

Focus on: Field work at Blakely Harbor Park



Figure 1. Subsurface sediment sampling in Blakely Harbor, 2021.

Studies planned for Late Summer/Fall 2022

Neighbors and visitors to Blakely Harbor Park may notice some additional activity as field crews conduct surveys and collect samples that are part of an investigation into the nature and extent of pollution left from historical mill operations. While the results from the 2021 surveys are still being evaluated, this round of field work is being conducted to fill gaps in the 2021 data. Minimal impacts are expected during investigation activities, including limited noise during the field work, and recreational use of some areas may be interrupted temporarily 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 utilize drill rigs and hand tools to collect soil and groundwater samples in the upland areas of the park and nearby private land. Activities will take place west and south of the Mill Pond, the northern areas of Blakely Harbor Park, and north of Blakely Ave NE. Four wells will be installed and will remain in place to allow future sampling. Access to small areas of the Park may be temporarily limited during this phase of work.

2: Surface Sediment Surveying & Sampling

Field staff will survey the northern shoreline of Blakely Harbor Park at low tide, assessing substrate conditions with a focus on identifying the location of slag debris. In addition, a research boat will be deployed to collect sediment samples from the Harbor floor, mill pond, and intertidal properties along the north and south shores. Access to public mooring buoys in the harbor and kayak areas along the shoreline may be temporarily limited during this work.

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.



Figure 2. Field work locations -- see field work details below

Field work summary

Location	Description	Expected start/duration
Shoreline	Shoreline survey to visually identify, map, and photograph slag debris	Mid-September/1 week
Upland	Soil samples collected using hand augers	Mid-September/1 week
Upland	Soil samples collected by drilling rig and well installation for groundwater sample collection	Late September–early October/2 weeks
Harbor	Boat-based sediment samples collected using a grab sampler	Mid–October/1 week
Harbor	Sediment cores extracted using a vibracore deployed from a boat; a second boat may be used for core processing	Mid–October/1 week
Mill Pond	Sediment samples collected using a grab sampler deployed from a boat or by hand at low tide	Mid–October/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. The 2022 field work is being performed to fill in data gaps identified during analysis of field data collected in 2021. 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>



Bonnie Brooks
 Cleanup Site Manager
bonnie.brooks@ecy.wa.gov
 360-584-8856



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-7170 or email at andrea.flaherty@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341