# Soil Replacement Project Complete:

## Neighborhood east of the Port of Ridgefield waterfront property

**Cleanup Site Name:** Pacific Wood Treating **Cleanup Site ID:** 3020 **Facility Site ID:** 1019
**Project Website:** go.ecology.wa.gov/3020

Between 2016 and 2026, workers excavated and removed over 12,000 tons of contaminated soil from 44 properties. That's about 400 truck trips! The port disposed contaminated soil at an appropriate landfill and restored the affected yards.

From 1964 to 1993, Pacific Wood Treating (PWT) operated on Port of Ridgefield property at 111 West Division Street in Ridgefield. PWT used several hazardous chemicals to preserve wood. PWT's facility closed and declared bankruptcy in 1993. The port cleaned up contamination at the facility between 1996 and 2015.

Ecology and the port began sampling soil in 2010 to find how far contamination spread. We found dioxins in soil in the neighborhood east of the port's waterfront property. The port and Ecology used the sampling results to identify which properties needed cleanup. During PWT's operations, contaminated dust might have blown off the waterfront property, been tracked onto roads from truck tires, and come off trucks hauling treated wood through Ridgefield city streets. Ecology identified 44 residential properties which qualified for cleanup.

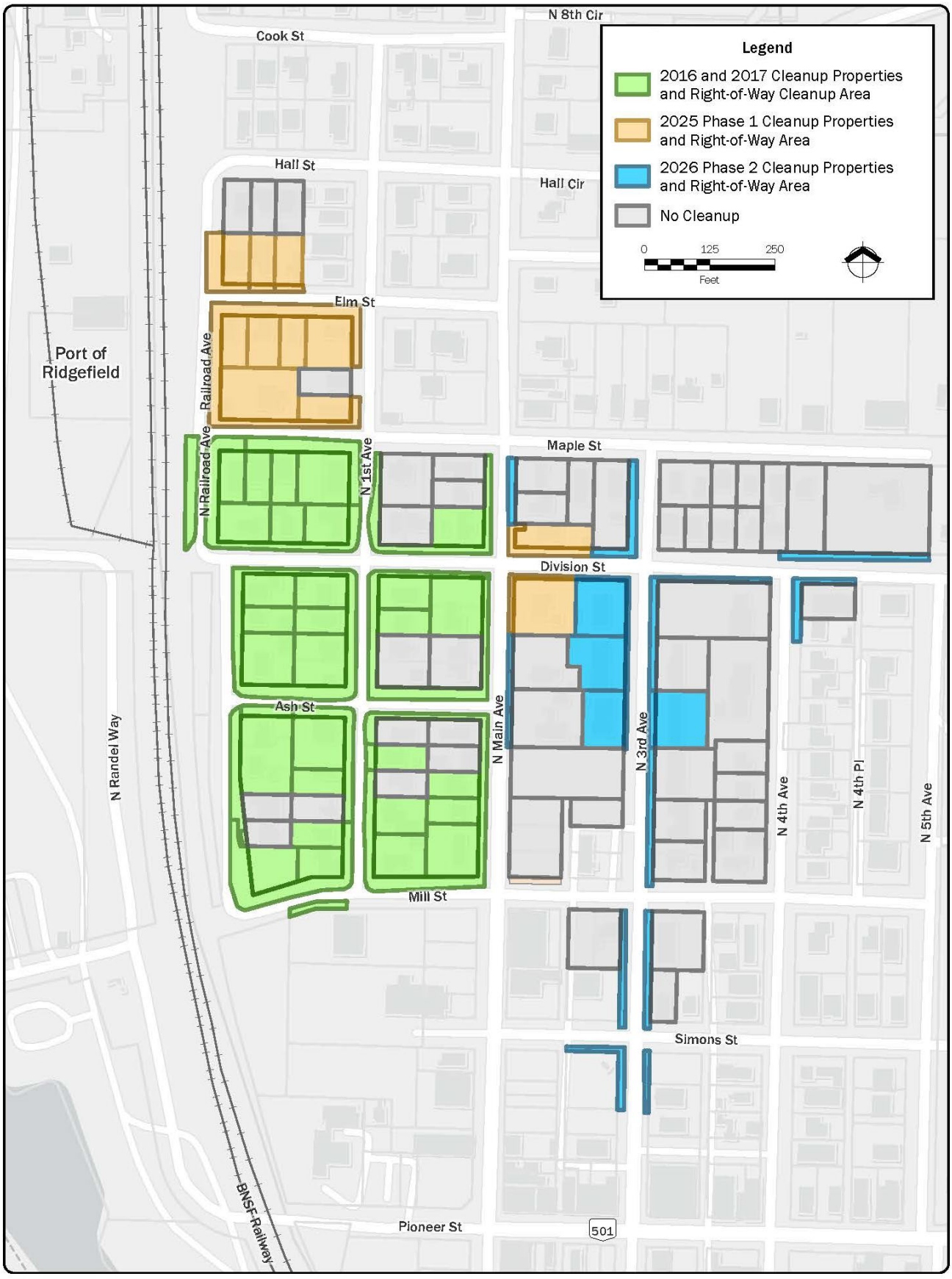
After identifying the individual residential yards and rights-of-way that qualified for cleanup, the port and Ecology found funding to remove contaminated soil. In addition to soil removal, workers restored yards and rights-of-way to their original condition. The port worked directly with homeowners to ensure the restoration and landscaping was completed correctly.



A photo of Honey Bunny's Tea House after workers replaced the top 12 inches of soil and restored the landscaping.

The Port's contractor watered and maintained yards for 30 days after landscaping was complete.

## Map showing properties that were cleaned up in 2016-17 and 2025-26






Workers load contaminated soil into a haul truck for offsite disposal at an appropriately permitted landfill.

Several practices prevent contaminated soil from getting off-site. For example, haul trucks drive onto a thick plastic layer, which catches any soil the excavator might drop during loading. Drivers covered dump truck beds before leaving for the landfill.

Workers also spray water onto the excavation area to prevent dust during excavation and loading (not pictured).

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Why wasn't my yard cleaned up?**
The port and Ecology started looking for dioxins in this neighborhood in 2010. Sampling results showed some yards were not contaminated with dioxins and didn't qualify for cleanup. Perhaps these yards were not exposed to dioxins contamination, or the topsoil was reworked after the PWT facility closed. We generally saw that rights-of-way near the roadway where trucks hauled treated wood were more likely to be exposed to dioxin contamination.

Technical information about the cleanup, including off-property sampling results, is on our webpage! Please navigate to go.ecology.wa.gov/3020 and open the "Documents" drop-down menu. Please email cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov with any questions.

**Will there be any future yard replacement work?**
The off-property soil replacement project is complete. Ecology does not anticipate more neighborhood cleanup for the PWT project.

**How much did cleanup cost? How was this work funded?**
Since 1996, when cleanup started, Ecology has provided about $80 million in support of the project through multiple Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) grants, various settlements, and loans. For the 2025-26 cleanup work, the port and Ecology secured an additional $4 million through a combination of settlement funds and grant awards.

**What are some healthy habits to avoid breathing or swallowing dioxins in soil?**
Dioxins in dust usually stay in the top layer of soil until they are disturbed. Healthy habits can protect you and your family from dioxins. For example, you can:

- Wash your hands after working or playing outside and before eating.
- Remove shoes when you come inside.
- Wash food from the garden.
- Vacuum regularly and dust with a damp cloth.
- Wash children's toys often.

Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

## Neighborhood Soil Replacement Project Complete

Ecology, the Port of Ridgefield, and Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (the port's consultant) are excited to announce that the Pacific Wood Treating neighborhood soil replacement project is complete. Inside this mailer, you'll find more information about the project and a map of properties that were cleaned up.

### Questions?

Cam Penner-Ash, Ecology Cleanup Site Manager
360-999-9590
cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov

Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc:
360-694-2691
ridgefieldyardcleanup@maulfoster.com

**ADA Accessibility:** To request an ADA accommodation, call (564)-250-0563, email carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY).

Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.

**Language Services:** We offer translation and interpretation services at no cost. To request them, email carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov or call 564-250-0563. If you call, ask for an interpreter to be connected with one.