

Duwamish Waterway Park Cleanup Site



Shoreline at Duwamish Waterway Park (Credit City of Seattle)

Comments accepted:

January 30 – March 15, 2023

Submit comments:

Online: www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark-Comments

By mail:

David Butler, Site Manager
 PO Box 330316
 Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
 Phone: (206) 518-3513
 Email: David.Butler@ecy.wa.gov

Document review:

www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark

Seattle Public Library
 South Park Branch
 8604 8th Ave S.
 Seattle, WA 98108
 Phone: (206) 615-1688

Site info:

Facility Site ID: 49919
 Site Cleanup ID: 15139

Public Outreach Contact:

Ian Fawley, Outreach Planner
LDW@ecy.wa.gov
 Phone: (425) 324-5901

Documents ready for public review and comment

Ecology negotiated a legal agreement called an Agreed Order with the City of Seattle (City), the Potentially Liable Person (PLP), for the Duwamish Waterway Park cleanup site (Site) at 7900 10th Avenue South, in Seattle. The Agreed Order requires the City to address contamination at the Site. We would like your input on the following documents:

- **Agreed Order:** legal document that requires the City to investigate environmental conditions, complete a Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS), and a draft Cleanup Action Plan (dCAP).
- **Public Participation Plan:** describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and ways to become involved.

Online and In-Person Public Meetings

Ecology will hold an online and an in-person meeting for this Site with interpretation* available.

Online: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

- **Register and Join Zoom:** www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark
- **Presentation:** Noon
- **Questions and answers:** 1 pm, as needed
- ***Interpretation available through Zoom application:** Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Khmer, Somali, and Amharic

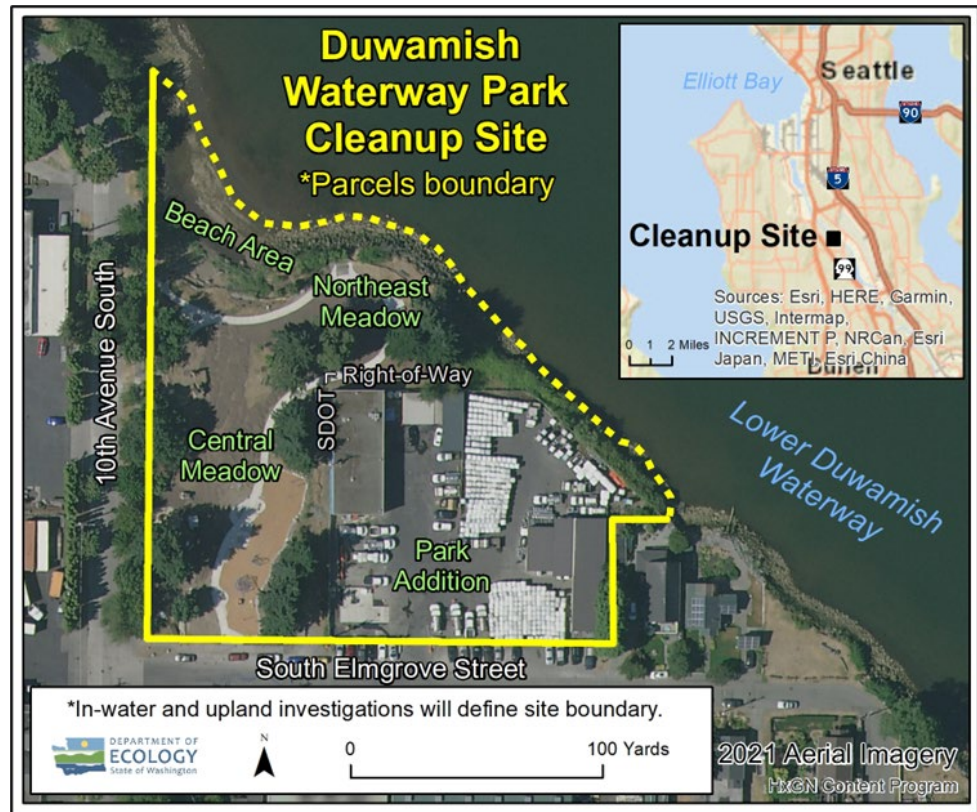
In-Person: Wednesday, February 8, 2023

- **Location:** South Seattle College, 6000 16th Ave SW, Seattle, WA
- **Presentation:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Questions and answers:** 7:30 p.m., as needed
- ***Interpretation available with a smartphone and headphones:** Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Khmer, Somali, and Amharic

For more language information, see page 5 →

Site Background

Duwamish Waterway Park is located at 7900 10th Avenue South in Seattle WA. The approximately 1.7-acre Site is adjacent to the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund Site. It includes a play area, picnic area, walking paths, and a beach with waterway access. The City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (SPR) has operated this park since 1975. The City purchased the bulk of the park property from King County in 2019. The property is now owned by the City of Seattle and the Port of Seattle. The previously residential and agricultural property had one structure, removed in the 1980's.



Aerial view of Duwamish Waterway Park cleanup site

In 2014 and 2019, preliminary soil investigations documented lead and arsenic contamination in soils. In the Spring of 2019, Ecology was notified, and an Initial Investigation was completed in January 2020. The Initial Investigation determined that the contamination posed a threat to human health and the environment, and further cleanup actions are needed. In February 2020, the Site was listed on Ecology's [Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List](#)¹, as required by the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#))².

Contamination

Remedial actions completed between 2014 – 2022 confirmed the following contaminants of concern are present in soils at the Site:

- Arsenic, lead, mercury, and other metals
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Carcinogenic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (cPAHs)
- Dioxins and furans
- Petroleum and phthalates
- Other organic contaminants

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated>

² <https://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

Duwamish Waterway Park cleanup timeline

The [Voluntary Cleanup Program](#)³ (VCP) enables owners of contaminated sites to meet state cleanup standards under MTCA independently and to receive technical guidance from Ecology during the process. The VCP enables owners to work on a contractual basis rather than under an Ecology legal order. Participants in the VCP pay fees to Ecology to cover the department's costs for guidance and review. VCP sites must meet the same cleanup standards as properties formally managed by Ecology under MTCA.



Duwamish Waterway Park playground area, September 2022

In July 2020 City of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) entered into the VCP and requested a review and opinion on a Remedial Investigation (RI) of the Duwamish Waterway Park in July 2020. Ecology requested additional information from SPR in August 2020 to draft our opinion letter. SPR started renovation work at the site in October 2020. Ecology received a revised RI in August 2021 which included additional information on interim actions. Interim actions at the site included selective soil excavation, removal, and replacement with clean fill; construction of concrete pathways, placement of vegetation and laying of sod material, and installation of various capping technologies throughout the park.

In October 2021, Ecology's issued an opinion letter to SPR for the independent interim cleanup actions at the site. The opinion letter documented several concerns about the potential impacts to human health and the environment. Ecology's opinion also described several information gaps regarding the components of an RI and Feasibility Study (FS)—site characterization and the establishment of cleanup standards for the selection and implementation of a cleanup action under MTCA. Ecology's opinion offered guidance and a path forward for SPR to address contamination at the site under MTCA, with the potential goal for a No Further Action determination.

After Ecology's opinion letter, SPR conducted beach sampling independently and agreed to address Ecology's information gaps identified in the Opinion letter by drafting and seeking Ecology's opinion on an RI/FS work plan. In April 2022 Ecology received SPR's draft RI/FS workplan.

Based upon the findings of the draft RI/FS workplan and the growing complexity of the Site cleanup, Ecology decided to terminate the VCP project and move the Site into a formal process under an Agreed Order. Under the formal process, Ecology will have more oversight over the cleanup than the independent VCP cleanup process, including consistent and proactive community involvement and outreach.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanups/Voluntary-Cleanup-Program>

Toxics Cleanup Program

Why this site matters

The Duwamish Waterway Park site is adjacent to the [Lower Duwamish Waterway](#)⁴ Superfund Site, which includes a 5-mile stretch of the Duwamish River. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the [LDW Superfund Site](#)⁵ to the Superfund National Priorities List in 2001. Ecology is working to stop or reduce sources of contamination to the LDW Superfund Site, an effort known as “[source control](#)⁶,” so that the EPA can proceed with the cleanup of the river sediment.



View of Lower Duwamish Waterway from Duwamish Waterway Park, August 2022

What happens next?

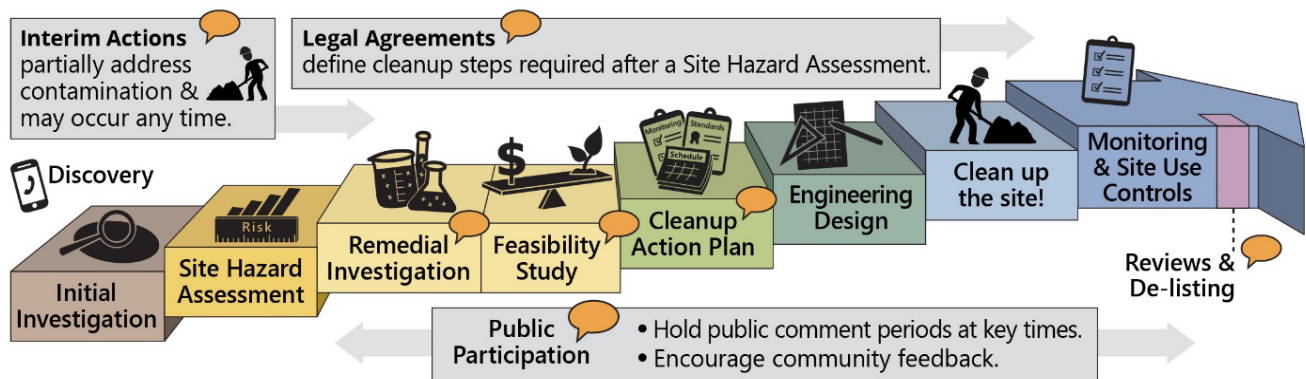
Ecology will consider all comments received during this public comment period and may make changes to the Agreed Order or Public Participation Plan. If the documents require significant changes, we will hold another public comment period.

If no significant changes are made, Ecology will finalize the documents and the City will proceed with the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and create a Draft Cleanup Action Plan for public review.

Each of those steps will require a public comment period. The graphic below shows these different stages of cleanup. Sometimes multiple stages occur in one public comment period.

Ecology’s cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#)⁷) is Washington’s environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology implements the [MTCA cleanup process](#)⁸ and oversees cleanups.



Washington’s formal cleanup process ([download text explanation](#)¹⁰)

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites/Lower-Duwamish-Waterway>

⁵ <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=1002020>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites/Lower-Duwamish-Waterway/Source-control>

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

¹⁰ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

Toxics Cleanup Program

Park background

Public planning through the Duwamish River Community Coalition's Healthy Communities program (2013) and Seattle Parks Foundation's South Park Green Spaces Vision Plan (2014) identified Duwamish Waterway Park as a key open space in the community and in need of improvement. It is the only greenspace readily accessible to residents and provides critical access to the waterway for recreation and important community activities.

The Friends of Duwamish Waterway Park have led the years-long effort to translate the community's vision for a permanent neighborhood park into a final design.

Working with SPR and the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Friends of Duwamish Waterway Park raised over one million dollars for park improvements. Construction was completed at the end of 2022. Site remediation began in 2020 and continues today.



Technical drawing showing current and pending park improvements

Language Information

Español: Para ver una copia de esta hoja informativa en español (que incluye información sobre reuniones públicas el 7 y 8 de febrero con interpretación), visita www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark, the Seattle Public Library South Park Branch, llama al (360) 407-6097, o manda un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

中文: 要查看 中文 情况说明书 (包括有关 2 月 7 日和 8 日公开会议的信息, 及口译), 请访问西雅图公共图书馆南公园分馆 www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark, the Seattle Public Library South Park Branch 致电 425-324-5901, 或电子邮件 sunny.becker@ecy.wa.gov.

Tiếng Việt: Để xem bản sao của Tờ Thông Tin này bằng tiếng Việt (bao gồm thông tin về các cuộc họp công cộng vào ngày 7 và 8 tháng 2 có thông dịch), hãy truy cập trang mạng: www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark, the Seattle Public Library South Park Branch, hoặc gọi (360) 407-6097, hoặc gửi email đến Lngu461@ecy.wa.gov.

ភាសាខ្មែរ: ដើម្បីមើលឯកសារថតចម្លងភាសាខ្មែរនេះជាភាសា ភាសាខ្មែរ (រួមមានព័ត៌មានអំពីកិច្ចប្រជុំសាធារណៈនៅថ្ងៃទី 7 និង 8 ខែកុម្ភៈដោយមានការបកប្រែភាសា) សូមចូលមើលវិបសាយ www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark, សាខា Seattle Public Library South Park Branch, សូមហៅទូរស័ព្ទលេខ (425) 324-5901, ឬអ៊ីម៉ែល LDW@ecy.wa.gov

Af Soomaali: Si aad u eegto nuqulka xaashidan macluumaadka oo ku qoran af Soomaali (waxaa kamid ah macluumaadka kulmada shacabka Febraayo 7 iyo 8 oo turjuban), booqovisit www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark, the Seattle Public Library South Park Branch, la hadal (425) 324-5901, ama iimeel u dir LDW@ecy.wa.gov

አማርኛ: የዚህን የአውገታ ወረቀት ቅጂ በአማርኛ ለማየት (በፌብሩዋሪ 7 እና 8 ላይ ከትርጓሜ ጋር ስለሚደረጉ ህዝባዊ ስብሰባዎች ማረጃን ጫምሮ)፣ www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark፣ የ Seattle Public Library South Park Branch ይጎብኙ፣ በ (425) 324-5901 ላይ ይደውሉ፣ ወይም LDW@ecy.wa.gov ላይ ኢሜይል ይላኩ።

Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Duwamish Waterway Park Cleanup Site Documents ready for public review and comment



Información en Español incluida (página 5)

有關的信息, 已被翻譯成中文 (第5頁)

Có thông tin bằng tiếng Việt (Trang 5)

ព័ត៌មានជាភាសាខ្មែររួមបញ្ចូល (ទំព័រ 5)

Macluumaad af Soomaali ah ayaa la socda (Boga 5)

በአማርኛ የተጻፈ መረጃ ተካትቷል (ገፅ 5)

Public Comment Period

January 30 – March 15, 2023

www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark-Comments

Public Meetings – See Page 1 for information

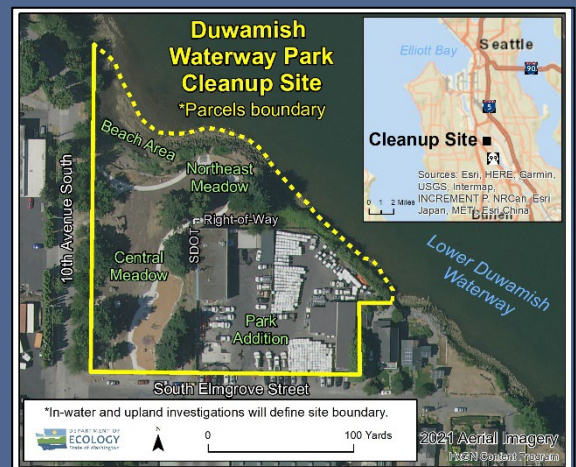
Online: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 starting at Noon

In-Person: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023 starting at 6:30 p.m.

www.bit.ly/Ecology-DuwamishWaterwayPark

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-324-5901 or email LDW@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.



Aerial map of the Duwamish Waterway Park cleanup site, 2021