



Public Participation Plan

Whatcom Waterway Site Bellingham, WA

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
Shoreline, Washington

July 2023

Publication Information

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- Clean-up site ID: 219
- Facility site ID: 2889

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¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region
360-407-6300

Northwest Region
206-594-0000

Central Region
509-575-2490

Eastern Region
509-329-3400

Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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Bellingham, WA**

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Introduction

The Port of Bellingham (Port), the City of Bellingham (City), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are addressing contamination at the Whatcom Waterway site (Site) under a legal agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The contamination is the result of past industrial waterfront activities and is present at potentially harmful levels. To protect human health and the environment, the contamination must be addressed in accordance with Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

Ecology developed this public participation plan (plan) as required under the MTCA, to promote meaningful community involvement in the Site cleanup process. The plan first discusses the MTCA and the cleanup process, then provides information about the Site. Next it describes planned public involvement activities and then addresses plan updates and amendments.

Washington's Cleanup Law

Ecology derives its authority to require cleanup of contamination from the state Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#)²; [Chapter 70.105D Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\)](#)³). The MTCA provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment. Standards for sediment cleanup are established in the state Sediment Management Standards, [Chapter 173-204 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#)⁴.

The MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988 and started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may be held responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property to standards that are safe for human health and the environment.

Ecology enacts the MTCA and oversees cleanups in the state and issues regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are found in [Chapter 173-340 WAC](#)⁵. Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and if it poses a significant threat to human health or the environment, the site is placed on the Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List for further assessment. The cleanup process can begin at any time after a release of a hazardous substance to the environment has been discovered.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA. Participation needs are assessed at each site according to the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations, and interested parties can get involved by commenting during the cleanup process.

² <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

³ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

⁴ <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>

⁵ <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340>

Under the MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes multiple steps (see Figure 1 on page 8), with opportunities for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents. In addition, a partial cleanup (called an interim action) can occur at any time during the cleanup process. The public is provided an opportunity to review and comment on planned interim action work as well.

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA; [Chapter 197-11 WAC](#)⁶). Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

⁶ <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=197-11>

Washington's Formal Cleanup Process



Washington's Cleanup Law

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA defines the cleanup process. This public-initiated environmental law directs upland cleanups (on land or in groundwater) and sediment cleanups (in freshwater or marine environments). Ecology enacts MTCA and regulates the cleanup process.

September 2019
Ecology Publication 19-09-166

Figure 1: Steps in Washington's Cleanup Process⁷

⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

Site Information

Background

The over 700 acre Site is located within Bellingham Bay south of the Holly Street bridge in Bellingham, Washington. Most of the Site is owned by the State of Washington. (See Figure 2)

The cleanup of the Log Pond Area (6 acres) was completed in 2001, and Phase 1 Site Areas (18 acres) was completed in 2016. Monitoring of these areas and natural recovery areas (636 acres) continues. The cleanup of Phase 2 Site Areas (71 acres) remains to be performed. (See Figure 4)

The Site is one of 12 [Bellingham Bay cleanup](#)⁸ sites coordinated through the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot. The Pilot is a bay-wide multi-agency effort to clean up contamination, control pollution sources and restore habitat, with consideration for land and water uses.

Contamination

The Site includes in-water sediment impacted by contaminants released from past industrial waterfront activities, including discharges from the former Georgia-Pacific chlor-alkali plant, wood waste and degradation products from historic log rafting activities, and pulp mill wastewater discharges.

As a result of these past industrial activities, studies conducted as part of the cleanup process have shown mercury, 4-methylphenol, and dioxin/furan compounds in sediment at concentrations that exceed the requirements of the state's cleanup law, the [Model Toxics Control Act](#)⁹, and must be addressed.

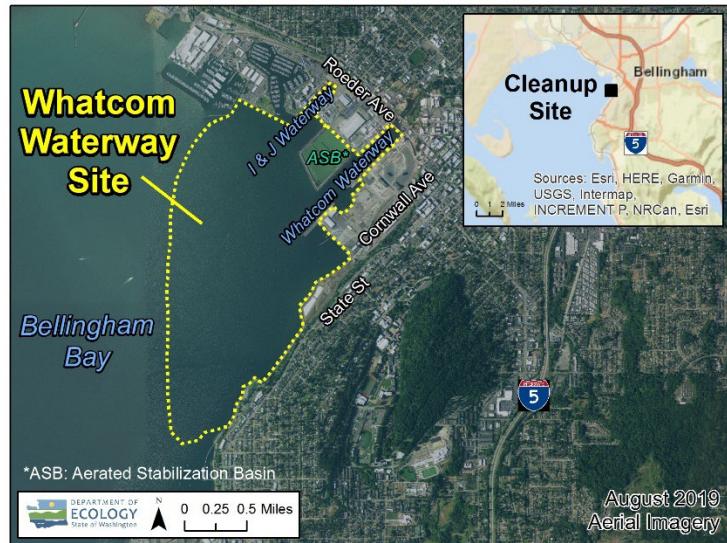


Figure 2: Whatcom Waterway site location



Figure 3: Former Georgia-Pacific operations

⁸ <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/BellinghamBayCleanup>

⁹ <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca>



Figure 4: Aerial Map of Whatcom Waterway Site Areas

Status of cleanup

Portions of the Site have been cleaned up and remaining areas are in the cleanup action plan/engineering step of the formal cleanup process shown in Figure 1 on Page 8.

Log Pond Area

In November 2000, the Port of Bellingham, with Ecology oversight, began construction activities to address contaminated sediment within the Log Pond area of the Site. The work, completed in February 2001, placed about 43,000 cubic yards of clean material over an area of about 5.6 acres to isolate contaminated sediment and restore habitat.

To ensure the completed cleanup protects human health and the environment in the long term, scientists are conducting physical, chemical, and biological monitoring. Monitoring results led to the placement of additional material in select shoreline areas of the Log Pond to prevent erosion as part of the cleanup of Phase 1 Site Areas described below.

Phase 1 Site Areas

In July 2015, the Port of Bellingham, with Ecology oversight, began construction activities to address contaminated sediment within Phase 1 Site Areas. The work was completed in 2016 and included:

- Removing 111,446 cubic yards of contaminated sediment
- Removing 9,962 tons of soil and 265 tons of creosote-treated timber
- Removing 5,146 tons of concrete and asphalt rubble (over 98% was reused or recycled)

- Isolating contaminated sediment with 102,950 cubic yards of clean material
- Installing 36,600 square feet of sheet pile walls on the north side of the waterway to support the upland and prevent contaminated groundwater from entering the waterway

To ensure the completed cleanup protects human health and the environment in the long term, scientists are conducting physical, chemical, and biological monitoring.

Monitored Natural Recovery Areas

Monitoring of the completed cleanup of Phase 1 Site Areas also includes chemical monitoring of natural recovery areas to ensure that contaminated sediment isolated by clean material (due to natural processes) remains isolated.

Phase 2 Site Areas

In 2023, Ecology is amending the existing Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for Phase 2 Site Areas. The CAP amendment is part of a legal agreement between Ecology, the Port, the City, and the DNR.

The CAP amendment:

- sequences design and construction activities to prioritize early cleanup at the Bellingham Shipping Terminal (BST).
- documents a possible future change to the cleanup action at the head of the Whatcom Waterway to provide habitat benefit.
- revises the cleanup action for the Aerated Stabilization Basin (ASB), including dredged material disposal, due to changes in land use plans.
- adds a cleanup standard for dioxin and furan compounds due to regulatory changes.

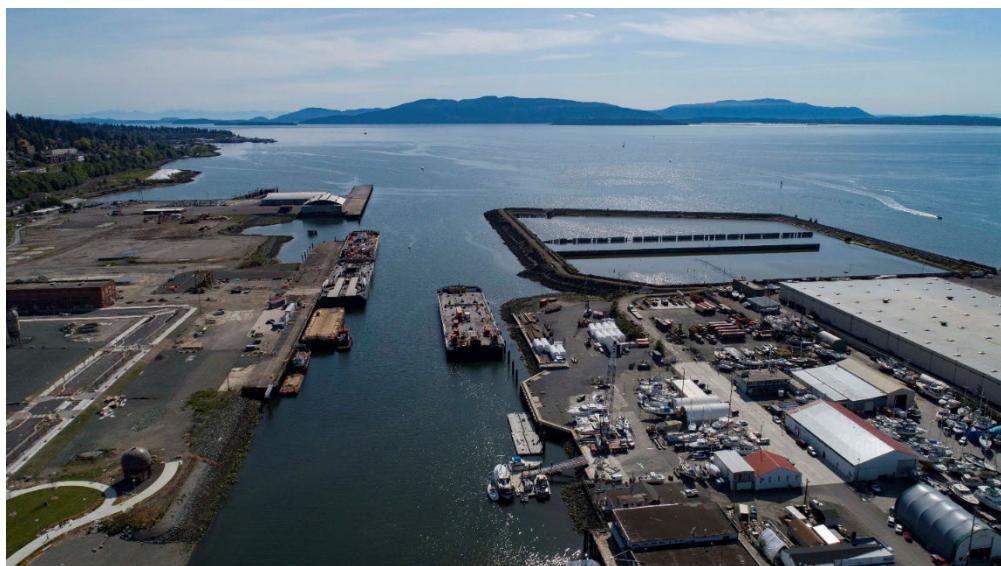


Figure 5: Bellingham waterfront, May 2019

Area land use

The Site is within Bellingham's City Center Neighborhood (see Figure 6). It extends from the Holly Street Bridge and the Bellingham waterfront into Bellingham Bay.

Most of the Site is owned by the State of Washington.

The upland areas to the north and west of the Site are zoned for commercial use (see Figure 6).¹⁰ Most upland property near the Site is owned by the Port and leased for a variety of uses. Leases are in place for mixed-use development including seafood processing, boat manufacturing, storage, and maintenance, and commercial buildings. The City owns other upland property near the Site and is developing and maintaining many public park spaces.

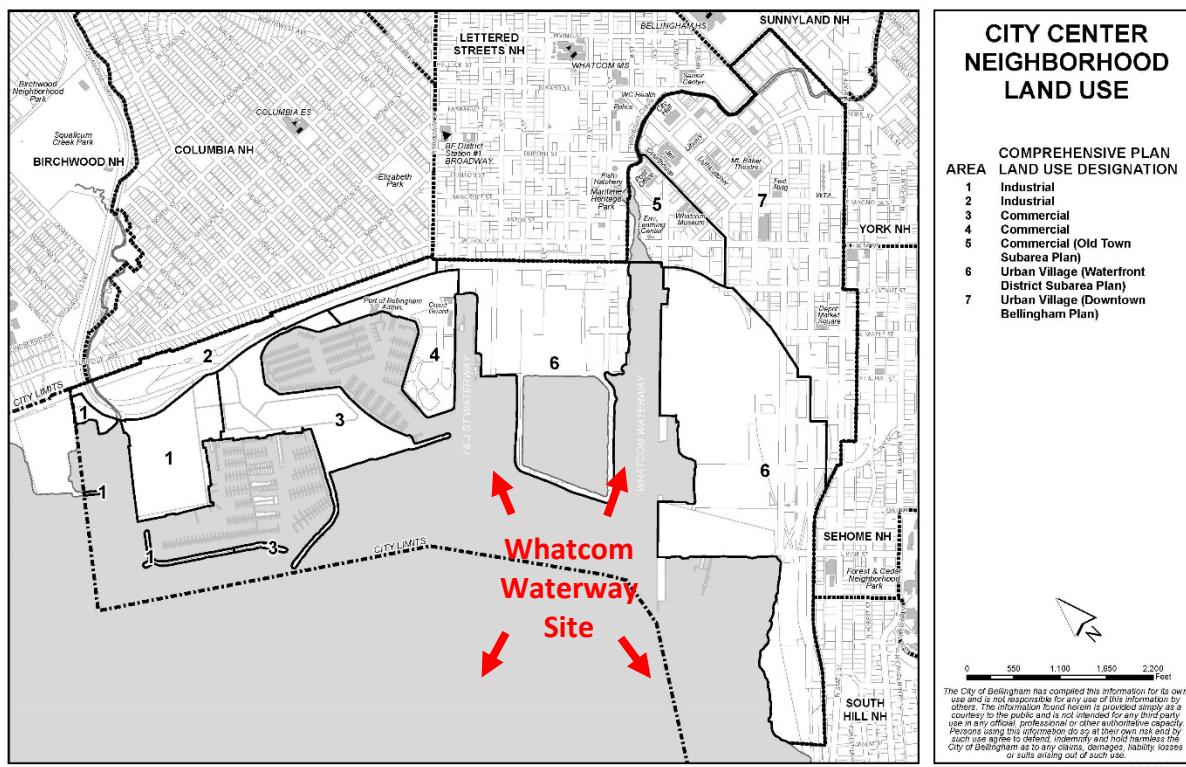


Figure 6: Site location in Bellingham's City Center Neighborhood

The Site is located within the City of Bellingham's [Waterfront District](#)¹¹ Urban Village (see Figure 7), which "has been in a state of transition from its long history as an active industrial site to a new mixed-use neighborhood."¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.cob.org/documents/gis/maps/land-use/CBD-bwLandUse.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.cob.org/services/planning/urban-villages/waterfront>

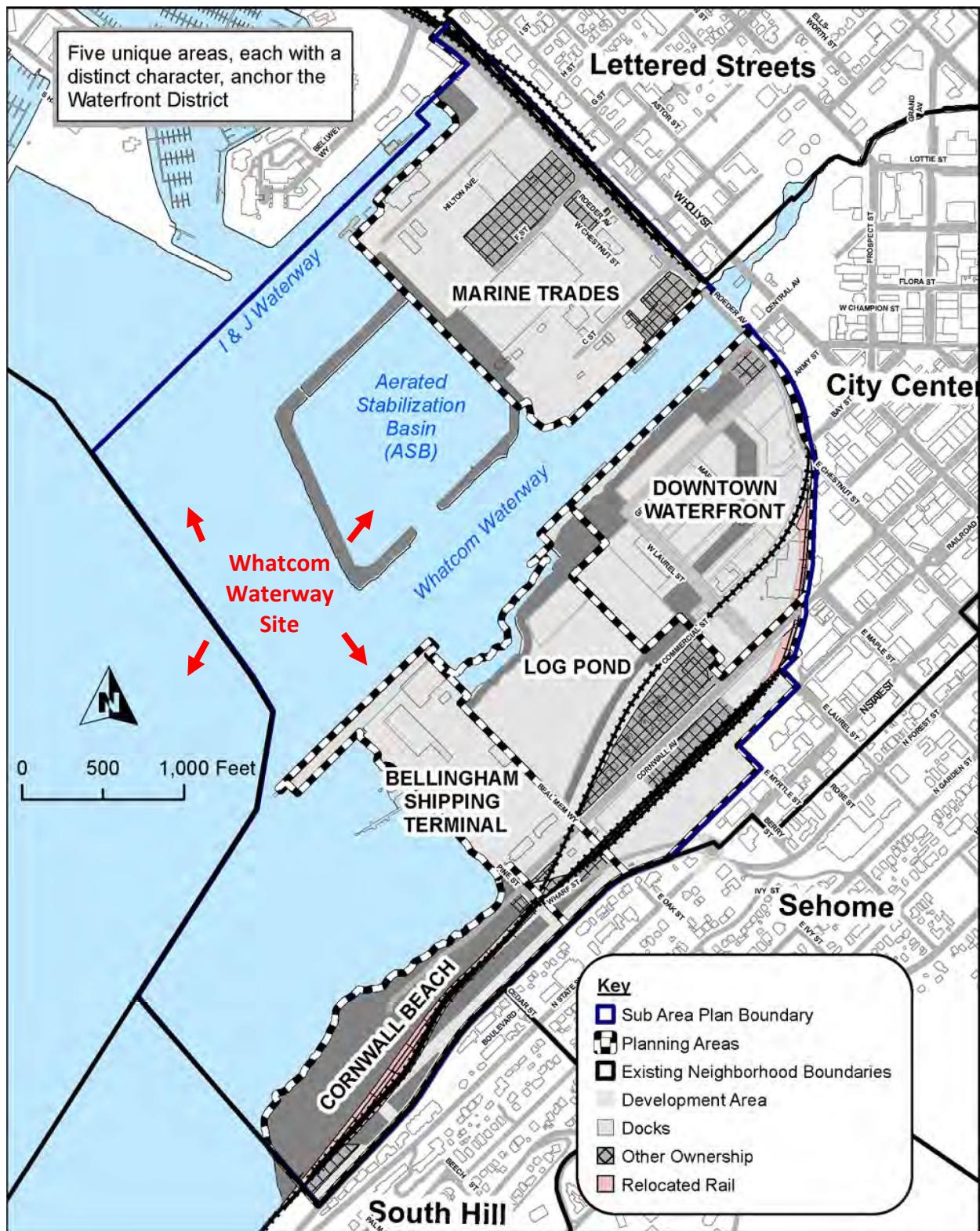


Figure 7: Waterfront District 2018 Sub-Area Plan Project EIS Addendum

Area community

Demographic data below is from:

- Environmental Protection Agency's [Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool \(EJSCREEN\)](https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/index.html)¹²
- Washington State Department of Health's [Washington Tracking Network A Source for Environmental Public Health Data](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/)¹³
- United States Census Bureau's [Explore Census Data](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/)¹⁴

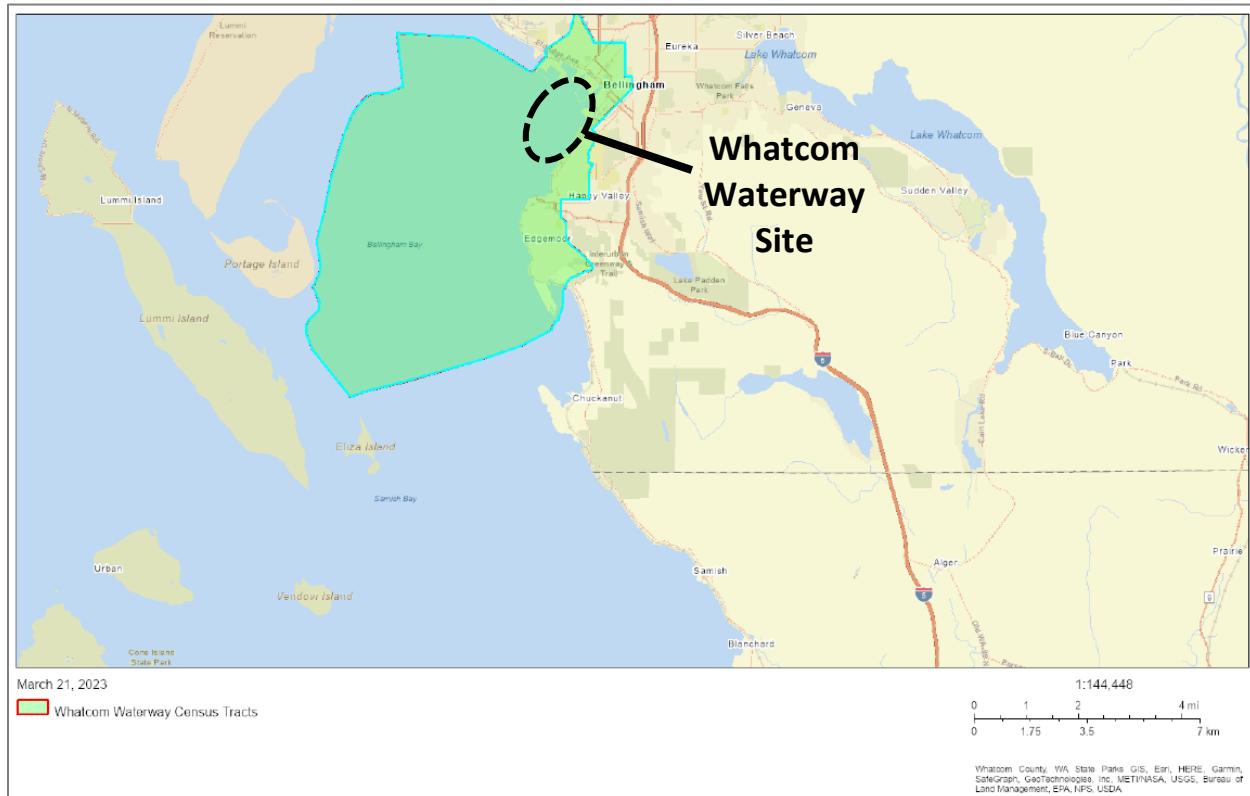


Figure 8: Location of Whatcom Waterway Site Census Tracts (EPA EJSCREEN Report, Version 2.11)

The EJSCREEN does not report any significant socioeconomic indicators over the 80th percentile in the Whatcom Waterway census tract area (See Appendix A “Whatcom Waterway Census Tracts EJSCREEN Report.”) As this community’s needs change, Ecology will plan our public outreach to consider this population’s needs.

¹² <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/index.html>

¹³ <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>

¹⁴ <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

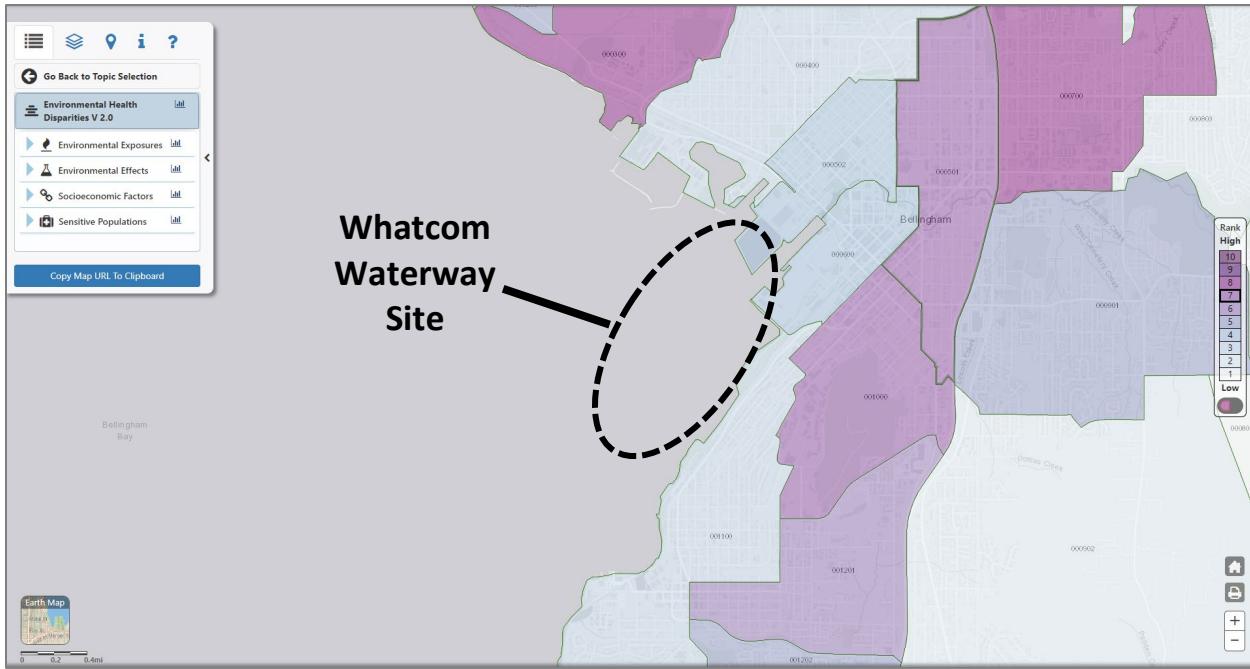


Figure 9: Washington Tracking Network map results for Whatcom Waterway site area

The Washington Tracking Network “Environmental Health Disparities” map shows environmental risk based on threat and vulnerability (See Figure 9). Environmental risk is ranked on a scale of 1-10 (low to high). The census tracts within the Site range from 3 to 4 on a scale of 10 being the most adverse environmental health risk.

The United States Census Bureau’s Explore Census Data Table B16001: “[Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over](#)¹⁵” reports no significant language populations speaking English less than “very well.”

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our public involvement efforts and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance.¹⁶ The non-English language most widely spoken in the Site area is Spanish. As a result, mailers will provide contact information for Spanish speakers to request translation services. We strive to involve the whole community in our public participation efforts and welcome your input on additional measures we can take to reach the nearby community.

The Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe may harvest seafood from the Site. Ecology will reach out to these tribes throughout the cleanup process.

¹⁵

<https://data.census.gov/table?t=Language+Spoken+at+Home&g=1400000US53073000400,53073000502,53073000600,53073010100,53073011000&tid=ACSDT5Y2015.B16001>

¹⁶ Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

Public Involvement Activities

This section describes how Ecology will share information with the community and how you can share information with us. In addition, this section provides information about state grants that are available to help the community understand and participate in the cleanup process.

How we share information with the community

During specific steps of the cleanup process, Ecology will mail notices about upcoming public comment periods to residences and businesses near the Site. The mailing list area may vary depending on the type of contamination and where it is located, but at a minimum it will include addresses within a quarter-mile radius of the Site, and other interested organizations and individuals. The notices will provide general information about the Site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings, or how to request one if one is not yet scheduled.

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the Site's status. We will make these informational documents available online and, if warranted, by US mail.

Comment period notices and other Site announcements may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, libraries).

Notification lists

Ecology maintains an email list and a mailing list that includes: postal addresses within a quarter-mile radius of the Site; relevant local, state, federal, and tribal government contacts; and, other interested parties.

We will use these lists to send notices when cleanup documents are available for public review and comment or for other Site communications.

If you would like to be added to the email or mailing lists for this Site, please contact Ian Fawley at 425-324-5901 or ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).¹⁷ To receive the Site Register by email, please contact Sarah Kellington at 360-407-7466 or sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov, or [subscribe online](#)¹⁸.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in *The Bellingham Herald* newspaper. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).¹⁹

¹⁷ ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data

¹⁸ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_118

¹⁹ ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a [website for the Whatcom Waterway site](#).²⁰ The website provides Site information, including current status, public comment period information and documents, and other Site documents.

We may also share information about sites through [news releases, our Ecology blog, and social media](#).²¹

Document repositories

During public comment periods when review locations are accessible, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Bellingham Public Library – Central Branch

210 Central Avenue

Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: 360-778-7523

Washington Department of Ecology

Bellingham Field Office

913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101

Bellingham, WA 98225

To schedule an appointment, please contact the Bellingham Field Office Administration Staff at 360-255-4400 or ECYDLBFOADMIN SUPPORT@ecy.wa.gov.

Washington Department of Ecology

Northwest Region Office

15700 Dayton Ave N

Shoreline, WA 98133

To schedule an appointment, please contact the Northwest Region Office Central Records staff at 206-594-0000 or nwro_public_request@ecy.wa.gov.

When locations listed above are not accessible, please contact Ecology for document review assistance: Ian Fawley at 425-324-5901 or Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

Signs at the Site

We may also install signs displaying information about cleanup status, traffic impacts, and health risks at the Site.

²⁰ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/219>

²¹ ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News

How to share information with us

Interested persons may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share Site information with Ecology at any time. However, to be included in the formal Site record, comments must be submitted in writing during designated comment periods. These written comments can be submitted via:

- Ecology's online comment form
- Email or mail to the Ecology Site Manager

We may also meet with interested community members and organizations to gather information and identify public concerns. To collaborate with us about this Site, please contact Ian Fawley at 425-324-5901 or ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

At minimum, the MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for certain cleanup documents. Ecology may hold longer public comment periods based upon the complexity of the documents, level of public interest, or other compelling factors.

For related SEPA documents, these are typically issued for public review with the cleanup documents and follow their public comment period.

Following the comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. We will place our responses on [Ecology's Whatcom Waterway site webpage](#)²². If the comments received result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then we will revise and re-issue the documents for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, then the documents are considered final.

Public events

We hold in-person and online public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting, we will hold one if we receive 10 or more written requests.

Events are held at locations close to the Site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

²² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/219>

Public participation grants

Qualified individuals and not-for-profit public interest organizations are eligible to apply for a Public Participation Grant (PPG) from Ecology. For contaminated sites, these funds may be used to:

- Contract with an expert to help interpret technical jargon and information.
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the site cleanup process.

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Faith Wimberley at 425-275-7285 or faith.wimberley@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).²³

Plan Amendments/Updates

Ecology will review this plan as the cleanup progresses and amend/update it as necessary.

The public involvement activities presented herein describe Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and for receiving information and comments from the public.

If you feel the public involvement activities described in this plan are insufficient, or need modification, please contact Ian Fawley at 425-324-5901 or ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

²³ ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants

Appendices

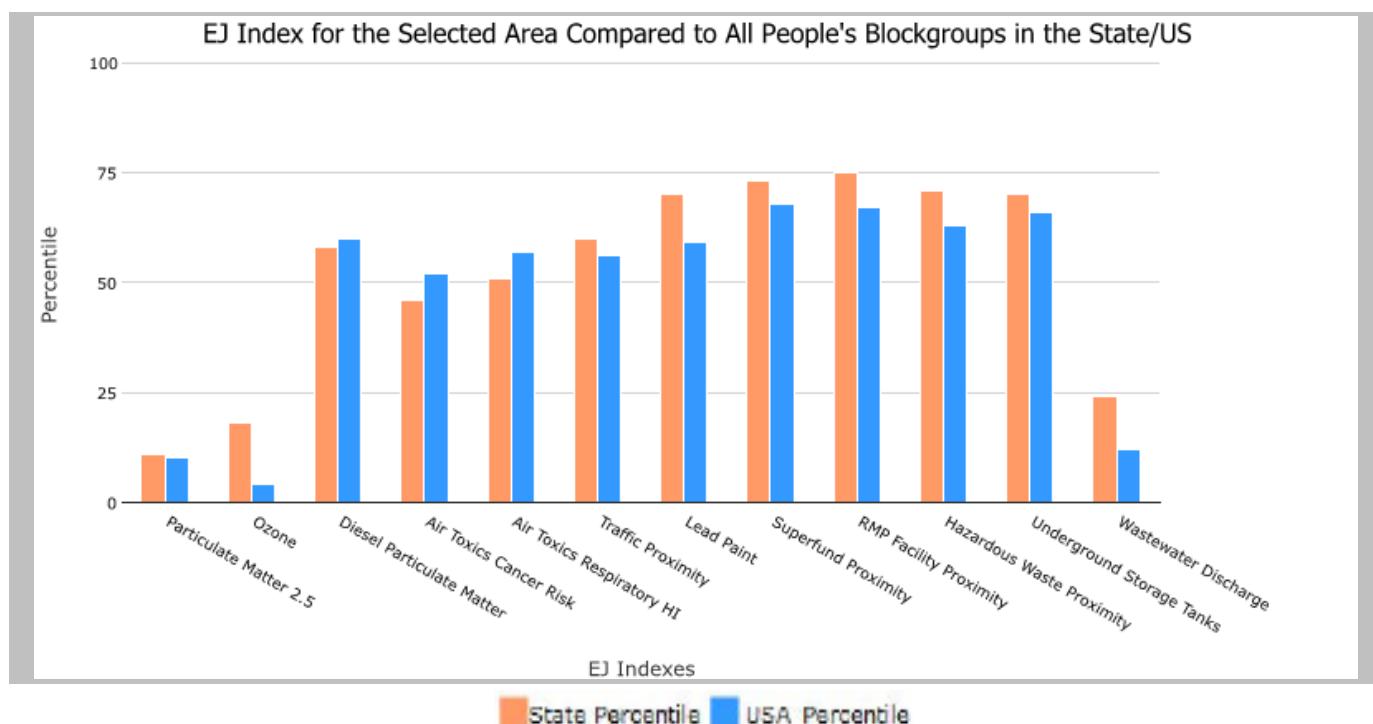
Appendix A. “Whatcom Waterway Census Tracts EJSCREEN Report”

EPA’s EJSCREEN report for census tracts within the Whatcom Waterway site area.

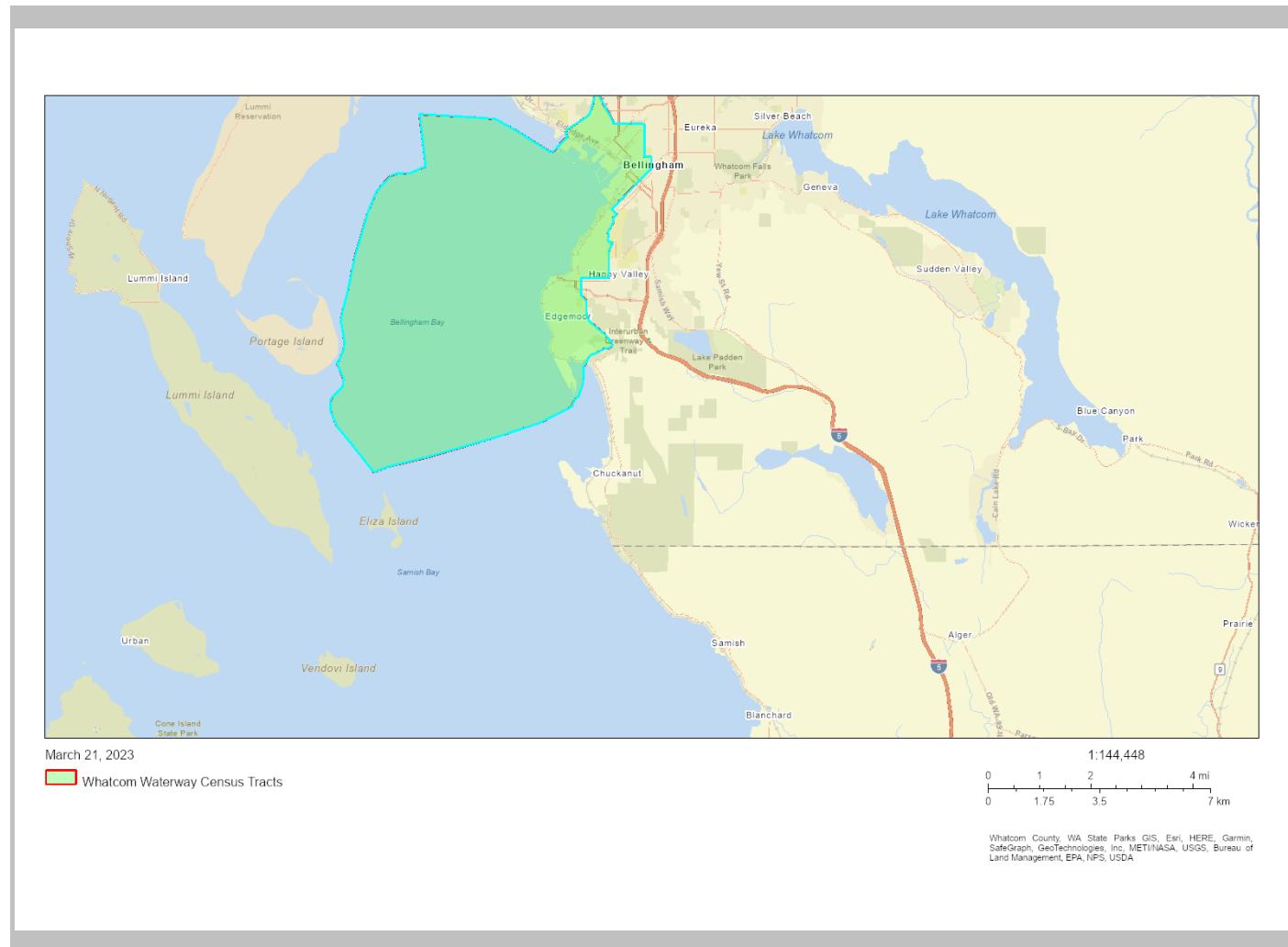
t: 53073000502,5307300402,53073001102,5307300600,53073001101, WASHINGTON, EPA Region
Approximate Population: 15,382
Input Area (sq. miles): 29.65
Whatcom Waterway Census Tracts

Selected Variables	State Percentile	USA Percentile
Environmental Justice Indexes		
Particulate Matter 2.5 EJ index	11	10
Ozone EJ index	18	4
Diesel Particulate Matter EJ index*	58	60
Air Toxics Cancer Risk EJ index*	46	52
Air Toxics Respiratory HI EJ index*	51	57
Traffic Proximity EJ index	60	56
Lead Paint EJ index	70	59
Superfund Proximity EJ index	73	68
RMP Facility Proximity EJ index	75	67
Hazardous Waste Proximity EJ index	71	63
Underground Storage Tanks EJ index	70	66
Wastewater Discharge EJ index	24	12

EJ Indexes - The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.



*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

Tract: 53073000502,53073000402,53073001102,53073000600,53073001101, WASHINGTON, EPA Region 10
Approximate Population: 15,382
Input Area (sq. miles): 29.65
Whatcom Waterway Census Tracts


Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	2

Tract: 53073000502,53073000402,53073001102,53073000600,53073001101, WASHINGTON, EPA Region 10
Approximate Population: 15,382
Input Area (sq. miles): 29.65
Whatcom Waterway Census Tracts

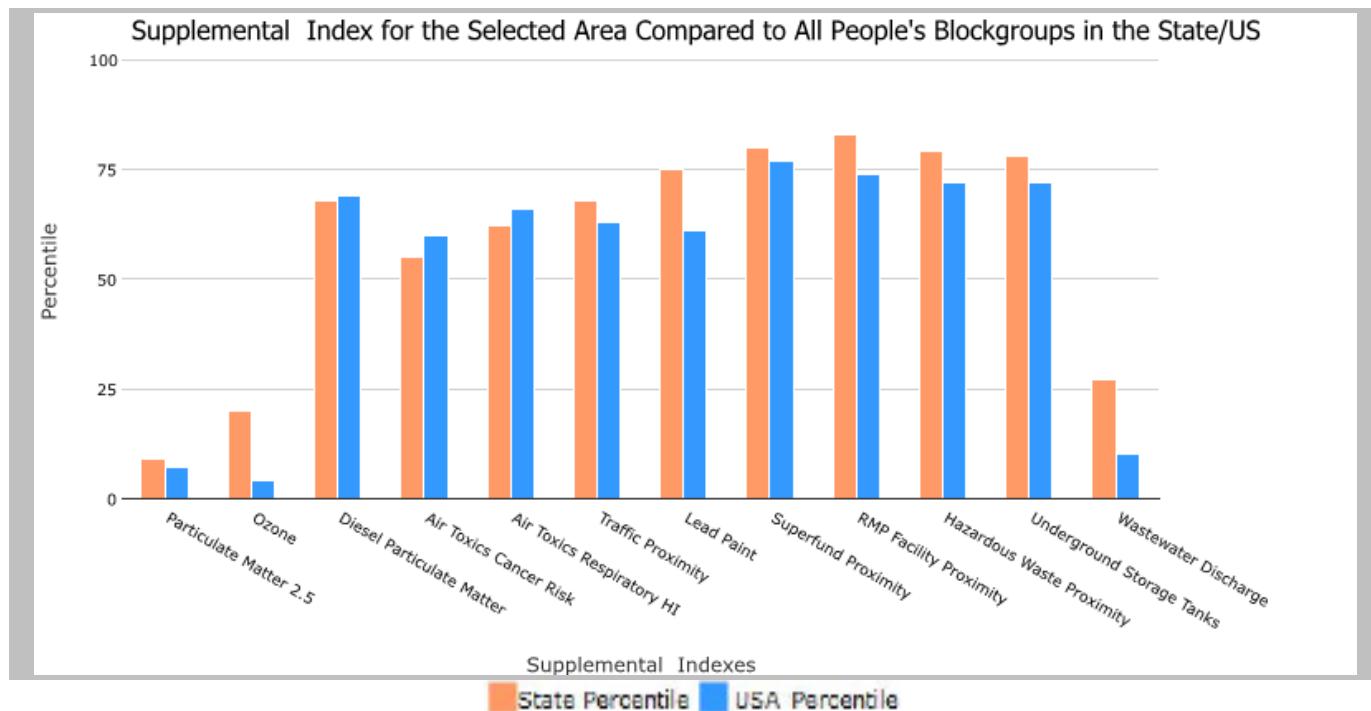
Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Pollution and Sources					
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	6.27	7.85	8	8.67	6
Ozone (ppb)	31	35.3	12	42.5	3
Diesel Particulate Matter* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.355	0.334	56	0.294	70-80th
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	31	35	54	28	80-90th
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.52	0.51	75	0.36	95-100th
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	560	740	67	760	69
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.44	0.22	79	0.27	69
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.33	0.18	87	0.13	92
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2.8	0.64	95	0.77	94
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	3.9	2.2	82	2.2	83
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	17	6.3	89	3.9	94
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	4.6E-06	0.021	32	12	14
Socioeconomic Indicators					
Demographic Index	23%	28%	46	35%	40
Supplemental Demographic Index	12%	12%	57	15%	44
People of Color	18%	33%	32	40%	36
Low Income	28%	24%	64	30%	51
Unemployment Rate	5%	5%	59	5%	56
Limited English Speaking Households	1%	4%	54	5%	58
Less Than High School Education	6%	8%	52	12%	41
Under Age 5	3%	6%	31	6%	33
Over Age 64	19%	15%	67	16%	64
Low Life Expectancy	18%	18%	45	20%	34

EJSscreen is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSscreen documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJSscreen outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

t: 53073000502,5307300402,53073001102,5307300600,53073001101, WASHINGTON, EPA Region
Approximate Population: 15,382
Input Area (sq. miles): 29.65
Whatcom Waterway Census Tracts

Selected Variables	State Percentile	USA Percentile
Supplemental Indexes		
Particulate Matter 2.5 Supplemental Index	9	7
Ozone Supplemental Index	20	4
Diesel Particulate Matter Supplemental Index*	68	69
Air Toxics Cancer Risk Supplemental Index*	55	60
Air Toxics Respiratory HI Supplemental Index*	62	66
Traffic Proximity Supplemental Index	68	63
Lead Paint Supplemental Index	75	61
Superfund Proximity Supplemental Index	80	77
RMP Facility Proximity Supplemental Index	83	74
Hazardous Waste Proximity Supplemental Index	79	72
Underground Storage Tanks Supplemental Index	78	72
Wastewater Discharge Supplemental Index	27	10

Supplemental Indexes - The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on low-income, limited English speaking, less than high school education, unemployed, and low life expectancy populations with a single environmental indicator.



This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators, EJSscreen indexes, and supplemental indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSscreen documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. For additional information, see: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice.