

**Toxics Cleanup Program****September 2010**

## Draft legal agreement for site study ready for review

The Washington Department of Ecology and Bellingham city government have completed a draft legal agreement for an environmental cleanup site in Bellingham. The agreement, called an agreed order, is for the Eldridge Municipal Landfill site in Little Squalicum Park.

The historical landfill was discovered and investigated as part of the Little Squalicum Park cleanup site, which is now considered a separate site.

When final, the agreement will require the city to develop an environmental report using information collected during the Little Squalicum Park investigation, analyze cleanup options and develop a draft cleanup action plan for the landfill site. Ecology will oversee work done under the terms of the agreement.

The draft legal agreement and a draft public participation plan will be available for public review and comment Sept. 22 – Oct. 22, 2010.

A final agreement and public participation plan are required steps toward cleaning up toxic contamination in the environment under the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

The landfill site is one of 12 cleanup sites in the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot, a multi-agency, bay-wide project that brings together cleanup, controlling pollution, restoring habitat, accommodating public access and land use planning.

### Site location and contaminants

The Eldridge Municipal Landfill Site is about 7,200 square feet in Little Squalicum Park. It is west of the Bellingham Technical College campus parking lot and north of Building U.

In the mid- to late 1930s, the city used a portion of what is now the park as a landfill for burning and burying local municipal waste. It operated for only a few years.

The site is on park property owned by Whatcom County and managed by the city.

### Comments accepted

Sept. 22 – Oct. 22, 2010

#### Submit comments and technical questions to:

Mary O'Herron - site manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 102  
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028  
Phone: 360-715-5224  
E-mail: mary.oherron@ecy.wa.gov

#### Documents at these review locations by Sept. 22, 2010:

Department of Ecology  
Bellingham Field Office  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ste., 102  
Bellingham, WA  
**By appointment.** Call Linsay Albin at 360-715-5200

Bellingham Public Library  
210 Central Ave.  
Bellingham, WA  
**Phone:** 360-778-7323  
**Hours:** Mon.-Tues. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.,  
Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sun. closed.

Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA  
**By appointment.** Call Sally Perkins:  
425-649-7190.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup website  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/blhm\\_bay/sites/eldridge/eldridge.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/blhm_bay/sites/eldridge/eldridge.htm)  
**or:** Go to [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov) click on "cleanup," "site list by county," scroll to "Whatcom County," then click "Eldridge Municipal Landfill."

**Facility Site ID #: 16195**

## Eldridge Municipal Landfill

During the 2006 environmental study of the Little Squalicum Park site, researchers found evidence of municipal garbage, including glass bottles, metal scraps, drywall, rust, charcoal, ash, ceramics and contaminated soil.

Soil contaminants include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzoic acid, phthalates, pentachlorophenol (PCP), and metals including cadmium, lead, zinc, copper and mercury.

Contaminants are present in concentrations that exceed standards under the state's cleanup law and must be addressed.

### Public comment invited

Ecology is asking for your comments on the draft agreed order, the legal agreement that will require the city of Bellingham to produce an environmental study report, analyze cleanup options and develop a draft cleanup action plan for the landfill site, with Ecology oversight.

Ecology also is seeking comments on a draft public participation plan.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the draft agreed order and public participation plan.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted Sept. 22 – Oct. 22, 2010.**

See the box at the right of Page 1 for details about where to review documents and submit comments.

### Overview of the agreed order

The proposed agreed order is a legal document between Ecology and the city. The city is known as a potentially liable party, or PLP. The agreed order describes the studies that the city agrees to perform on the site. The agreed order covers the following studies and documents:

- *Remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS)* - Explains the work needed to look for

and analyze contamination in soil, groundwater and sediments.

- *RI/FS report* - Presents the results of the study and proposes alternatives for cleanup actions.
- *Draft cleanup action plan (CAP)* - Uses information in the RI/FS to identify a preferred cleanup action and a schedule to remediate the contamination.

The purpose of the agreed order is to protect human health and the environment. It ensures that cleanup happens in a timely manner and according to Washington state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

### Overview of the draft public participation plan

Ecology and the city are committed to providing the public with timely information and meaningful opportunities to participate in the cleanup process. As part of this commitment, Ecology has developed a draft public participation plan for this site. The plan outlines how interested parties can learn about the cleanup and provide input.

Your comments and ideas are needed to help inform cleanup activities. The public participation plan explains how Ecology will:

- Notify the public when and where documents are available for review and comment.
- Notify the public about how they can become involved.
- Provide public participation opportunities.
- Respond to public comments.
- Consider public comments in cleanup decisions.

### What happens next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments it receives. The draft agreed order and draft public participation plan may be modified based upon your comments. If there are significant changes, Ecology will issue the documents again for public review.

## Eldridge Municipal Landfill

As future documents on the site are developed, Ecology will notify the public of additional comment periods.

### Why this cleanup matters

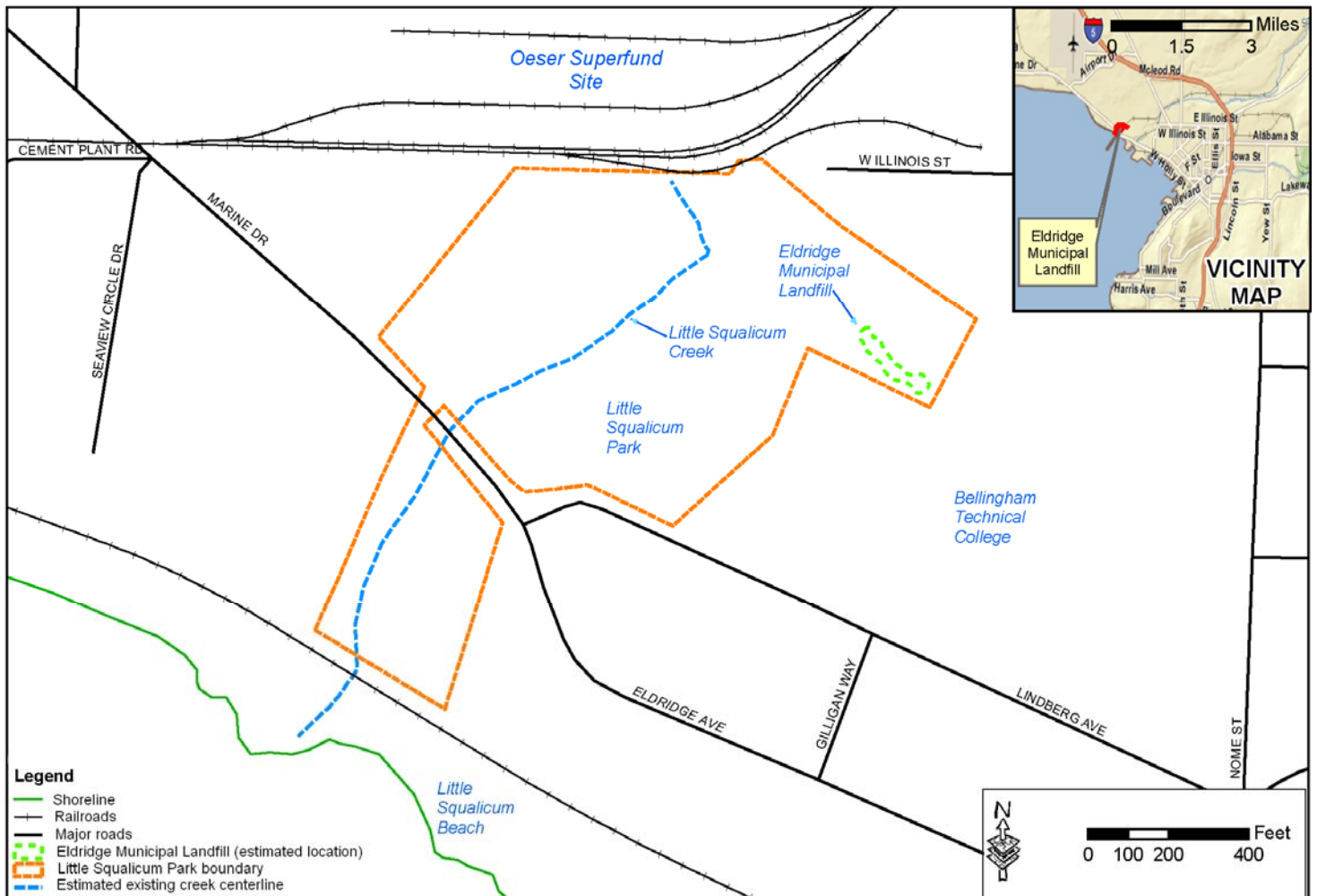
Cleaning up the Eldridge Municipal Landfill site is necessary to protect people, plants, fish, birds and other aquatic and terrestrial life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination. All phases of the cleanup, including development of the agreed order, will be conducted under the Model Toxics Control

Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.

### What can you do?

- Read about the cleanup in this handout.
- To get more detailed information, review the supporting documents at the locations listed in the column on Page 1 of this mailer.
- Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address provided on Page 1 of this mailer.

### Eldridge Municipal Landfill site and vicinity





WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
E C O L O G Y

1440 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 102  
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028



Please recycle.

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## **Eldridge Municipal Landfill site, Bellingham, WA**

### **Ecology seeks public comment on a draft legal agreement for site study and draft public participation plan**

Public comment period: Sept. 22 – Oct. 22, 2010

Facility Site ID #: [16195](#)

#### **Help with other formats?**

To ask about obtaining this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Katie Skipper at Ecology's Bellingham office, 360-715-5205.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.  
Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

**Información en español:** El Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington (Ecología) solicita sus comentarios sobre los documentos preparados para el sitio del relleno sanitario municipal de Eldridge. Usted está invitado a revisar:

- El borrador de la orden acordada
- El borrador del plan de participación

Ecología aceptará comentarios desde el 22 de septiembre hasta el 22 de octubre de 2010. Cuando finalizado, el acuerdo requiere que la ciudad de Bellingham estudiara el sitio con la supervisión de Ecología. Para más información en español, favor de llamar a Richelle Perez a 360-407-7528 o por correo electrónico a [richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov) y refiere al relleno sanitario municipal de Eldridge.

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