



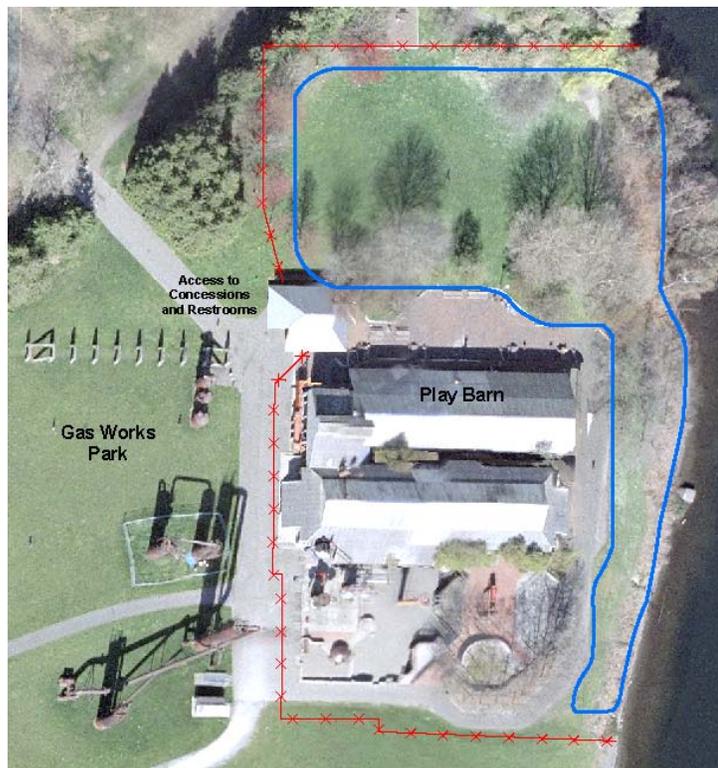
# Gas Works Park Environmental Investigation Update

## What's happening now?

### Investigation Begins September 17 at Gas Works Park

Drilling and sampling of soils in the northeast corner of Gas Works Park will begin next week. The investigation will be conducted by the City of Seattle and Puget Sound Energy, to determine the extent to which underground tar, left over from historical industrial operations, is present in the area. It will support an effort to evaluate actions for cleaning up sediments offshore of Gas Works Park. It will also help Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) plan for future park maintenance of the existing park cleanup completed in 2001.

Ecology has approved the Sampling and Analysis Plans for this investigation and work is scheduled to begin on September 17. Parks will close the northeast corner of Gas Works Park for a maximum of two weeks (Monday through Friday only) while the drilling crews and environmental scientists conduct the drilling and sampling event. **The snack bar and restrooms will remain open during the event.**



*The photo at left shows the northeast corner of Gas Works Park, and the area to be closed to public access (marked by the red line). The blue line shows the investigation area where drilling will happen.*

September 2007

**For more information about the northeast corner drilling, contact:**

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**Documents about the site can be reviewed at:**  
WA Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
(Please call for an appointment)

**Ecology's Website:**  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/gaswkspk/gaswks.htm>

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## What is the purpose of this sampling event?

The northeast corner drilling and sampling event will investigate where there are areas of tar underneath the meadow north of the play barn and the park's eastern shoreline. The tar, which is leftover from historical industrial operations, contains contaminants. With this information, scientists will be able to assess whether the tar could migrate underground to sediments (mud) on the bottom of Lake Union. The results will inform an evaluation of actions for cleaning up sediments offshore of Gas Works Park (see [Site Background](#)).

The drilling and sampling event will also help Parks plan future maintenance activities. The park underwent an environmental cleanup in 2000 and 2001, during which a layer of clean topsoil was placed over some parts of the park. In some areas no new soil was placed because clean soil had already been added during park development in the 1970s. In a few locations in the park, subsurface tar can occasionally move to the surface, especially during hot weather. Parks staff regularly monitor these locations. Occasionally, when a small area of surface tar is found, Parks removes it and covers the area with clean soil or gravel, in accordance with Ecology requirements. The September drilling and sampling will help Parks plan future maintenance activities for tar monitoring and removal.

## When will the sampling occur and how long will it last?

Contractors for the City of Seattle, under the lead of Seattle Public Utilities and Puget Sound Energy, will begin drilling on September 17, 2007. Drilling activities may continue through September 27, 2007.

Drilling equipment will be removed during the weekend, when the area will be reopened for public access. Drilling equipment is loud at times. Consistent with the City of Seattle's noise ordinance, work will take place between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., weekdays.

## What can I expect to see at the site?

In September, two track-mounted drilling rigs (see photo upper right) will drill borings (vertical holes drilled in the ground) in approximately seventeen locations in the meadow area north of the play barns and along the park's eastern shoreline. The investigation area will be closed to the public to allow for safe movement of the drilling vehicles, and to separate park visitors from nuisance noise and odors that are often present near the drilling equipment.

Temporary construction fencing and signage will mark the closed areas. The photograph on the previous page shows the location of the closed area.

Soil that is removed from the ground during drilling, and water used to clean off drilling equipment, may be stored on the park property until it can be hauled to a disposal facility. The soil and water will be sealed into metal drums and stored inside the fence surrounding the historic former gas towers in the center of the park. The drums will not be in areas accessible to park visitors, and will be removed as soon as possible.



Track-mounted hollow stem auger drill rig in operation

## What work will be done?

- Approximately seventeen boring holes will be drilled at different locations in the meadow area and along the eastern Park shoreline.
- Samples will be collected from the holes to obtain geological and environmental data.

## What Happens Next?

This drilling and sampling event is part of a larger investigation of the off-shore sediment area called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports for the Gas Works Sediment Area will be made available to the public for review and comment. The reports will summarize findings about contaminated sediments offshore from the Park, and will describe cleanup options. You will be notified when the reports are complete and available for public review and comment, which will occur before final cleanup decisions are made.

## Site Background

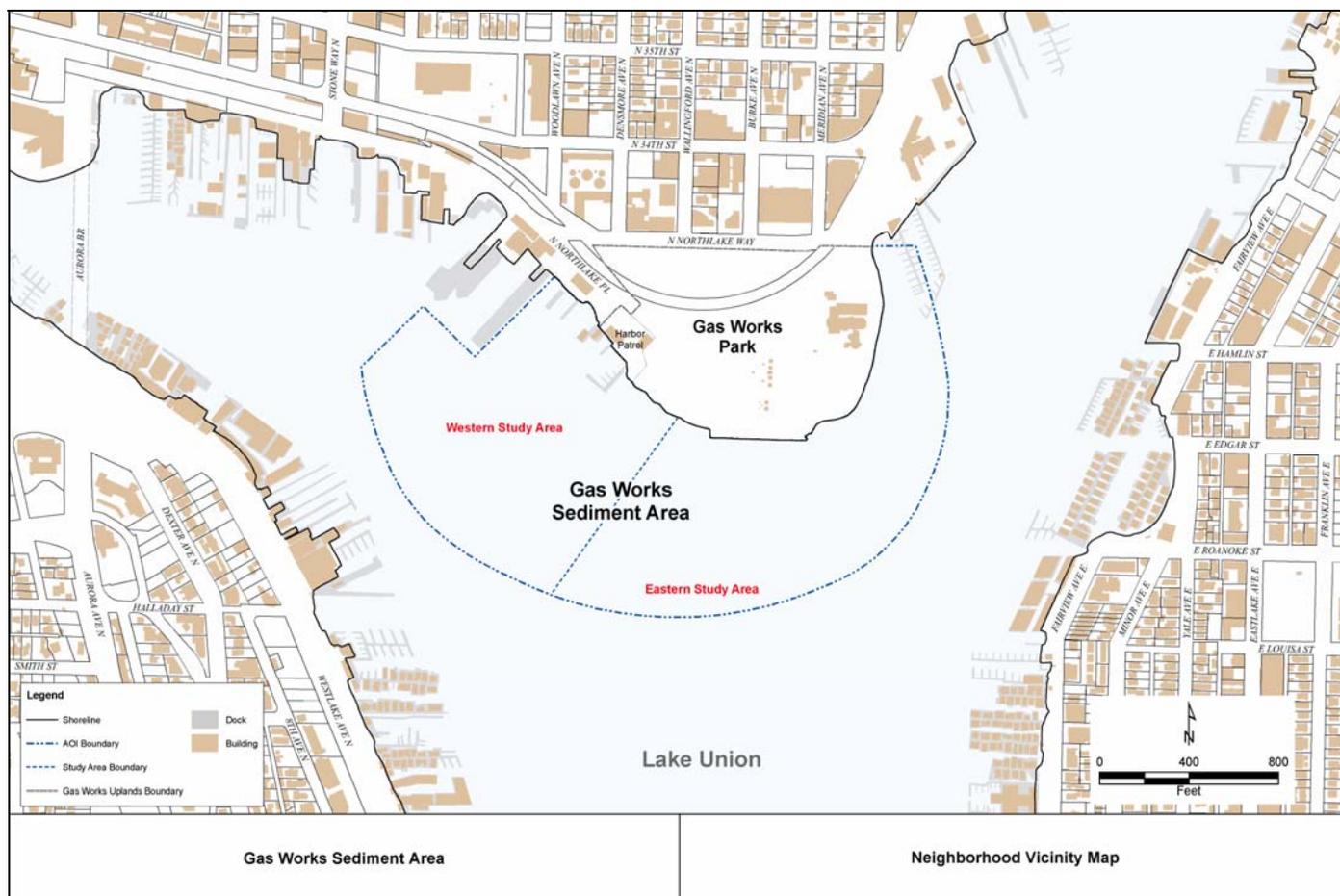
Gas Works Park is a 20-acre park located at 2101 North Northlake Way. The park juts into Lake Union (the lake lies to the east, west and south of the park). The park's north end is bounded by Northlake Way.

From the early 1900s until 1956, gas companies actively operated a plant at the site that converted coal and oil into manufactured gas. A tar refinery also operated at the site producing coal and oil-based products. The area in and around what is now Gas Works Park was contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which were generated by the gas manufacturing and other historical activities.

The Gas Works Park uplands underwent an environmental cleanup in 2000 and 2001 to ensure the safety of park visitors. Contamination located in the park's soils was addressed through the placement of a clean layer of topsoil that created a protective barrier, and through groundwater treatment.

Sediment investigations offshore of Gas Works Park in Lake Union have indicated that the sediments are also impacted by PAHs. The Department of Ecology is working with Puget Sound Energy and the City of Seattle to ensure that this lake sediment contamination is also cleaned up.

The City of Seattle and Puget Sound Energy are currently conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies (RI/FSs) for the contaminated sediments. Approximately 40 acres of sediments are being evaluated (see map). The purpose of these investigations and studies is to identify the nature and extent of contamination present, and to analyze potential off-shore cleanup solutions. The September drilling and sampling event supports the evaluation of cleanup solutions for the area offshore of the Northeast corner of Gas Works Park, and assists with future maintenance of the Gas Works Park uplands environmental cleanup.





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