



Holly Street Landfill Cleanup Bellingham

Holly Street Landfill Draft Final 100% Remedial Design Documents Available for Review

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is seeking public comment on the *draft final 100% remedial design documents* for the Holly Street Landfill. The review documents consist of a Design Analysis Report, Construction Quality Assurance Plan, and design plans and specifications. Comments on the documents are welcome through March 30, 2004.

Background

The Holly Street Landfill site is a 13-acre historic solid waste landfill located in the Old Town district of Bellingham (see map below). In the late 1800s, the site was part of the original Whatcom Creek estuary and mudflat. Around 1905, private property owners began filling portions of the site with dredge spoils and other materials to increase useable upland areas. From 1937 to 1953, municipal waste was used by owners to fill private tidelands within the former Whatcom Creek estuary. Wastes disposed at the site included debris and scrap materials, consistent with landfill disposal practices of the time.



Solid waste covers approximately 9.1 acres on the northwest side of Whatcom Creek and 3.8 acres on the southeast side (Maritime Heritage Park). The City of Bellingham (City) currently owns 8.3 acres of the 13-acre landfill site, including all landfill properties located along the Whatcom Creek shoreline. Various private property owners own the remainder of the landfill site.

Cleanup

The Holly Street Landfill site is subject to the investigation and cleanup requirements of the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation, administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). Under a legal agreement between Ecology, the City and other property owners at the site, the nature and extent of contamination has been defined, a range of feasible alternatives evaluated, and a cleanup alternative selected.

The cleanup alternative selected by Ecology addresses the physical presence of solid waste, methane production, and contaminant impacts to Whatcom Creek. Refuse along the northern shoreline of Whatcom Creek will be excavated in conjunction with construction of an engineered cap, and material will be placed along the southern shoreline to stabilize the bank. The northern shoreline excavation and cap system is expected to control current releases of copper and zinc to Whatcom Creek that occur when estuary water mixes with the solid waste in the bank. The cleanup also includes long term protection through legal restrictions on property use and monitoring of the cleanup action. Excavation for the project will remove approximately 12,400 tons of solid waste, primarily from the northern bank prior to constructing the cap with clean materials. The

March, 2004

Comment Period:

March 1 – March 30, 2004

Documents are available for review at:

Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field Office
1204 Railroad Avenue, Ste 200
(360) 738-6250

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Department of Ecology website:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites.html>

Send comments to:

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If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format please contact Lucy McInerney at (425) 649-7272 (Voice) or 711 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY)

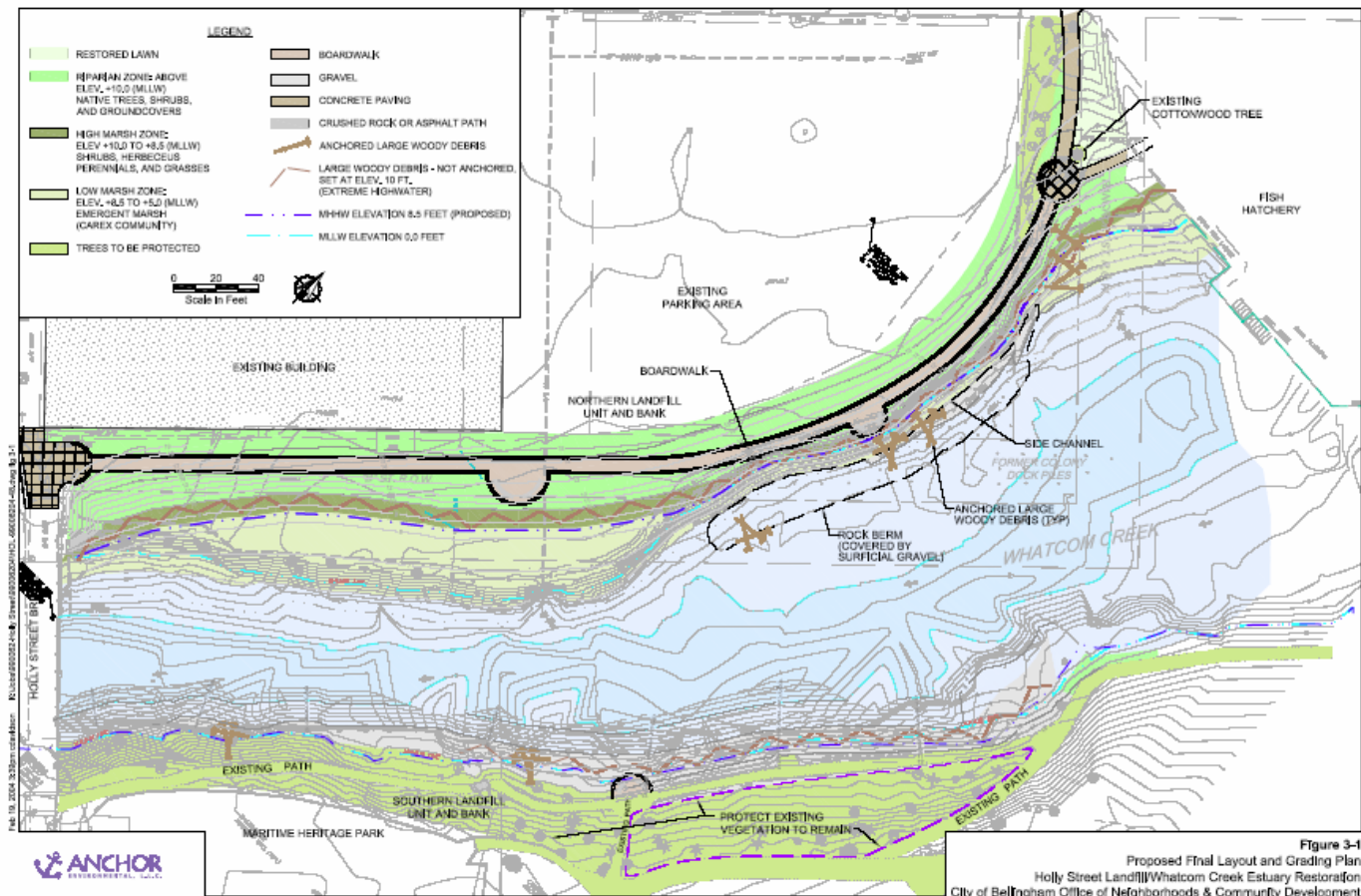
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excavated materials will be transported and disposed of at a permitted, off-site landfill. Excavation activities will utilize techniques and equipment to minimize potential construction-related water quality impacts.

The cleanup is being conducted under a legal agreement (Consent Decree) between Ecology and all the property owners at the site. The City of Bellingham is implementing the construction and monitoring elements of the cleanup, and all property owners are placing deed restrictions on their property.

Habitat Restoration and Public Access

Consistent with the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy finalized in 2000, the cleanup also restores historically lost habitat at the mouth of Whatcom Creek. The project will convert approximately 0.3 acres from upland to intertidal elevations, create side channel habitat, place large woody debris, remove invasive vegetation, and re-introduce native plants. In addition, concurrent with cleanup activities, the City will construct a boardwalk and viewpoints/overlooks along the estuary to improve public access to the shoreline.



What Happens Next

Following the close of the public comment period, Ecology will review comments received and prepare a summary of the comments and suggested changes. A written response to these comments, called a Responsiveness Summary, will be made available for public review. Any substantive changes will be incorporated into the documents prior to their being considered final. If comments received do not substantively change the design, construction could begin as early as July.

Other Documents Available but Not Subject to Comment

You will also find the following background documents available in the repositories:

- Holly Street Landfill Site Final Consent Decree, April 2003
- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Holly Street Landfill Redevelopment Project, April 2003
- Biological Evaluation, February 2004
- Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy Final EIS, October 2000

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