

From: [Gardiner, Ryan \(ECY\)](#)
To: ["robert@utilitysquared.org"](mailto:robert@utilitysquared.org)
Subject: South Park Landfill question
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 5:02:21 PM

Original comment:

From: Robert Hanlon ([Utility Squared Community](#))

The parcels included in WA Dept. of Ecology's represent both historic, and present/ongoing sources of pollution to the South Park neighborhood. Additionally, the parcels contain little to no canopy cover, a critical, under-addressed issue facing Seattle. At minimum, site improvements should be made to reduce the adverse impact from the present land use, such as additional tree canopy, green barriers to reduce migratory air pollutants, and bioretention cells for site drainage. The parcels also present geographic and logistical significance to the ongoing Reconnect South Park initiative to transform this section of Hwy-99 to better serve the communities it has divided. We encourage the Ecology project team to work with the RSP Coalition through any proposed changes in land use, future development, or visioning to create greater neighborhood connectivity.

<https://reconnectsouthpark.org/> We appreciate the attention given to this site, and hopeful the outcomes will provide environmental justice to residents of the Duwamish Valley.

Response:

Thank you for commenting on Ecology's ongoing work at South Park Landfill. The parcels that overlap with the landfill are a mixture of private and City of Seattle property. For clarity, Ecology's work is for a remedy for the landfill and not a development project/site improvement.

The draft documents that have been prepared for the cleanup remedy at the landfill allow for tree planting that is compatible with the landfill cap/cover. However, the Model Toxics Control Act, which works to protect human health and the environment, does not mandate or incentivize tree planting at cleanup sites.

Stormwater management (such as bioretention) is not a direct component of the remedy in place at the landfill. Property owners are required to address runoff in a manner that is compatible with the remedy. Refer to the [City of Seattle's Stormwater Code](#)^[1] for details about stormwater management requirements. The Department of Ecology regulates stormwater management in the City of Seattle through the [Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit](#)^[2], which is separate from and unaffected by the landfill cleanup.

You can find additional information about the City of Seattle's efforts to coordinate local investments in infrastructure and the community in their [Duwamish Valley Action Plan](#)^[3].

[1] [https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-\(a-z\)/stormwater-code](https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-(a-z)/stormwater-code)

[2] <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Stormwater-general-permits/Municipal-stormwater-general-permits/Municipal-Stormwater-Phase-I-Permit>

³ <https://www.seattle.gov/environment/climate-change/climate-justice/duwamish-valley-program/duwamish-valley-action-plan>

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[1] [https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-\(a-z\)/stormwater-code](https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-(a-z)/stormwater-code)

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