



## Environmental documents ready for public review

The Department of Ecology is accepting public comments on environmental documents for the Eldridge Municipal Landfill site in Bellingham. The documents include a report (remedial investigation/feasibility study) that presents the results of an investigation of the site and identifies a preferred cleanup option, a legal agreement (consent decree) between Ecology and the City of Bellingham that includes a cleanup action plan for the site, and a public participation plan.

**Ecology is making these available for public comment from September 21 – October 20, 2015.**

### Site background

This site is located within Little Squalicum Park, near the 3100 block of West Illinois Street in Bellingham (see Figure 1). It was used for burning and burying the City of Bellingham's garbage during the 1930's. This resulted in soil and groundwater contamination above standards established to protect human health and the environment under Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act. In 2010, the City and Ecology entered into a legal agreement to investigate contamination at the site, and evaluate cleanup options. The agreement was amended in 2011 because the City had funding available that allowed it to conduct early cleanup work to remove landfill debris and contaminated soil at the site.

### Public Comment Period

September 21 - October 20, 2015

**Send comments/questions to:**

Mary O'Herron – Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Phone: (360) 715-5224  
Email: mary.oherron@ecy.wa.gov

**Review documents at:**

Bellingham – Ecology Office  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> 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

Bellevue – Ecology Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA  
By appointment; call: 425-649-7190

Ecology's Eldridge web page:  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites)  
Search Site Name: Eldridge

Cleanup Site ID# 1897

### Remedial investigation

In 2010, a remedial investigation to assess the nature and extent of contamination at the site was performed. The investigation found landfill debris and contamination across a 32,000 square foot area:

- Landfill debris: glass bottles, metal scraps, ash, ceramics, construction debris and various rusted materials.
- Soil contamination: arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, zinc and pentachlorophenol.
- Groundwater contamination: metals (including arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc), iron, manganese, nitrate, and ammonia.

### Interim cleanup action

In 2011, following completion of the remedial investigation, cleanup work called an interim action excavated about 4,290 tons of debris and contaminated soil and disposed of it at a permitted landfill. Most of this material was removed except for a few locations that were difficult to access due to terrain concerns. A 750 square foot wetland was also reconstructed (see Figure 2).

The interim work also included post-construction groundwater monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the cleanup action. The monitoring found arsenic to be the only remaining contaminant of concern in groundwater.

### Feasibility study

After the interim cleanup action, a feasibility study evaluated environmental information to determine if additional cleanup measures were needed. It evaluated two options to address remaining areas with buried contaminated soil. Both options protect human health and the environment.

One option calls for the removal of remaining buried contaminated soil, at a cost of \$1.41 million. The other (preferred) option calls for use restrictions to prevent disturbance of buried contaminated soil, additional groundwater monitoring, and wetland replanting, at a cost of \$237,000.

### Consent Decree, Cleanup Action Plan

The cleanup action plan for the site incorporates the 2011 interim cleanup action, and calls for the implementation of the preferred cleanup option identified in the feasibility study. It also requires an operations and maintenance plan to ensure the long-term success of the cleanup action. The cleanup action plan is part of a new legal agreement between Ecology and the City called a consent decree.

### Public Participation Plan

Your comments and ideas are needed to help inform cleanup activities. 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.

### Ecology is asking for comments

Your input is needed. You can **review these documents and send your comments to Ecology from September 21 to October 20, 2015**. Once the comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments and respond. If comments result in significant changes to the documents, Ecology will issue a revised version for a second 30-day comment period. In addition, if 10 or more people request a public meeting about this cleanup, Ecology will provide notice and hold a meeting.

### Project timeline

These activities will occur in 2015:

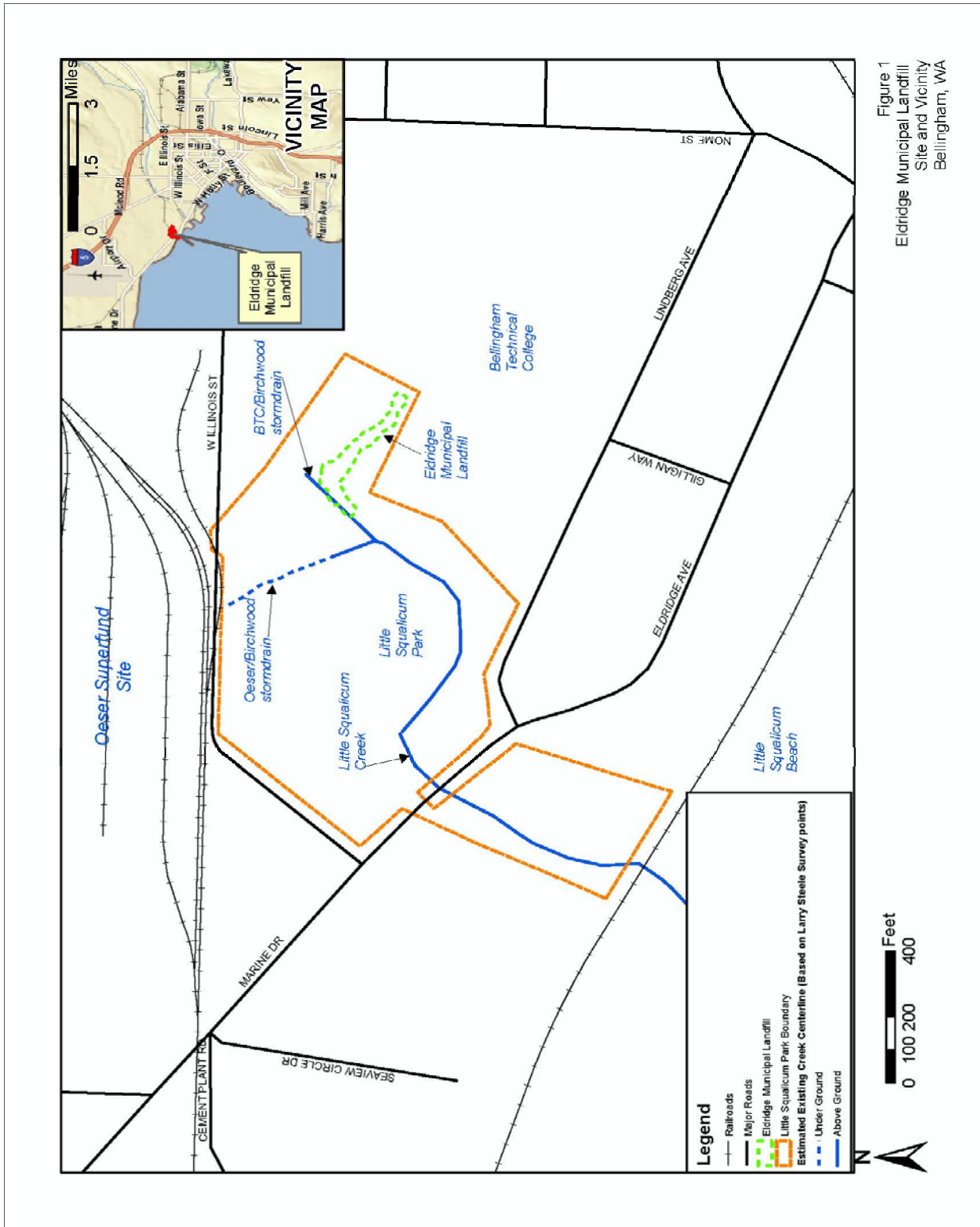
- begin groundwater monitoring
- place legal use restrictions on the property
- prepare an operations & maintenance plan
- wetland planting, fencing, and signage
- designate especially valuable habitat area

### Funding

Ecology will reimburse the City up to half the cost of the cleanup through the state's Remedial Action Grant Program, which helps pay for cleanup of publicly owned lands. The Legislature funds the program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

# Eldridge Municipal Landfill

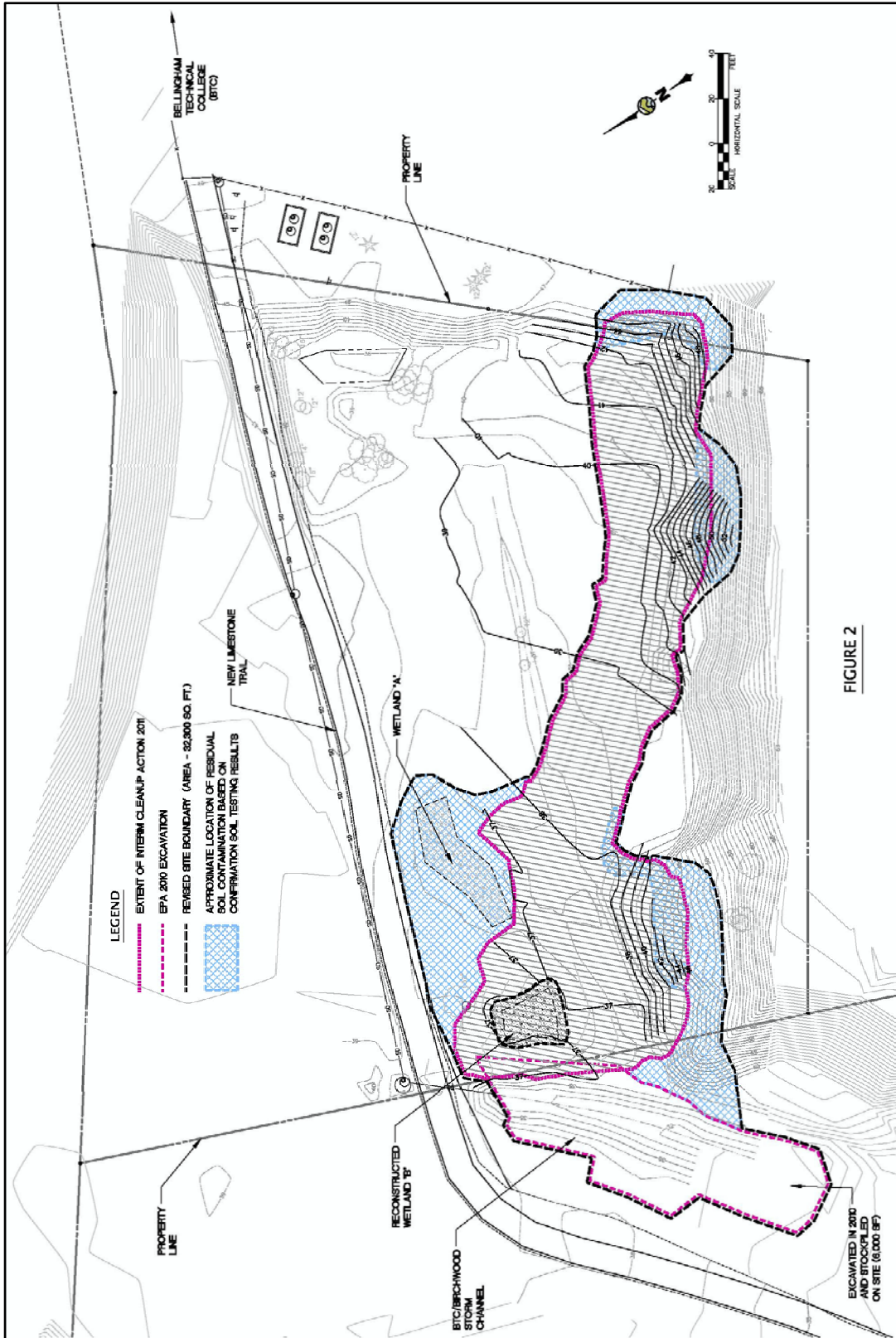
## Eldridge Municipal Landfill Site & Vicinity:





# Eldridge Municipal Landfill

## Eldridge Municipal Landfill Site Boundary:





### Help with other formats?

To ask about obtaining this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Brad Petrovich at Ecology, 425-533-5537.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341

#### Información en español:

**Ecología le invita a comentar sobre los documentos ambientales para el Sitio de Limpieza del Relleno Sanitario Eldridge en Bellingham.**

Documentos ambientales que incluyen una investigación de la contaminación, un acuerdo legal entre Ecología y la Ciudad de Bellingham, y un plan de limpieza para el Relleno Sanitario Eldridge están ahora disponibles para revisión por el público.

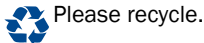
Una acción provisional de limpieza fue llevada a cabo en el sitio en el 2011. Ahora, Ecología y la Ciudad de Bellingham llegan a un acuerdo legal para formalizar la limpieza final del sitio. Esto se llama un Decreto de Consentimiento, e incluye un plan de acción de limpieza. Un reporte que detalla la investigación del sitio también está disponible para revisión.

Estos documentos se pueden encontrar en el sitio web de Ecología: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites) - Busque el nombre del sitio: Eldridge. Ecología estará aceptando comentarios sobre los documentos del 21 de septiembre al 20 de octubre de 2015. Por favor envíe sus preguntas o comentarios a Mary O'Herron, del Departamento de Ecología al (360) 715-5224, o por correo electrónico a [mary.oherron@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mary.oherron@ecy.wa.gov).

Para información en español, por favor comuníquese con Gretchen Newman al 360-407-6097 o [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov).



3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



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## Eldridge Municipal Landfill Cleanup Site Bellingham, WA

**You are invited to review environmental documents that include a report on contamination at the Eldridge Municipal Landfill site, a legal agreement to clean up contamination, and a public participation plan.**

**In 2011 an interim cleanup action removed almost all landfill debris and contaminated soil from the site. Ecology and the City of Bellingham are now entering into a legal agreement that accepts this work and identifies additional actions to accomplish the final cleanup of the site.**

**Ecology will accept comments on the documents from September 21 – October 20, 2015. See inside for more details about how to review documents and submit comments.**



*Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to visit Ecology's website for more information!*

*Or:*

*[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp)  
Search Site Name: Eldridge*