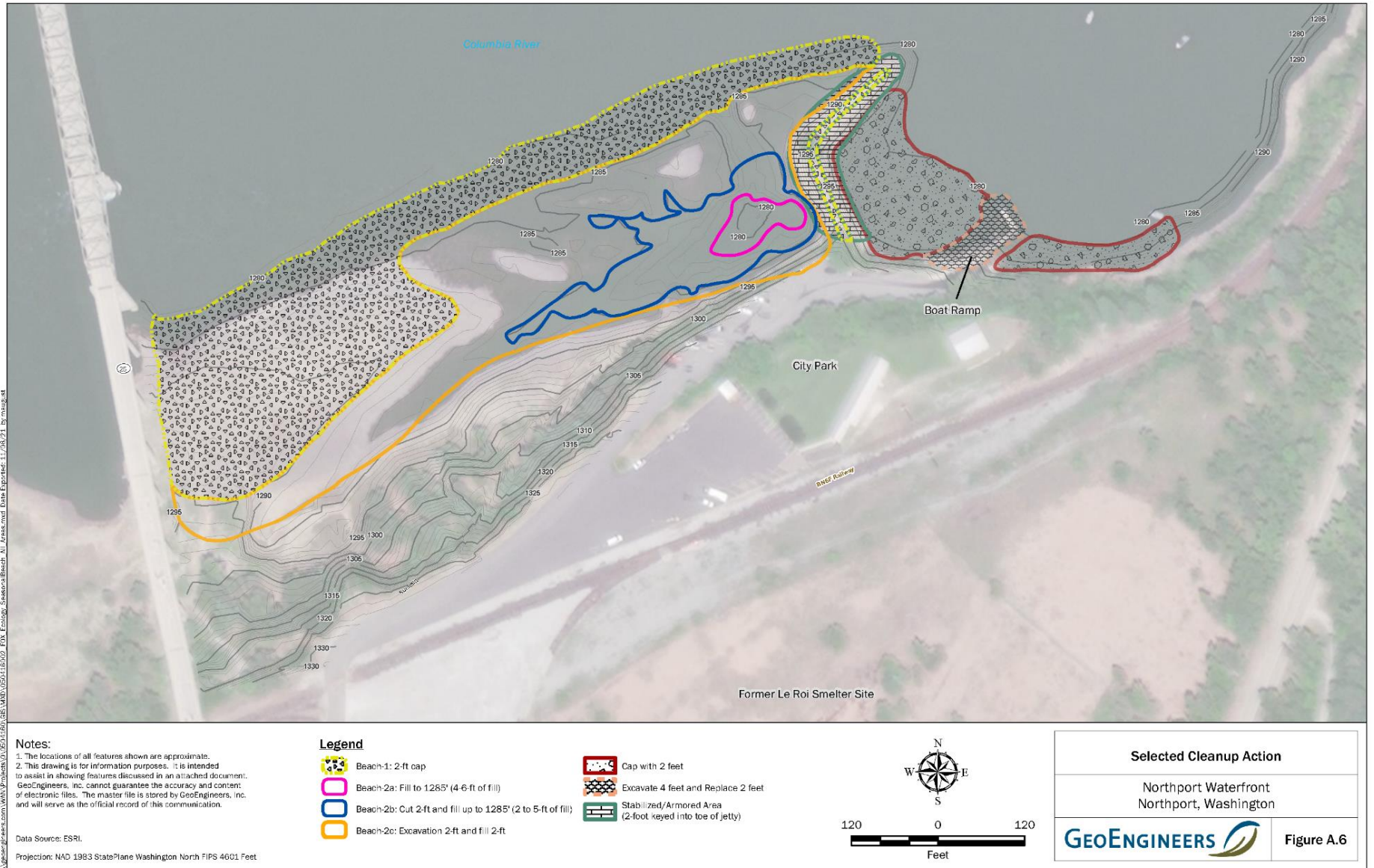
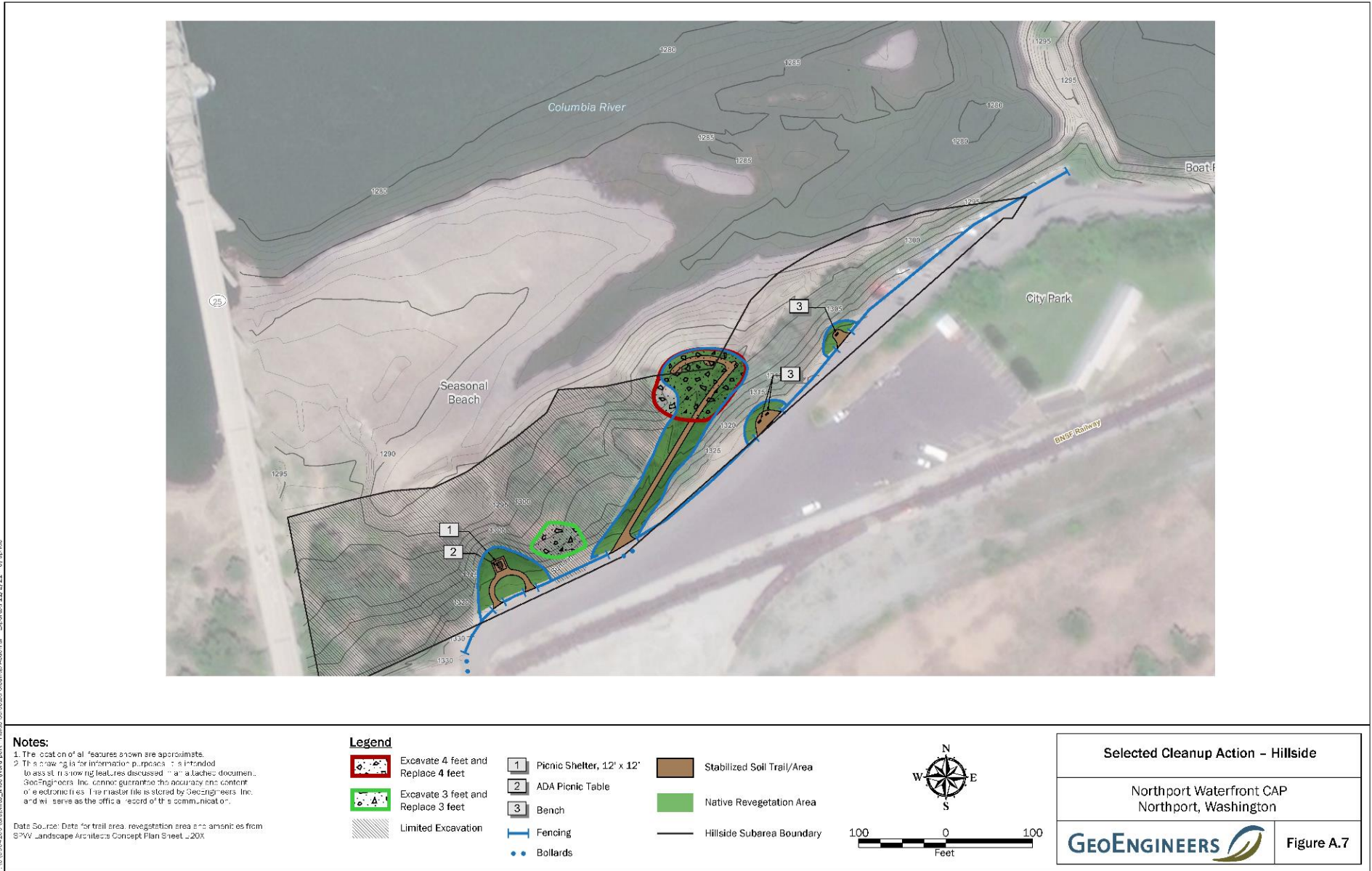


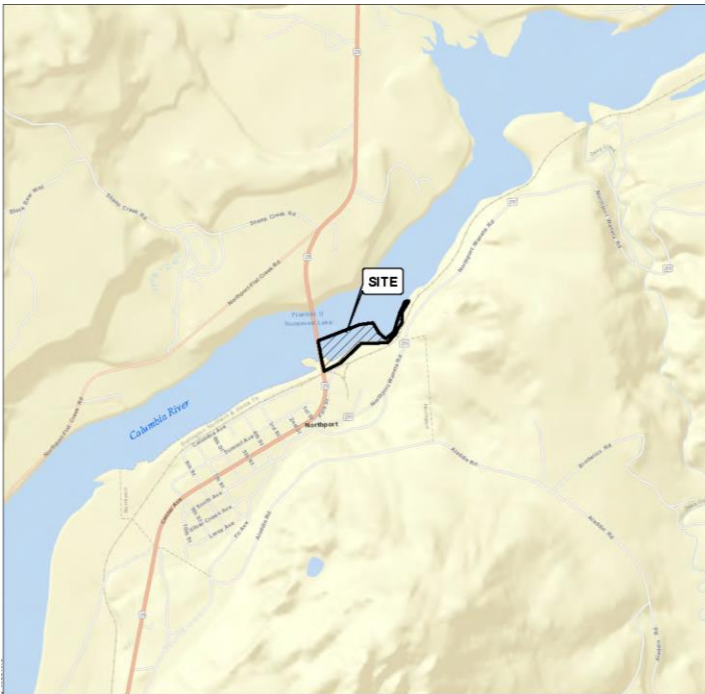
Figure 4. Proposed cleanup for the Hillside area





Toxics Cleanup Program  
4601 North Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99205

## Draft cleanup plan for the Northport waterfront



### Public comment period

May 2 – June 1, 2022

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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)

**ADA Accessibility:** To request Americans with Disabilities Act accommodation, call Ecology at 509-329-3546 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY, call 711 or 877-833-6341.