

Weldcraft Steel & Marine Cleanup Site



Weldcraft Steel and Marine site facing northeast

Comments accepted

June 30, 12:00 a.m. –
July 30, 11:59 p.m., 2025

Submit comments

Online:

[https://go.ecology.wa.gov/
WeldcraftSteelComments](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/WeldcraftSteelComments)

By mail or email:

John Rapp, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham, WA 98225
206-247-3242

John.Rapp@ecy.wa.gov

Document review

[https://go.ecology.wa.gov/
WeldcraftSteel](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/WeldcraftSteel)

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

For document review
assistance, please contact:

Kristen Forkeutis,
Outreach Specialist
Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov
425-240-4353

Site info

Facility Site ID: 29583133
Site Cleanup ID: 1785

Documents ready for public review and comment

Ecology invites you to comment on several documents for the Weldcraft Steel and Marine cleanup site on the Bellingham Bay waterfront. The following documents are available:

- **Draft Cleanup Action Plan:** Ecology's plan describing the cleanup work to address contamination at the site.
- **Agreed Order:** Legal agreement between Ecology and the Port of Bellingham (Port) requiring the Port to implement the cleanup action plan.
- **State Environmental Policy Act – Determination of Non-Significance:** Ecology's determination that the cleanup work is not likely to harm the environment.
- **Public Participation Plan:** Describes how Ecology will inform the community about the site activities and ways to become involved.

On-site walking tour

RE Sources, a local nonprofit organization, will host an on-site walking tour. Ecology and Port staff will be there to provide project information and answer questions.



Thursday, July 17, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

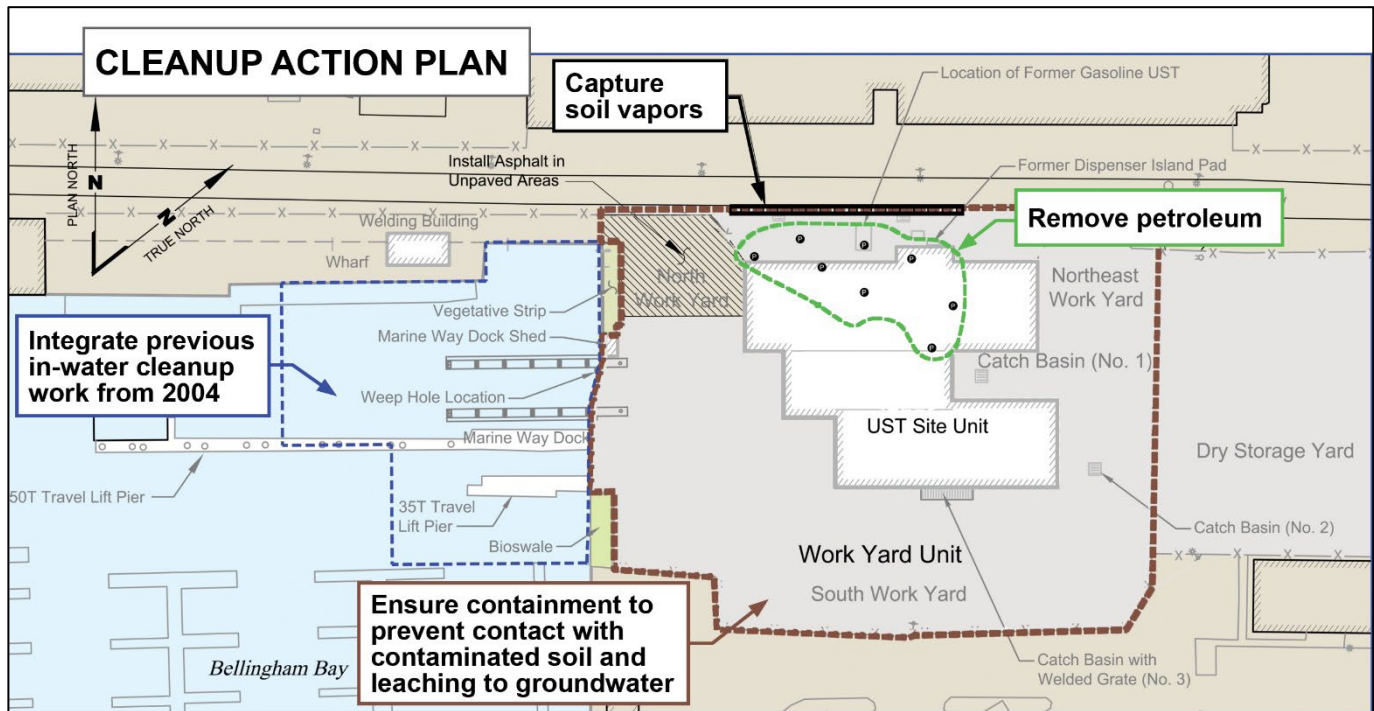
2652 N Harbor Loop Drive, Bellingham

Please meet in the parking lot behind LFS Marine & Outdoor and look for the blue canopy.

<https://www.re-sources.org/WeldcraftSteel>

This tour is funded by a Public Participation Grant from Ecology.

Language information, see page 5



Cleanup actions planned for the Weldcraft Steel and Marine site.

Cleanup Action Plan

To address the contamination at the site, the Port completed an environmental study of the site and assessed a range of cleanup options. The costs and environmental benefits of the options were compared. Ecology then selected a cleanup action consisting of the following elements.

- **Remove petroleum:** Petroleum products that float on top of groundwater, called light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL), will be removed. Future investigations will verify the need for this work.
- **Capture soil vapors:** A soil vapor control system will be installed to prevent potentially harmful vapors from migrating into buildings. Future investigations will verify the need for this work.
- **Ensure containment:** Building slabs, existing pavement, and new pavement will provide a barrier, called a cap, to prevent human contact with contaminated soil and leaching to groundwater. The cap will also reduce rainwater/stormwater from seeping into the ground and encountering contamination.
- **Monitor groundwater and soil vapor:** Groundwater will be monitored to ensure cleanup standards are achieved and maintained. Soil vapor will be monitored to ensure there is no impact to air quality in buildings.
- **Implement institutional controls:** Legal or administrative measures will be put in place to restrict or prohibit activities that could result in exposure to contaminants that are above acceptable health risk levels or interfere with the integrity of the cleanup action.
- **Integrate previous cleanup work:** The 2004 in-water interim action (early partial cleanup) will be considered part of the cleanup action plan.

Toxics Cleanup Program

Site background

The site is located at 2652 N Harbor Loop Drive, adjacent to Squalicum Harbor on the Bellingham Bay waterfront. The site is about 3.3 acres (2.5 acres on land and 0.8 acres in the water).

Weldcraft Steel and Marine operated on the property between 1946 and 2000. Various activities took place, including boat construction, repair, and maintenance; wood and metal fabrication; painting; canvas and plastic work; and concrete work. Since 2004, the property has been occupied by a boat repair company that is unassociated with the contamination being addressed. The Port of Bellingham owns both the upland and in-water portions of the site.



Weldcraft Steel and Marine site facing southwest, June 1961

Contamination

Past environmental investigations found contamination in soil, groundwater, and sediment above WA State cleanup levels:

- **Soil:** petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, and volatile organic compounds.
- **Groundwater:** petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, and volatile organic compounds.
- **Sediment:** metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. This contamination was addressed by the previous cleanup work in 2004.

Previous cleanup work

In 2004 the Port completed an interim action (early partial cleanup) at the site. Approximately 6,800 cubic yards of contaminated in-water sediment and a marine railway were removed and disposed of at a permitted landfill. The dredged areas were then backfilled with clean sand.



Loading contaminated sediment into a barge during the 2004 interim action



Weldcraft Steel and Marine site facing south, 2004

What happens next?

Ecology will consider all the comments received during this public comment period and may make changes to the documents. 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 Port will begin designing the cleanup. Any new or amended legal agreements will be available for review during a future public comment period. Construction of the cleanup action is anticipated to begin between 2026 and 2028.

Cost and funding

The design work required by the new agreed order, and the remaining cleanup work is estimated to cost about \$1,500,000.

The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of their costs from Ecology through the state's [Remedial Action Grant Program](#),¹ which helps pay for the cleanup of publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

Bellingham Bay Cleanup

The Weldcraft Steel and Marine site is one of 12 [Bellingham Bay Cleanup sites](#)² coordinated through the Bellingham Bay Action Team (BBAT). BBAT is a bay-wide multi-agency effort to clean up contaminated sediment, control sources of sediment contamination, and restore habitat, with consideration for land and water uses.

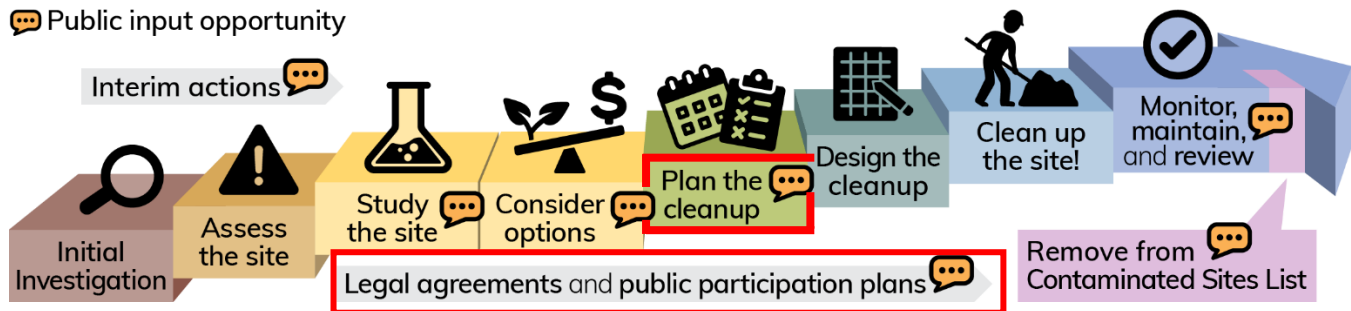
¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Oversight-remedial-action-grants-loans>

² <https://www.ecology.wa.gov/BellinghamBayCleanup>

Toxics Cleanup Program

Ecology's cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology is responsible for administering MTCA, including the oversight or management of cleanups. The MTCA cleanup process is completed in steps (see graphic below) over a variable timeline. The Weldcraft Steel and Marine site is currently in the "plan the cleanup" step of the process. A legal agreement and public participation plan are also included during this step. Both are outlined in red below.



Washington's formal cleanup process

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe to this site from our Weldcraft Steel and Marine [webpage](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/WeldcraftSteel).³ You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or open a comment period.

Language Information

Español

Le ofrecemos servicios de traducción e interpretación sin costo. Para solicitar una copia de esta información en español, llame a Kristen Forkeutis al 425-240-4353 o envíe un correo electrónico a kristen.forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov. Si necesita servicios de interpretación, solicite un intérprete y permanezca en la línea mientras lo comunicamos.

³ <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/WeldcraftSteel>

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

Weldcraft Steel & Marine Cleanup Site

Documents ready for public review

Información en español incluida (página 5)

Public comment period

June 30, 12:00 a.m. – July 30, 11:59 p.m., 2025

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On-site walking tour hosted by RE Sources

Thursday, July 17, 2025

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See page 1 for details.

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, 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.



Weldcraft Steel and Marine site location