

Continuing cleanup of soil in North Everett

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is making progress to clean up contaminated soil in North Everett. In 2016, we plan to focus our efforts on sampling residential properties.

Background

- **1990:** Ecology discovered arsenic, lead, cadmium and other metals in soil around North Everett. This contamination was left behind by the Everett Smelter, which operated from 1894 to 1912.
- **1999-2007:** Ecology managed cleanup of the most highly contaminated areas around the former smelter.
- **2009-Present:** Ecology received a bankruptcy settlement from Asarco, the owner of the smelter, to develop a plan to clean up the remaining contaminated areas. Since then, we have been studying contamination in the industrial area next to the Snohomish River (the Lowlands Area) and sampling and cleaning up residential homes in North Everett (the Uplands Area).

We're making progress but there is more to do

Since 2011, the project has sampled more than 400 properties and cleaned up over 300 residential properties.

Project funds are limited

We have spent our funding as efficiently as possible, but we are running into funding limitations for future work. **Our funding comes with restrictions on how it can be used.** The majority of our project funds came from the Asarco bankruptcy settlement and must be used specifically for residential sampling and cleanup and Lowlands work. A smaller portion of our funds were approved by the Washington State Legislature for the cleanup of City of Everett Parks.

What we can do with the remaining settlement funds

- Complete cleanup of the 22 homes already underway
- Complete limited residential sampling in 2016 (see page 3)
- Complete the studies underway in the Lowlands

We are actively seeking additional state funds to support future residential and park cleanup. We will continue to update you as we move forward with the project.

For More Information

Call our hotline!

425-446-1024

Submit General and Lowlands Area Comments and Questions to:

Sandra Matthews,
Interim Project Manager

Phone: 425-649-7206

Email: Sandra.Matthews@ecy.wa.gov

Submit Uplands Area Comments or Questions to:

Katie Kulha,
Uplands Manager

Phone: 425-649-7287

Email: Katie.Kulha@ecy.wa.gov

Submit General Comments and Questions to:

Beth Sosik,
Environmental Specialist

Phone: 425-649-7242

Email: Beth.Sosik@ecy.wa.gov

Go to the project website to join our email list! Ecology's Website:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/
sites_brochure/asarco/es_main.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/asarco/es_main.html)

Facility Site ID #2744



Ecology has been working to remove arsenic-contaminated soil in North Everett since 1999.

Everett Smelter Cleanup Site

Cleaning up parks

There are three City of Everett public parks within the Everett Smelter Cleanup Site:

- American Legion Memorial Park
- Viola Oursler Viewpoint
- Wiggums Hollow Park

American Legion Memorial Park reopened in April!

Ecology completed cleanup at American Legion Memorial Park earlier this year. The park is ready for upcoming summer events as parking, facility rentals, and ballfield access are back to normal!

The City of Everett is conducting additional work at the American Legion Memorial Park – Evergreen Arboretum. The City anticipates that the Arboretum will open in summer 2016. Visit the City's Parks and Recreation department website for additional updates (everettwa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/-106).

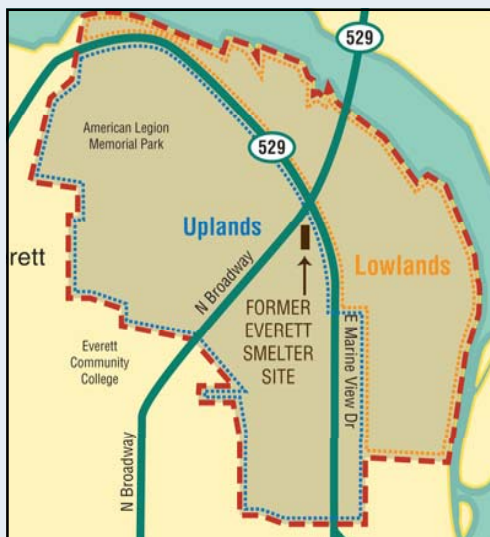
We need more funds to continue park cleanup

The Viola Oursler Viewpoint and Wiggums Hollow Park still require cleanup. We hoped to begin work at both of these parks this summer; however, we will have to push this work into the future due to funding limitations.

The contamination present at Viola Oursler and Wiggums Hollow does not pose an immediate health risk to your family. However, if you plan on visiting either park, remember to follow the healthy actions highlighted on page 4.



Ecology removed contaminated soils from American Legion Memorial Park, replaced it with clean soil, and restored grass and plants.



Everett Smelter Cleanup Area

About the Everett Smelter Cleanup Site

To determine the boundary for the Everett Smelter Cleanup site, Ecology used soil data from several years of environmental studies. The final site boundary encompasses the area where smelter contamination is known to exist or suspected to exist. The total Everett Smelter Cleanup Site is 1.1 square miles, and it is divided into two sections: the residential Uplands and the industrial Lowlands.

Ecology is working to sample and clean up properties closest to the former smelter first. As funding becomes available, cleanup work will continue to move away from the former smelter property where contamination is generally lower.

Sampling homes for contamination

Each year we sample people's yards to test for soil contamination. With our limited remaining settlement funds we are working to sample as many remaining homes in the cleanup area as possible.

Sampling the Baker Heights Community in 2016

This year Ecology will complete soil sampling work at the Baker Heights community. Ecology will work closely with the Everett Housing Authority to inform Baker Heights residents and neighbors of what to expect during this work. Sampling began in late March and we expect it to continue through the summer.

Additional sampling this year as resources allow

We recognize that many homeowners are interested in having their property sampled for contamination. We contact homeowners when we are planning to sample their property. If possible, we hope to complete additional sampling of residential homes this year as our limited funds and staff resources allow.

Questions about sampling? Call our hotline at 425-446-1024!

We are happy to answer any questions you have, such as:

- Has my property been sampled?
- What are the results of sampling for my property?
- Why have I not been sampled yet?

Cleaning up contaminated yards

Since 2009, Ecology has cleaned up residential properties by removing accessible contaminated soil and replacing it with new, clean soil and landscaping.

Finishing up cleanup of properties in Northwest Everett

This year we are wrapping up construction on 22 properties in Northwest Everett. Construction at these properties began in fall 2015.

We need more funds to continue yard cleanup

Unfortunately, no additional yard cleanup is scheduled due to funding limitations. We continue to seek additional funds so we can continue cleanup work.

Cleaning up industrial areas by the Snohomish River

Thanks to all who participated in the public comment period for the Lowlands Area Environmental Reports in October-November 2015. We reviewed your feedback and finalized these reports. The next opportunity to get involved will be a comment period for the Draft Cleanup Action Plan, scheduled for this summer. Stay tuned!



Newly restored residential properties in the 2015 cleanup group.



Keeping you and your family safe from contaminated soil

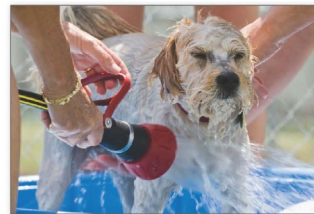
If you live in the cleanup area, we recommend you take these precautions to protect your family from contaminated soil:



Wear gloves for yard work.



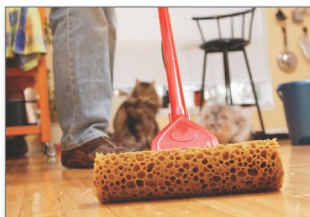
Leave your dirty shoes at the door.



Keep your pets clean.



Wash your hands after playing or working outside.



Damp, dust and mop often.



Plant flowers and plants in raised beds.

If you need this publication in an alternative format call reception at 425-649-7000. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.