

Bellingham Bay Cleanup

2025 Cleanup Update

Cleanup work at 12 contaminated sites located on the Bellingham waterfront (see page 2) is happening at the direction of the Department of Ecology under authority of the state's cleanup law, the [Model Toxics Control Act](#).¹

Read more about:

- 2024 progress
- Cleanup site information
- [Cleanup site process](#)² and planned work in 2025

In addition to regulatory requirements, the cleanup work is guided by the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy completed in 2000 by the multi-agency Bellingham Bay Action Team. The Comprehensive Strategy integrates cleanup of contamination, controlling sources of sediment contamination, habitat restoration, and land use on a bay-wide scale. The Action Team is co-managed by Ecology and the Port of Bellingham.

The state has partially funded the cleanup work conducted to date. The Port of Bellingham and the City of Bellingham are the main entities responsible for addressing contamination. As public entities, up to half of their costs may be reimbursed through a state remedial action grant program that helps pay for cleanup work at publicly-owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

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

2024 Progress

In 2024 we've made significant progress in Bellingham Bay.

- 1 Completed Legal Agreement**
 - RG Haley
- 1 Completed Periodic Review**
 - Holly Street Landfill
- 7 Advanced Cleanup Designs**
 - Central Waterfront
 - Whatcom Waterway
 - GP West, Southern Area
 - RG Haley
 - Cornwall Avenue Landfill
 - South State Street
Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP)
 - Harris Avenue Shipyard
- 2 Cleanups Underway**
 - I&J Waterway SCU-1
 - Whatcom Waterway (partial)

Contact & Information



Julia Schwarz

Project Lead

425-515-5992

Julia.Schwarz@ecy.wa.gov



Kristen Forkeutis

Outreach Specialist

425-240-4353

Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov



Cleanup Sites

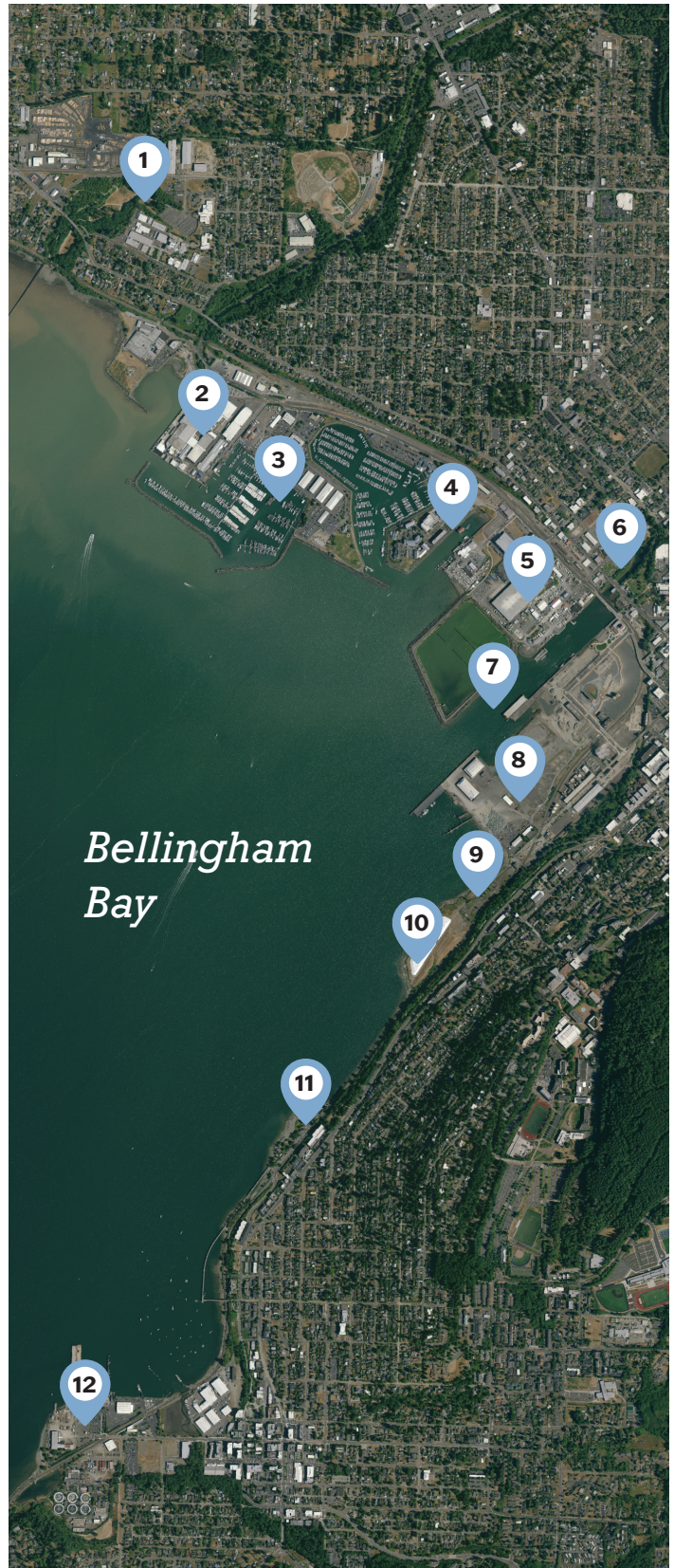
Webpage

[www.ecology.wa.gov/
BellinghamBayCleanup](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/BellinghamBayCleanup)

Cleanup Site Information

Learn more about each site by visiting www.ecology.wa.gov/BellinghamBayCleanup or clicking each link below.

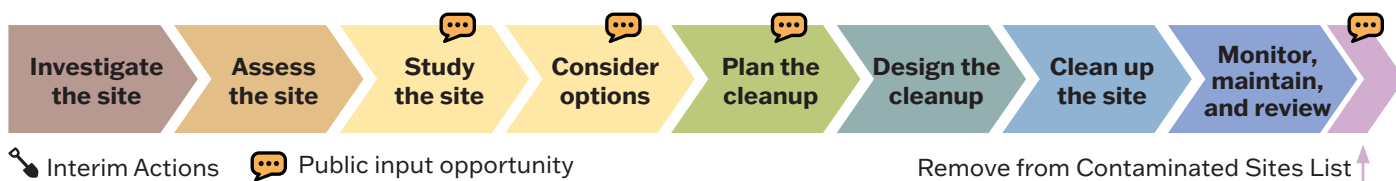
- 1 [Eldridge Municipal Landfill](#)**
Contaminated soil due to former municipal landfilling activities.
- 2 [Weldcraft Steel & Marine](#)**
Contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater associated with former shipyard practices.
- 3 [Marine Services NW](#)**
Contaminated sediment associated with past boatyard practices.
- 4 [I & J Waterway](#)**
Contaminated sediment associated with former industrial practices.
- 5 [Central Waterfront](#)**
Contaminated soil and groundwater associated with former municipal landfilling and industrial activities.
- 6 [Holly Street Landfill](#)**
Contaminated soil due to former municipal landfilling activities.
- 7 [Whatcom Waterway](#)**
Contaminated sediment associated with past pulping operations.
- 8 [Georgia-Pacific West](#)**
Contaminated soil and groundwater associated with former industrial operations.
- 9 [RG Haley](#)**
Contaminated soil, groundwater, and sediment associated with former wood treatment facility.
- 10 [Cornwall Avenue Landfill](#)**
Contaminated soil, groundwater, and sediment associated with past municipal landfilling activities.
- 11 [South State Street MGP](#)**
Contaminated soil, groundwater, and sediment associated with a former gas manufacturing facility.
- 12 [Harris Avenue Shipyard](#)**
Contaminated soil, groundwater, and sediment associated with former industrial activities.



Bellingham Bay cleanup sites, 2019 aerial image

Cleanup Site Process & Planned Work in 2025

The cleanup of contaminated sites follows the steps of Washington’s cleanup process outlined below. Ecology oversees the cleanup process through legal agreements.



CLEANUP SITES	CURRENT STEP	PLANNED WORK IN 2025
1 Eldridge Municipal Landfill		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue monitoring the completed cleanup
2 Weldcraft Steel & Marine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish planning the cleanup Begin designing the cleanup
3 Marine Services NW		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activities planned
4 I & J Waterway SCU-1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish cleaning up the site
I & J Waterway SCU-2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue designing the cleanup
5 Central Waterfront		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue designing the cleanup
6 Holly Street Landfill		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the City to gather information and determine if the cleanup continues to protect human health & the environment
7 Whatcom Waterway Phase 1 Areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue monitoring and place legal requirements to ensure the completed cleanup is not disturbed
Whatcom Waterway Phase 2 Areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue designing the cleanup Clean up a portion of the site
8 Georgia-Pacific West Northern Area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue monitoring the completed cleanup
Georgia-Pacific West Southern Area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue designing the cleanup
9 RG Haley		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish designing the cleanup Begin cleaning up the site
10 Cornwall Avenue Landfill		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish designing the cleanup Begin cleaning up the site
11 South State Street MGP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue designing the cleanup
12 Harris Avenue Shipyard Upland Area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish designing the cleanup Begin cleaning up the site
Harris Avenue Shipyard In-water Area		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue designing the cleanup

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

Bellingham Bay Cleanup

2025 Cleanup Update

Cleanup work at 12 contaminated sites located on the Bellingham waterfront (see page 2) is happening at the direction of the Department of Ecology under authority of the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

Read more about:

- 2024 progress
- Cleanup site information
- Cleanup site process and planned work in 2025

Learn More

www.ecology.wa.gov/BellinghamBayCleanup



Bellingham Waterfront, December 2014.
Photo courtesy of Public Domain.

ADA Accessibility: Contact Ecology by phone at 425-240-4353 or email at Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.