

Proposed interim cleanup ready for public review

The Washington Department of Ecology is announcing a proposed interim cleanup action for the Eldridge Municipal Landfill site in Bellingham. The interim action will remove historic municipal solid waste and contaminated soils, and dispose of them in an approved upland landfill. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2011.

The interim action is described in a proposed amendment to a November 2010 legal agreement, called an agreed order, between Ecology and the City of Bellingham.

The agreed order requires the city to complete an environmental study of the site (called a remedial investigation) and evaluate cleanup options (called a feasibility study). A remedial investigation and feasibility study report is scheduled to be ready for public review in early 2012.

The amendment is being proposed in advance of completing the remedial investigation and feasibility report because the city has funding available now to do work at the site. Following construction of the interim action, testing will determine if additional cleanup is needed to comply with state cleanup standards.

Ecology invites the public to review the proposed amendment and submit comments from June 6 through July 6, 2011. Please see column at right for details.

Site history, location and contaminants

The Eldridge Municipal Landfill site is about 19,000 square feet in Little Squalicum Park in Bellingham, west of the Bellingham Technical College campus parking lot. It was discovered and investigated in 2006 as part of the Little Squalicum Park cleanup site, which is now considered a separate site. (The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took over the regulatory lead for cleanup of the creek area. Ecology maintained oversight authority for the landfill as a separate state cleanup site.) The site is on property owned by Whatcom County and managed by the city as a park.

Public meeting and comment period

Public comments accepted:
June 6 through July 6, 2011

Submit comments and technical questions to:

Mary O'Herron, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
1440 10th St., Ste., 102
Bellingham, WA
Phone: 360-715-5224
E-mail: mary.oherron@ecy.wa.gov

Documents at these review locations by June 6, 2011:

Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field office
1440 10th St., Suite 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 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA
By appointment. Call Sally Perkins:
425-649-7190

Ecology's Eldridge Municipal Landfill
Web site:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1897>

Eldridge Municipal Landfill

In the mid- to late 1930's, the city of Bellingham used the area, now part of the park, as a landfill for burning and burying local municipal solid waste. The landfill operated only a few years.

The landfill area contains municipal garbage, metal scraps, drywall, charcoal, ash, ceramics, glass bottles, and contaminated soil. Surface soil samples show low levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzoic acid, phthalates, pentachlorophenol (PCP), and metals (cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc). Higher levels of metals were detected in subsurface soils. Contaminants are present at concentrations that exceed standards under the state's cleanup law and must be addressed.

The 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 sources, restoring habitat, accommodating public access, and land-use planning.

Proposed interim action

The proposed interim action includes removal of approximately 2,400 cubic yards of contaminated soil and historic municipal solid waste, with transport to an approved landfill for disposal. The excavation will be back-filled with clean soil and stabilized.

Follow-up testing will determine if additional cleanup is needed to meet state cleanup standards established to protect human health and the environment.

Public comment invited

Ecology is providing the interim action work plan in a proposed amendment to the agreed order and is asking for your comments.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the proposed amendment.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted June 6 through July 6, 2011.**

The City of Bellingham is conducting a separate public comment period under the State Environmental Policy Act for this site. Please see the city website for details at: <http://www.cob.org/cob/Pubnot.nsf/Public%20Notices?OpenForm>

What happens next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments it receives. The proposed amendment may be modified based upon comments. If there are significant changes, Ecology will issue it again for public review.

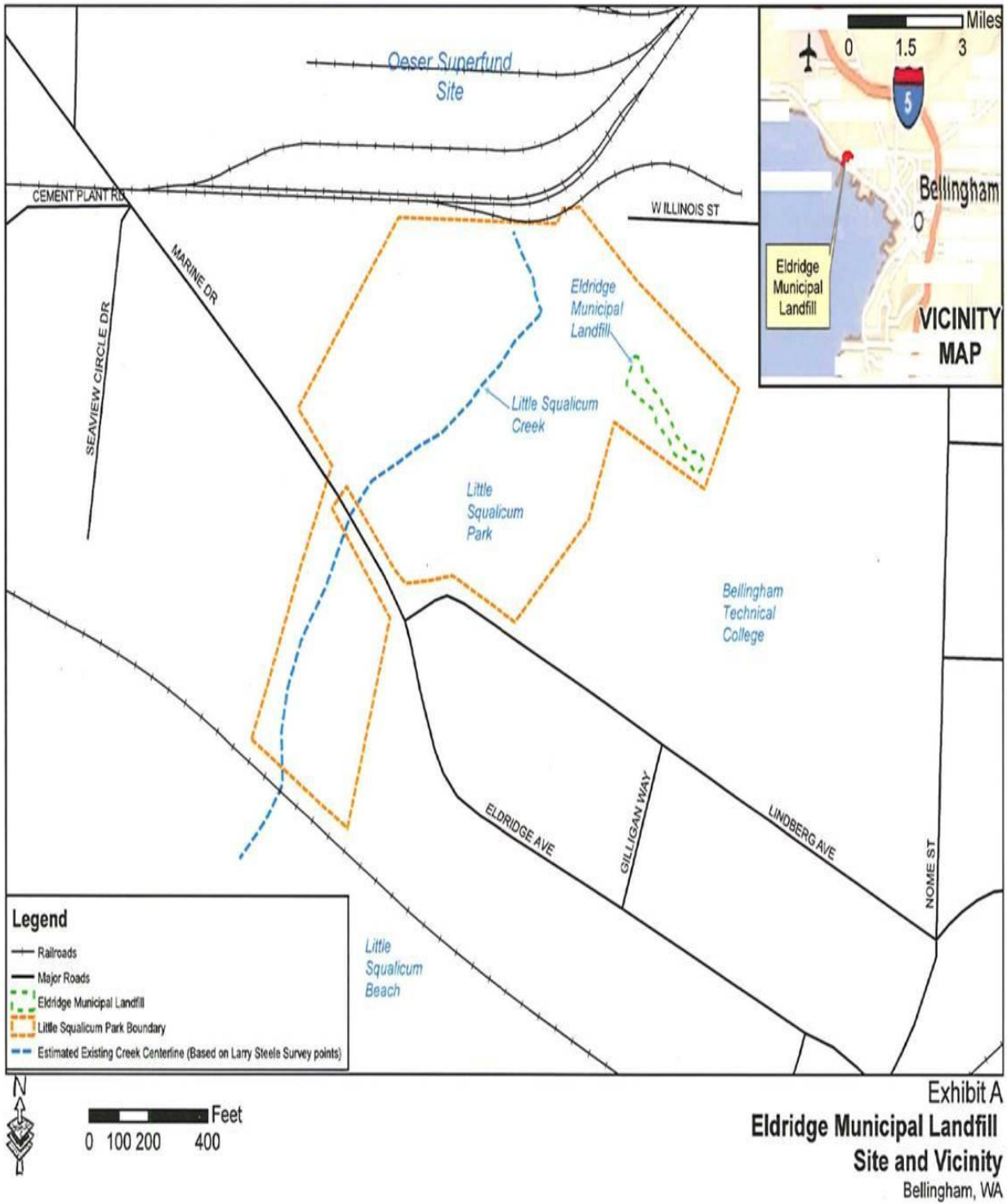
Why this cleanup matters

Cleaning up the Eldridge Municipal Landfill site is necessary to protect people, plants, birds and other life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination, based upon the city's use of the site as a park. All phases of the cleanup will be conducted under the Model Toxics Control Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.

What can you do?

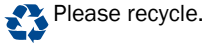
- Read about the cleanup in this handout.
- To get more detailed information, review the supporting documents at the locations listed in the column on Page 1.
- Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address provided on Page 1.

Eldridge Municipal Landfill





3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



Please recycle.

Eldridge Municipal Landfill, Bellingham, WA

Ecology seeks public comment on proposed interim cleanup

Public comment period: June 6 through July 6, 2011.

Facility Site ID #: 16195

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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 propuesta de limpieza para el sitio del relleno sanitario Eldridge en Bellingham.

Ecología aceptará comentarios públicos desde el 6 de junio hasta el 6 de julio de 2011.

Para más información en español, favor de llamar a Richelle Pérez a 360-407-7528 o por correo electrónico a richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov. Refiere al sitio de limpieza del relleno sanitario de Eldridge.