

A Avenue Landfill Site



A Avenue Landfill next to gravel road (2010)

Comments accepted:

March 25 – April 23, 2024

Submit comments:

Online:

<https://www.bit.ly/Ecology-AAvenueLandfill-Comments>

By mail:

Ryan Gardiner, Site Manager

PO Box 330316

Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Phone: (425) 681-5543

Email: ryan.gardiner@ecy.wa.gov

Document review:

<https://www.bit.ly/Ecology-AAvenueLandfill>

Anacortes City Hall

904 6th Street

Anacortes, WA 98221

Phone: (360) 293-1900

Site info:

Facility Site ID: 3094179

Site Cleanup ID: 1771

Public Outreach Contact:

Ian Fawley,

Outreach Planner

ian.fawley@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 Anacortes (City), the Potentially Liable Person, for the A Avenue Landfill site (Site) in Anacortes, WA. 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, and if determined necessary after completion of the investigation, to prepare a Feasibility Study and a draft Cleanup Action Plan.
- **Public Participation Plan:** describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and ways to become involved.

Public meeting: Monday, April 15, 2024

Ecology will hold a simultaneous public meeting (in-person and via Zoom) to provide more information. Ecology and City staff will be available to answer questions.

- **Presentation:** Starts at 4:00 p.m. with questions and answers (as needed)
- **In-Person:** City Hall Municipal Building; 904 6th Street, Anacortes, WA 98221
- **Online:** Register and join at <https://www.bit.ly/Ecology-AAvenueLandfill> (Dial-in options available after registration.)

En español

El Departamento de Ecología le invita a comentar sobre documentos para el sitio que está contaminado A Avenue Landfill en Anacortes.

Para recibir este documento en español, por favor llame a 425-324-5901 y espere que un intérprete se una a la llamada o envíe un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov. Traducciones de avisos públicos para este sitio de limpieza se preparan bajo solicitud.

Site background

The A Avenue Landfill Site is generally located in the vicinity of A Avenue and 37th Street in Anacortes, WA. The City of Anacortes owns the approximately 6-acre property (Property) within the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL). The former landfill is managed by the Anacortes City Parks and Recreation Department in coordination with the Skagit County Public Health Department (SCPH). Access to the main portion of the Property is currently restricted.

The City has worked with SCPH and Ecology since 2003 to properly close the former landfill and perform routine post-closure monitoring and maintenance.



Aerial view of A Avenue Landfill Site

Landfill operations and use

The A Avenue Landfill was constructed in the mid-1940s and operated as a solid waste landfill through the 1960s. From the 1960s to approximately 1970, the landfill accepted municipal solid waste that was burned on-site. From the 1970s to 2006, the City of Anacortes used the landfill for storage and disposal of public works materials (e.g., concrete, yard waste, wood waste, street sweepings, etc.). All operations ceased in 2006 when the City formally closed the A Avenue Landfill under SCPH oversight.

Landfill closure, monitoring, and maintenance

From 2003-2006, prior to closure, SCPH conducted an Initial Investigation of the Site, and Ecology placed it on the “Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List.” In 2008, SCPH’s landfill closure actions were completed including placing a clean soil cap, creating stormwater controls, and installing fencing, vegetation and signage.

In 2009, SCPH conducted a Site Hazard Assessment, and Ecology issued a No Further Action determination. From 2010-2020, SCPH performed routine monitoring and maintenance under a 10-year post-closure plan including maintaining a soil cap and grass cover over the landfill, maintaining public safety measures including fencing and signage, and testing of groundwater seeps from the former landfill perimeter.

Renewed site concern

In August 2019, community members sent a letter to SCPH with questions about a proposed addition of a bike skills park to the capped area of the former landfill. Ecology received a copy of this letter and re-evaluated the available Site information in November 2019. Ecology concluded that additional sampling was needed to fully characterize the Site.



Uncovered landfill debris

In January 2020, Ecology withdrew the previous No Further Action determination and placed the Site on what is referred to now as Ecology’s [Contaminated Sites List](#)¹ for further evaluation under the state cleanup regulations, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

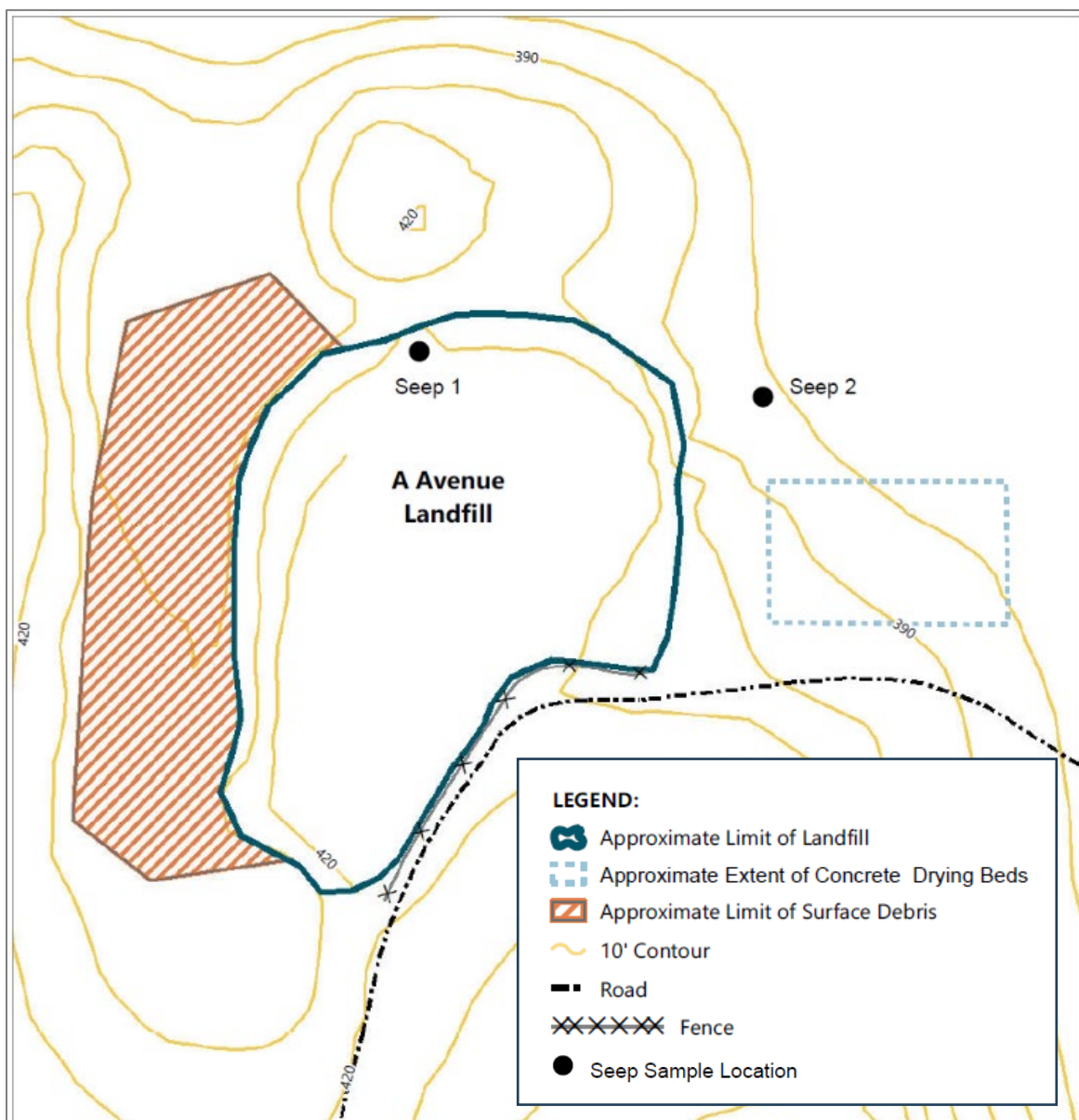
¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated>

Site overview

The former landfill extends approximately 6 acres northwest from a gravel road. A fence runs parallel to the gravel road. Surface debris extends west of the former landfill footprint in a vegetated area. Concrete drying beds formerly used to dry out sewage sludge are located east of the former landfill. SCPH’s two groundwater seep sampling locations are located downgradient of the landfill (see figure below). Forested wetlands are present along the western perimeter of the landfill.

Remedial Investigation Focus

Soil and groundwater seep sampling has been performed at the Site. Petroleum contamination was identified in a shallow soil sample during the SCPH’s 2003 Initial Investigation. Additional contaminants, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, may be present in soil and groundwater based on the available Site history.



A Avenue Landfill overview map



2006

2019

Aerial photos of landfill from 2006 vs. 2019

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.

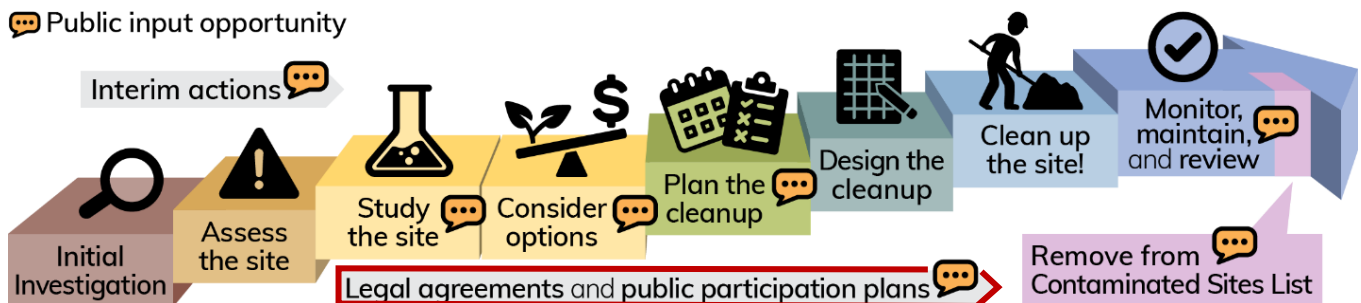
If no significant changes are made, Ecology will finalize the documents and the City will proceed with the Remedial Investigation. If necessary after completion of the investigation, a Feasibility Study and Draft Cleanup Action Plan will be prepared.

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](https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca))² 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](https://ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process)³ and oversees cleanups.

The cleanup steps with reviewable documents during this comment period are highlighted in red below.



² <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process>

Toxics Cleanup Program
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham, WA 98225

A Avenue Landfill Site

Documents ready for public review and comment

Información en Español incluida (página 1)

Public Comment Period

March 25 – April 23, 2024

<https://www.bit.ly/Ecology-AAvenueLandfill>

<https://www.bit.ly/Ecology-AAvenueLandfill-Comments>

Public Meeting: in-person and online

April 15, 2024 | Anacortes City Hall

Presentation starting at 4:00 p.m.

See page 1 for more information.

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-324-5901 or email

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 A Avenue Landfill site