

Gas Works Park Site: Sediment Unit



Gas Works Park site on the north shore of Lake Union

Comments accepted

October 24 – November 22, 2022

Submit comments

Online at:

www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks-Comments

Or by mail to:

Lucy McInerney, Site Manager
 WA Department of Ecology
 PO Box 330316
 Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
 425-410-1400
Lucy.McInerney@ecy.wa.gov

Document review locations

www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks

Seattle Public Library
 Fremont Branch
 731 N 35th Street
 Seattle, WA 98103

For document review assistance,
 please contact:

Ian Fawley, Outreach Planner
Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov
 425-324-5901

Site info

Facility Site ID: 139
 Site Cleanup ID: 2876

Documents ready for public review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review an environmental report and a legal agreement for the cleanup of the in-water Sediment Unit of the Gas Works Park site in Seattle.

The **environmental report** (remedial investigation and feasibility study) was prepared by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and the City of Seattle (City) with Ecology oversight. It describes the areas requiring remediation, identifies and evaluates a range of cleanup action alternatives, and identifies a preferred alternative to address contamination.

The **legal agreement** (agreed order amendment) between Ecology, PSE and the City, requires development of a preliminary cleanup action plan based on the findings of the environmental report.

Online public meeting

Ecology will host an online public meeting using the Zoom platform to provide project information and answer questions. There will be interpreters available in Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog.

Wednesday, November 2, 2022:

- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.: Presentation
- 7:30 p.m.: Questions and answers, as needed.

To register and join, visit: www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks

Call-in options are available when registering from Ecology's webpage.

Información en español incluida (página 5)

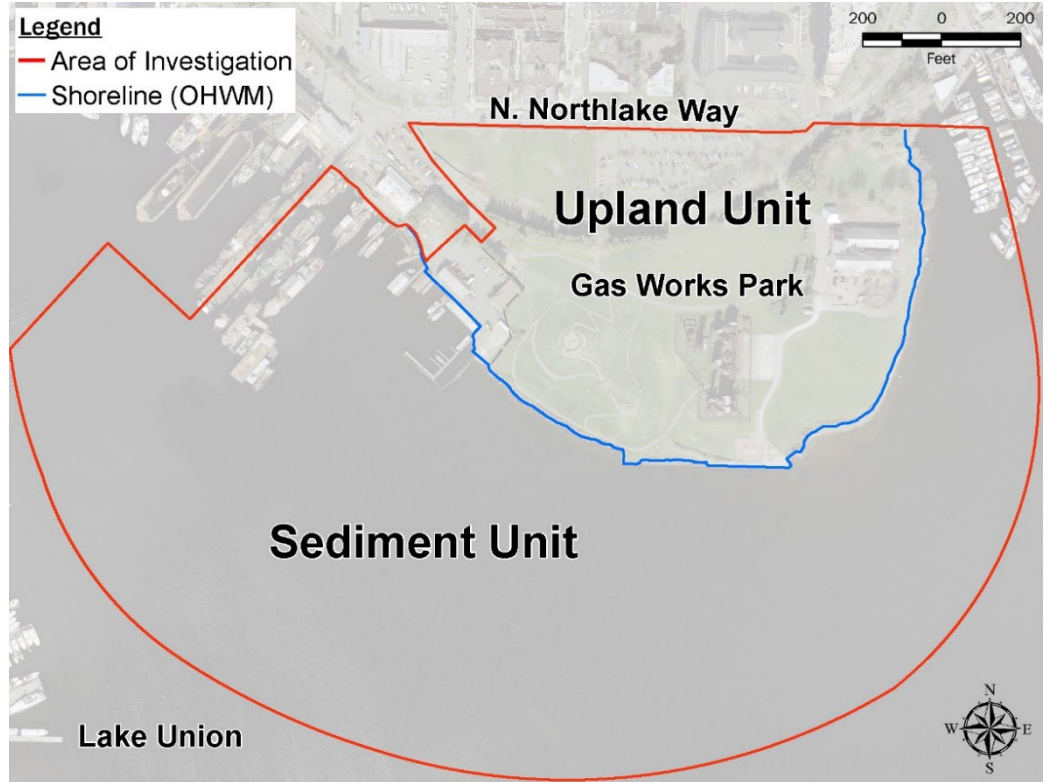
中文信息包括 (第5页)

Impormasyon sa Tagalog (pahina 5)

Site Units

The Gas Works Park site consists of two units, a 21-acre Upland Unit and a 56-acre in-water Sediment Unit. As summarized in the environmental report, multiple previous cleanup actions have addressed most of the contamination in the Upland Unit.

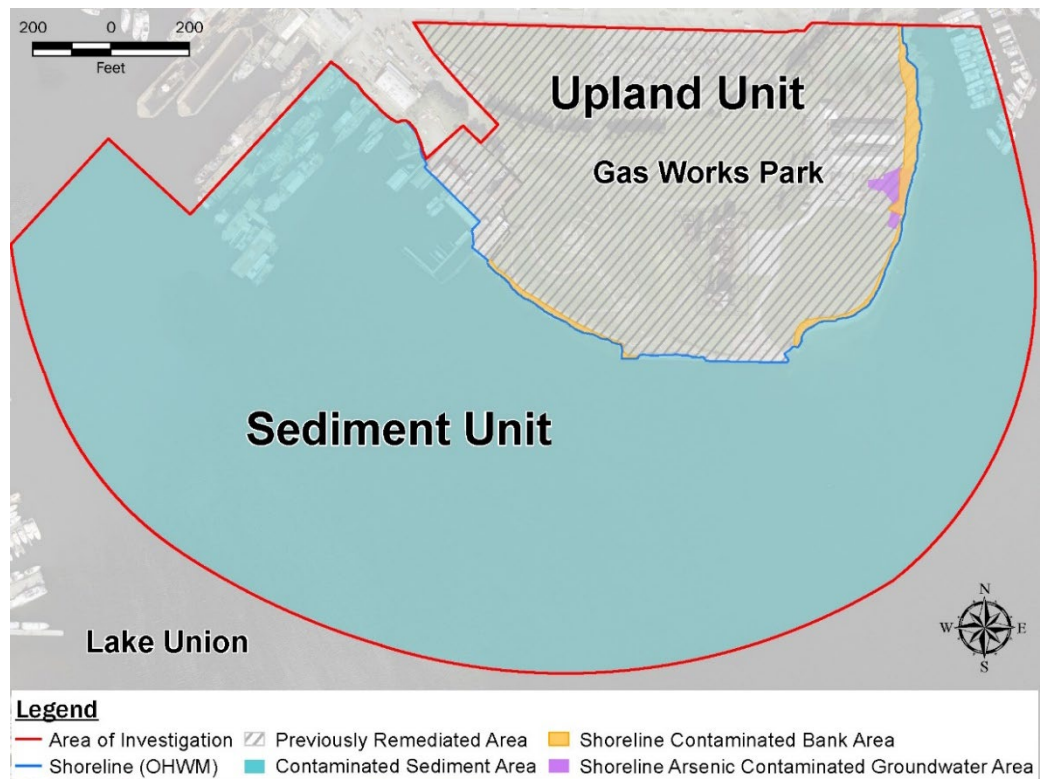
Contaminated soil and groundwater in certain shoreline areas and contaminated sediment in the Sediment Unit requires remediation.

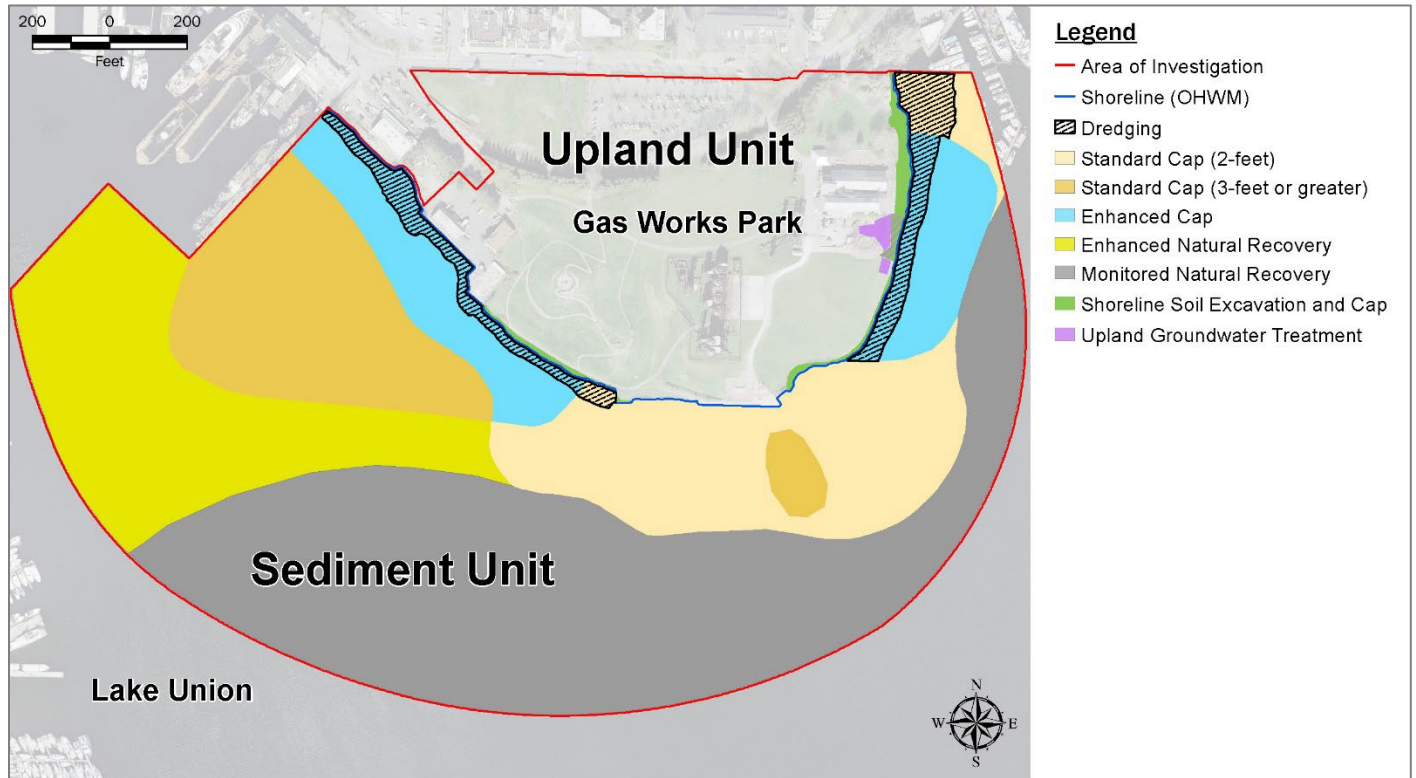


Areas Requiring Remediation

The environmental report summarizes investigation results and concludes that contaminated shoreline bank soil, arsenic-contaminated groundwater, and contaminated sediment in the Sediment Unit requires remediation.

Contaminants present in the Sediment Unit due to former site-related industrial operations include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, nickel, carbazole and dibenzofuran. Additional contaminants associated with other sources in Lake Union are also present.





Preferred Cleanup Action Alternative

To address the areas requiring remediation, the environmental report identifies and assembles remediation methods into eight cleanup action alternatives. The alternatives range from an alternative that employs the least contaminant removal and capping to an alternative that employs the most contaminant removal and capping. All of the alternatives protect human health and the environment.

The report evaluates and compares the environmental benefits and costs of the alternatives and identifies a preferred cleanup action alternative. The preferred cleanup action alternative includes the following actions (the locations of these actions are shown in the figure above):

Sediment Unit Actions (in-water only)

- **Dredging:** Remove approximately 3,600 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, including potential dredging prior to capping in nearshore areas with operations that require maintenance of certain water depths.
- **Standard capping:** Place approximately 14 acres of a 2-foot thick sand cap and approximately 4 acres of a 3-foot or greater sand cap to isolate contaminated sediment.
- **Enhanced capping:** Place approximately 5 acres of amended sand cap to isolate contaminated sediment and to treat groundwater or place a low permeability cap to isolate contaminated sediment and redirect groundwater to adjacent amended sand caps for treatment. Amended sand caps are necessary to treat groundwater that becomes contaminated as it discharges from the upland and flows through subsurface contaminated sediment.
- **Enhanced natural recovery:** Place approximately 10 acres of a 6-inch sand layer to accelerate the naturally occurring reduction of contaminant concentrations due to the deposition of clean material.
- **Monitored natural recovery:** Monitor approximately 23 acres to verify the naturally occurring reduction of contaminant concentrations due to the deposition of clean material.

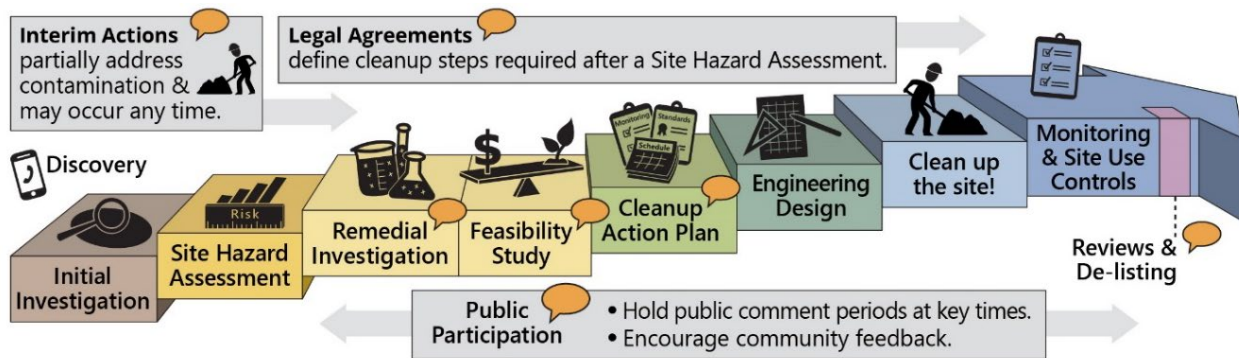
Upland/Sediment Unit Intersection Actions

- **Shoreline soil excavation and capping:** Remove approximately 4,800 cubic yards of contaminated shoreline bank soil including shallow tar removal on the eastern shoreline. Following removal, place topsoil and vegetation over about 0.7 acre to provide a transition to the existing park surfaces.
- **Upland groundwater treatment:** Treat arsenic-contaminated groundwater below the ground along the eastern shoreline.

The variety of actions is due to the range of conditions present within the Sediment Unit, such as areas of very soft sediment, areas of high groundwater discharge, pockets of more highly contaminated subsurface sediment, and areas where clean sediment is naturally depositing.

The preferred cleanup action alternative also includes post-construction monitoring and site use controls to ensure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment over time.

What happens next?



Washington’s formal [cleanup process](https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process)¹ is shown in the graphic above. The Sediment Unit is in the remedial investigation/feasibility study step. The timeline to complete this step and the anticipated timeline for future steps is outlined below:

- **October 24 – November 22, 2022:** Public comment period
- **November 2, 2022:** Public meeting
- **Early 2023:** Public comments addressed and environmental report (remedial investigation/feasibility study report) finalized
- **2023:** Ecology issues a cleanup action plan (based on the information in the final environmental report) for public review
- **2023 to 2027:** Engineering design and permitting, including additional investigations and evaluations to refine the cleanup action and enable detailed design work
- **2027:** Begin construction

Cost and funding

The preferred cleanup action alternative identified in the environmental report is expected to cost about \$73 million. The City and PSE are funding partners for the cleanup. The City is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of their costs from Ecology through the state’s remedial action grant program. This funding helps to pay to clean up publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

Background

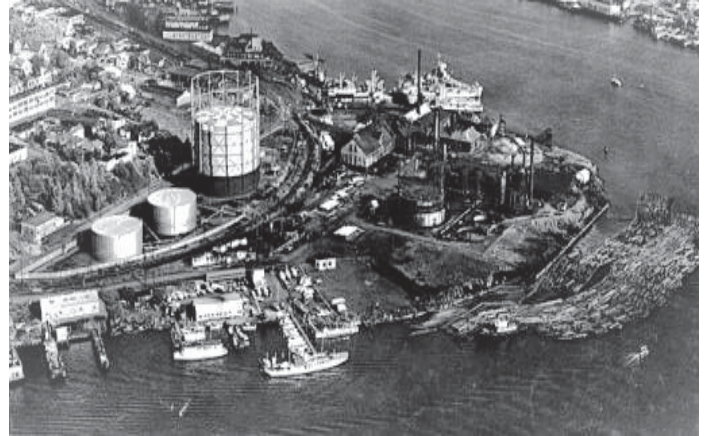
Formerly territory occupied by three indigenous communities (the Duwamish, Hachooabsh, and Shilsholes), the area surrounding the northern portion of Lake Union was settled by non-natives in the mid- to late-1800s. In 1907, construction of a manufactured gas plant was completed on the upland area of the Gas Works Park site to supply fuel for the growing population of Seattle. The plant operated until 1956. Other industries (e.g., tar refining, bulk fuel storage, shipbuilding) also historically operated in the upland area. These past industrial activities resulted in contamination of soil, groundwater and sediment.

Contamination in the upland area has been largely addressed through multiple cleanup actions completed between 1971 and 2020.

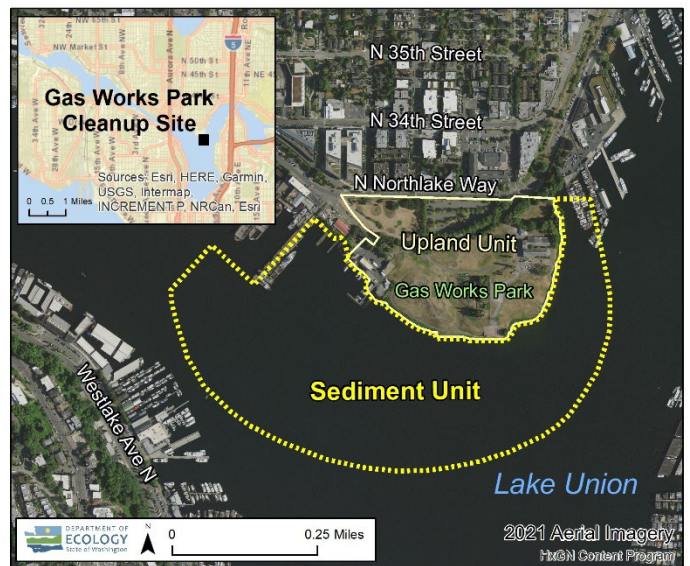
Location

The Gas Works Park site is located at 2101 N Northlake Way, Seattle, Washington on Lake Union. It consists of approximately 21 upland acres (Upland Unit) and approximately 56 in-water acres (Sediment Unit).

The City of Seattle owns the majority of the Upland Unit and the State of Washington owns the majority of the Sediment Unit.



Aerial view of Gas Works Park site operations, 1965



Aerial map of Gas Works Park site

Información en español

Si desea recibir una hoja informativa completamente traducida en español, que incluya información sobre una reunión pública en línea con intérpretes el **2 de noviembre a las 6:30 p. m.**, visite www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks, la Sucursal Fremont de la Biblioteca Pública de Seattle (731 N 35th Street, Seattle, WA 9810), o llame al 425-324-5901 y espere a que una intérprete se una a la llamada.

有關清理工作的中文信息

如果您愿意收到完整的中文情况说明，包括 **11月2日下午 6:30** 配有译员的在线公开会议信息，请访问网站 www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks，西雅图公共图书馆 Fremont 分馆（731 N 35th Street, Seattle, WA 9810），或拨打 425-324-5901 等待口译人员加入连线。

Impormasyon sa Tagalog

Kung gusto mong makatanggap ng dokumentong isinalin sa wikang Tagalog, kasama na ang impormasyon tungkol sa online na pampublikong pagpupulong na may mga tagapagsalin sa **Nobyembre 2, 6:30 p.m.**, bisitahin ang www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks, sa Seattle Public Library's Fremont Branch (731 N 35th Street, Seattle, WA 9810), o tumawag sa 425-324-5901 at maghintay na sumali sa tawag ang isang tagasalin.

Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

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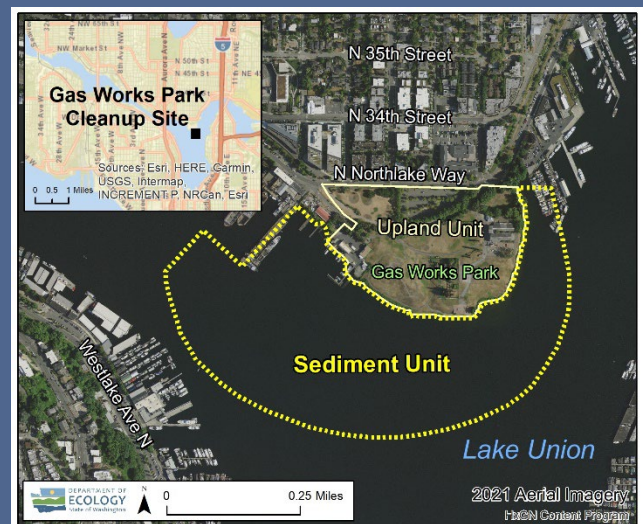
Online public meeting – See page 1 for details

November 2, 2022; Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Register at: www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-324-5901 or email at ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.



Aerial map of Gas Works Park site