

Gas Works Park Site - Sediment Unit



Gas Works Park site on the north shore of Lake Union

Comments accepted

June 20 – July 20, 2023

Submit comments

Online at:

www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks-Comments2023

Or by mail to:

Lucy McInerney, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 330316

Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
425-410-1400

Lucy.McInerney@ecy.wa.gov

Document review locations

www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks

Seattle Public Library
Fremont Branch
731 N 35th Street
Seattle, WA 98103

For document review assistance,
please contact:

Ian Fawley, Outreach Planner

Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov

425-324-5901

Site info

Facility Site ID: 139

Site Cleanup ID: 2876

Cleanup action plan ready for review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review a cleanup action plan and associated documents for the cleanup of remaining contamination at the Gas Works Park site in Seattle. The plan calls for removing and capping shoreline soil, treating shoreline groundwater, dredging sediment, capping sediment, monitoring, and administrative site use controls.

The plan is part of a legal agreement between Ecology, the City of Seattle (City), and Puget Sound Energy (PSE). The following documents are available for review:

- **Cleanup Action Plan:** describes Ecology's selected cleanup action to address remaining contamination.
- **Consent Decree (legal agreement):** requires the City and PSE to develop detailed design documents and construct the cleanup action described in the cleanup action plan.
- **State Environmental Policy Act-Determination of Non-Significance:** Ecology determination that the cleanup action is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

Online public meeting

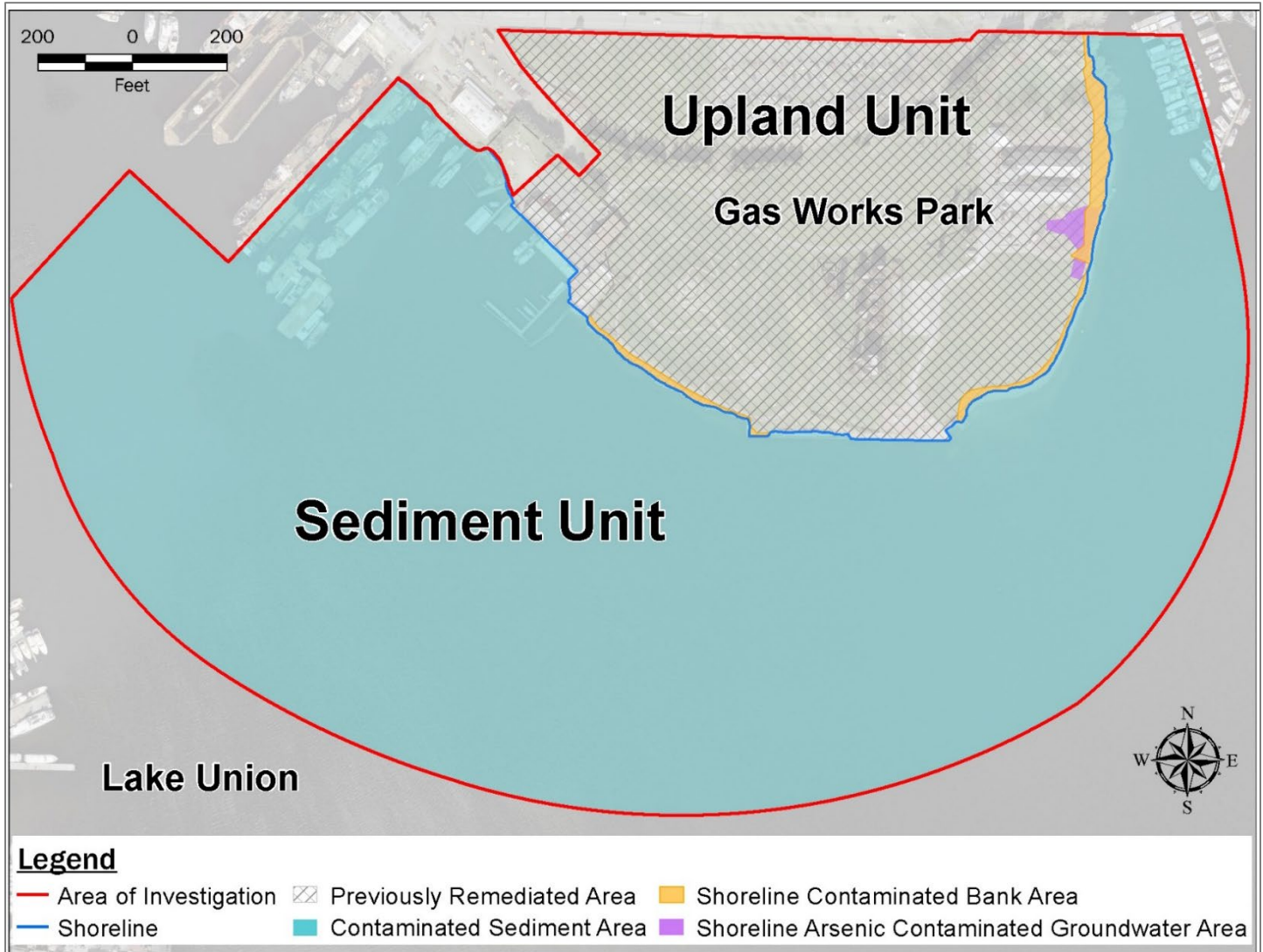
Ecology will host an online public meeting using the Zoom platform to provide project information and answer questions. There will be interpreters available in Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog. Call-in options are available when registering from Ecology's webpage.

Wednesday, June 28, 2023:

- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Presentation
- 7:30 p.m. Questions and answers, as needed.

To register and join, visit: www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks

[Español \(página 5\)](#) | [中文信息 \(見第5頁\)](#) | [Tagalog \(pahina 5\)](#) →

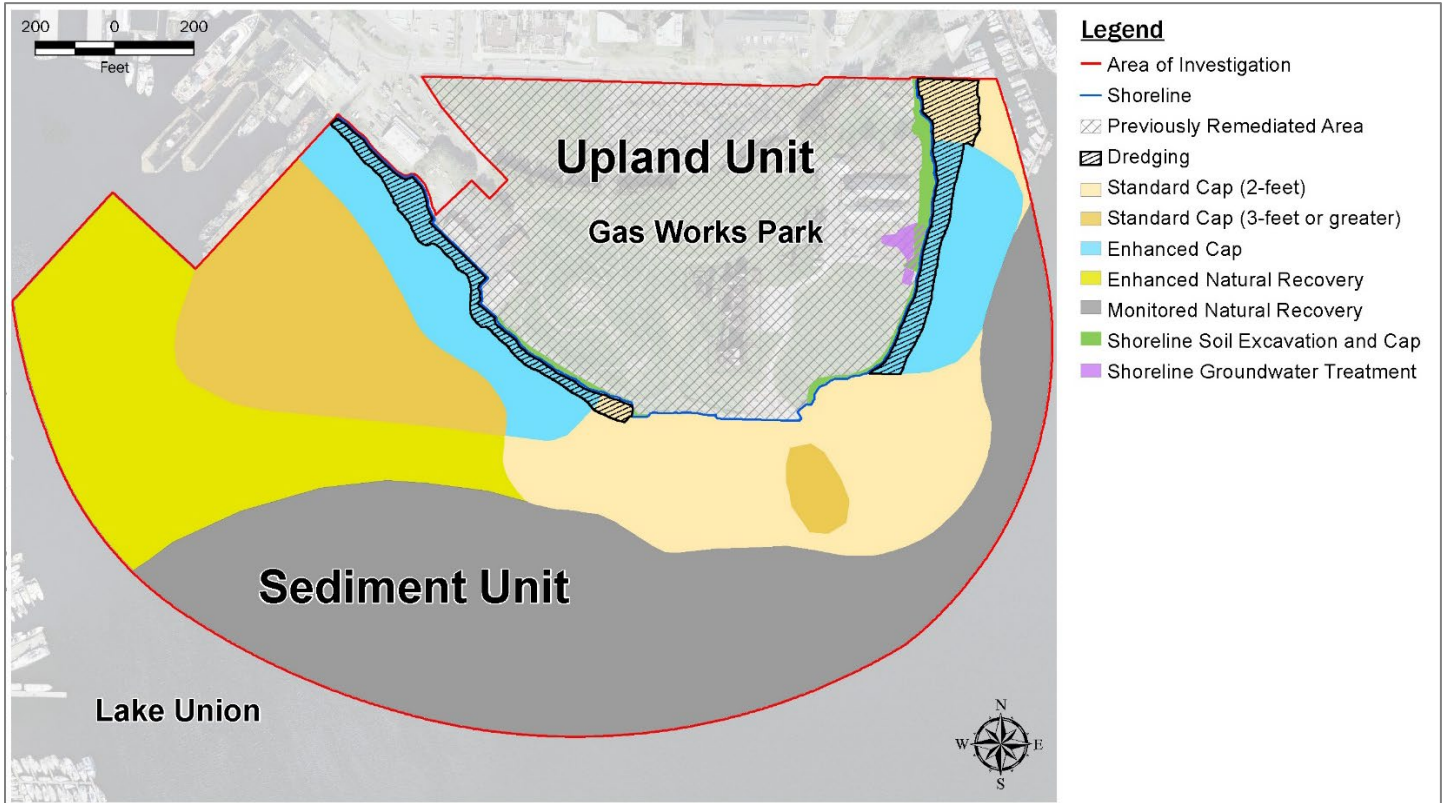


Site Units and Remaining Contaminated Areas

The Gas Works Park site consists of two units, a 21-acre Upland Unit and a 56-acre in-water Sediment Unit. Multiple previous cleanup actions have addressed contamination in the Upland Unit, except for bank soil and arsenic-contaminated groundwater along the shoreline.

Sediment throughout the Sediment Unit is contaminated.

Contaminants present are from former upland industrial operations and include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, nickel, carbazole and dibenzofuran. Additional contaminants associated with other sources in Lake Union are also present in sediment.



Cleanup Action Plan

In January 2023, after public review, Ecology approved a remedial investigation/feasibility study (environmental report) prepared by the City and PSE. That report presented the results of environmental investigations and evaluated a range of cleanup action alternatives to address remaining contaminated areas.

Based on the information in the report, Ecology has selected a cleanup action to address remaining contaminated areas. That cleanup action is described in a Cleanup Action Plan. As shown above, the plan includes the following:

Sediment Unit Actions (in-water only)

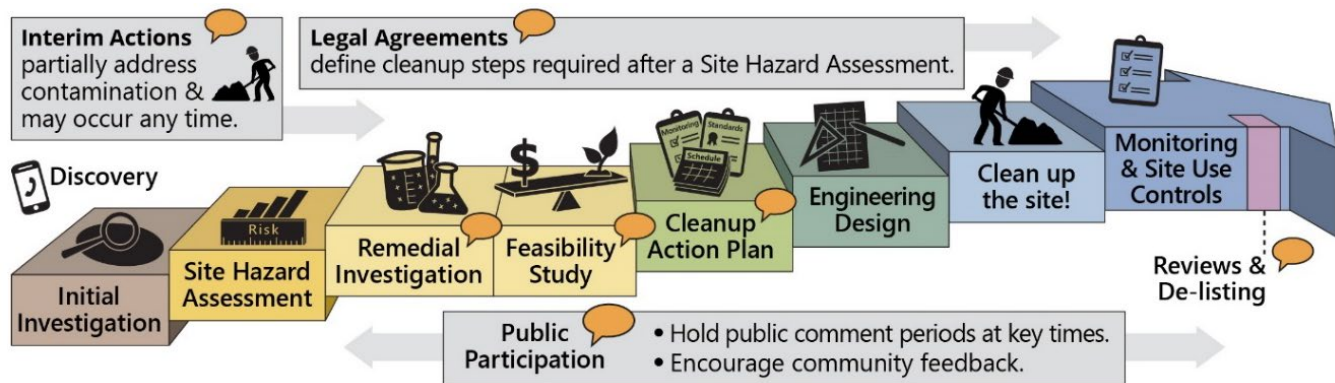
- **Dredging:** Remove approximately 3,600 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, plus potential dredging prior to capping in nearshore areas with operations that require maintenance of certain water depths.
- **Standard capping:** Place approximately 14 acres of a 2-foot -thick sand cap and approximately 4 acres of a 3-foot or greater sand cap to isolate contaminated sediment.
- **Enhanced capping:** Place approximately 5 acres of amended sand cap to isolate contaminated sediment and to treat groundwater or place a low permeability cap to isolate contaminated sediment and redirect groundwater to adjacent amended sand caps for treatment. Amended sand caps are necessary to treat groundwater that becomes contaminated as it discharges from the upland and flows through subsurface contaminated sediment.
- **Enhanced natural recovery:** Place approximately 10 acres of a 6-inch sand layer to accelerate the naturally occurring reduction of contaminant concentrations due to the deposition of clean material.
- **Monitored natural recovery:** Monitor approximately 23 acres to verify the naturally occurring reduction of contaminant concentrations due to the deposition of clean material.

Upland/Sediment Unit Intersection Actions

- **Shoreline soil excavation and capping:** Remove approximately 4,800 cubic yards of contaminated shoreline bank soil including shallow tar removal on the eastern shoreline. Following removal, place topsoil and vegetation over about 0.7 acre to provide a transition to the existing park surfaces.
- **Shoreline groundwater treatment:** Treat arsenic-contaminated groundwater below the ground along the eastern shoreline.

The cleanup action plan also includes post-construction monitoring and administrative site use controls to ensure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment over time.

What happens next?



Washington’s formal [cleanup process](#)¹ is shown in the graphic above. The Gas Works Park site is in the cleanup action plan step. The timeline to complete this step and the anticipated timeline for future steps is outlined below:

- **June 20 – July 20, 2023:** Public comment period
- **June 28, 2023:** Public meeting
- **Fall 2023:** Public comments addressed, and cleanup action plan finalized
- **2023 to 2027:** Engineering design and permitting, including additional investigations and evaluations to refine the cleanup action and enable detailed design work
- **2027:** Begin construction

Cost and funding

The cleanup action is expected to cost about \$73 million. The City and PSE are funding partners for the cleanup. The City is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of their costs from Ecology through the state’s [remedial action grant program](#)². This funding helps to pay to clean up publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a [tax on hazardous substances](#)³.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Oversight-remedial-action-grants-loans>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process/Paying-for-cleanups/Hazardous-Substance-Tax>

Background

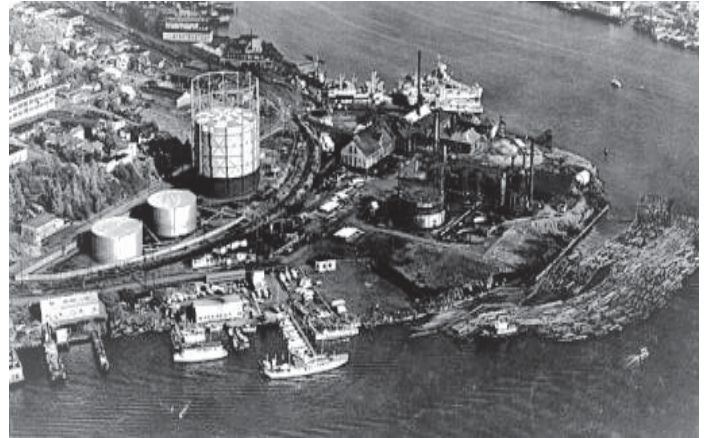
Formerly territory occupied by three indigenous communities (the Duwamish, Hachooabsh, and Shilsholes), the area surrounding the northern portion of Lake Union was settled by non-natives in the mid- to late-1800s. In 1907, construction of a manufactured gas plant was completed on the upland area of the Gas Works Park site to supply fuel for the growing population of Seattle. The plant operated until 1956. Other industries (e.g., tar refining, bulk fuel storage, shipbuilding) also historically operated in the upland area. These past industrial activities resulted in contamination of soil, groundwater and sediment.

Except for a few discrete shoreline areas, contamination in the upland area has been addressed through multiple cleanup actions completed between 1971 and 2020.

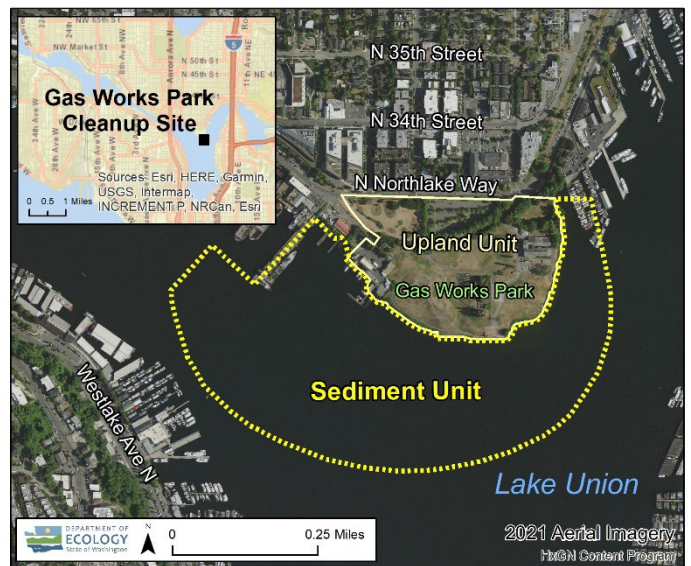
Location

The Gas Works Park site is located at 2101 N Northlake Way, Seattle, Washington on Lake Union. It consists of approximately 21 upland acres (Upland Unit) and approximately 56 in-water acres (Sediment Unit).

The City of Seattle owns the majority of the Upland Unit, and the State of Washington owns the majority of the Sediment Unit.



Aerial view of Gas Works Park site operations, 1965



Aerial map of Gas Works Park site

Información en español

Si desea recibir una hoja informativa completamente traducida en español, que incluya información sobre una reunión pública en línea con intérpretes el **28 de junio a las 6:30 p. m.**, visite www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks, la Sucursal Fremont de la Biblioteca Pública de Seattle (731 N 35th Street, Seattle, WA 98103), o llame al 425-324-5901 y espere a que una intérprete se una a la llamada.

有關清理工作的中文信息

如果您愿意收到完整的中文情况说明，包括 **6月28日下午6:30** 配有译员的在线公开会议信息，请访问网站 www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks，西雅图公共图书馆 Fremont 分馆（731 N 35th Street, Seattle, WA 98103），或拨打 425-324-5901 等待口译人员加入连线。

Impormasyon sa Tagalog

Kung gusto mong makatanggap ng dokumentong isinalin sa wikang Tagalog, kasama na ang impormasyon tungkol sa online na pampublikong pagpupulong na may mga tagapagsalin sa **Hunyo 28, 6:30 p.m.**, bisitahin ang www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks, sa Seattle Public Library's Fremont Branch (731 N 35th Street, Seattle, WA 98103), o tumawag sa 425-324-5901 at maghintay na sumali sa tawag ang isang tagasalin.

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

Gas Works Park Site

Documents ready for public review

Información en español incluida (página 5)

有關清理工作的中文信息 (見第5頁)

Impormasyon sa Tagalog (pahina 5)

Public comment period

June 20 – July 20, 2023

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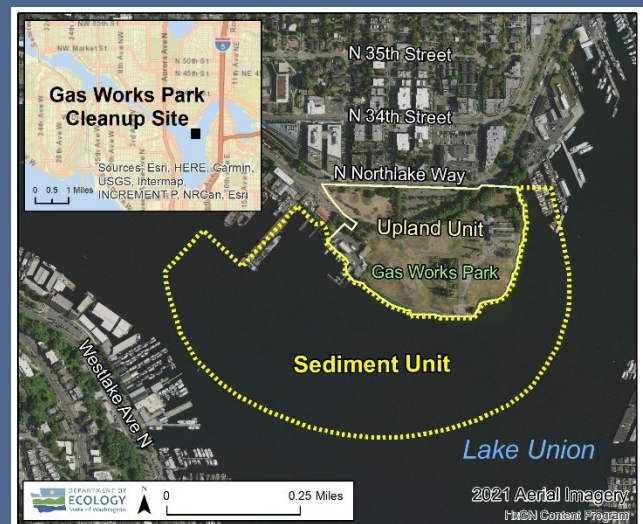
Online public meeting – See page 1 for details

June 28, 2023; Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Register at: www.bit.ly/Ecology-GasWorks

ADA accessibility

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



Aerial map of Gas Works Park site