

An aerial photograph showing a large-scale construction project on a river. In the foreground, a yellow crane is mounted on a barge, with a red lifting device suspended from its boom. A white tugboat is positioned next to the barge. In the background, a long wooden pier extends across the water. On the left bank, there is a construction yard with stacks of materials and shipping containers. The sky is clear and blue.

# Community Outreach and Communications Plan

## SUMMARY

JANUARY 2024

# LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY GROUP



# Introduction

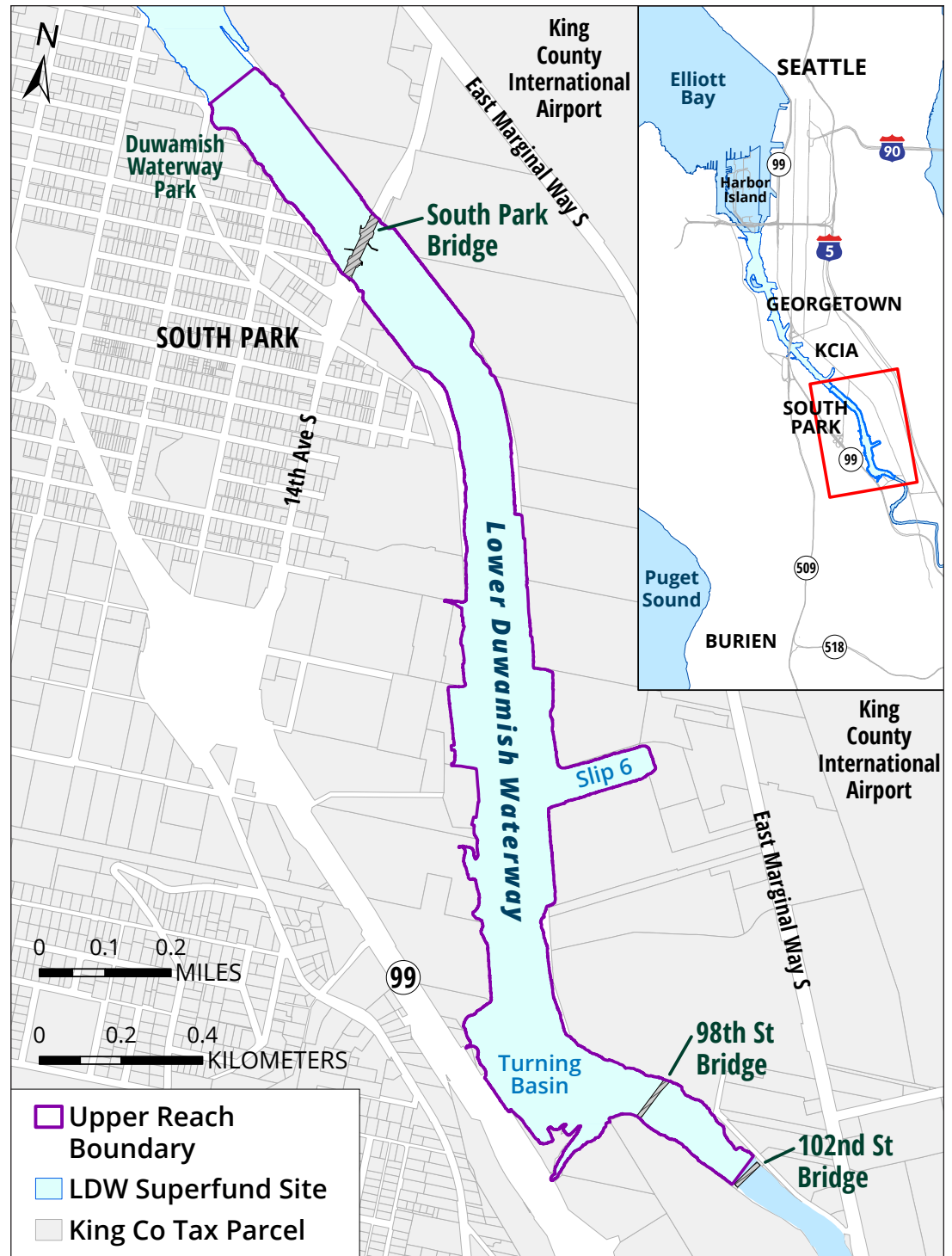
In 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) as a Superfund site. The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) has been coordinating with EPA since then to advance the design of cleanup construction.

The Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site is divided into three geographical reaches, or segments, for sediment cleanup purposes: lower, middle, and upper. Each reach will have its own cleanup design and construction schedule.

We plan to begin cleanup in the upper reach as soon as late 2024.

## PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

This document is a summary of the Community Outreach and Communications Plan. The full document can be viewed at [www.LDWG.org](http://www.LDWG.org). The plan outlines actions LDWG will take to engage community members before and during construction of the upper reach. It also identifies community concerns and priorities related to construction activities to help LDWG and EPA address concerns where possible.

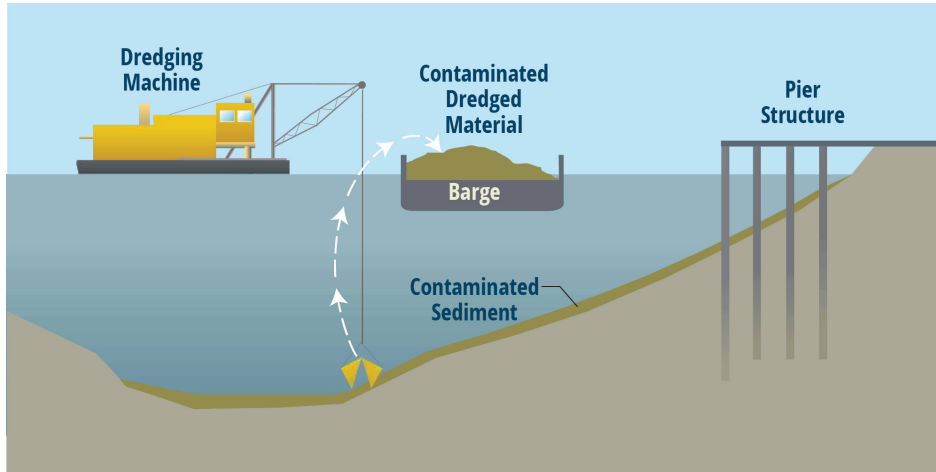


The above map shows the upper reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

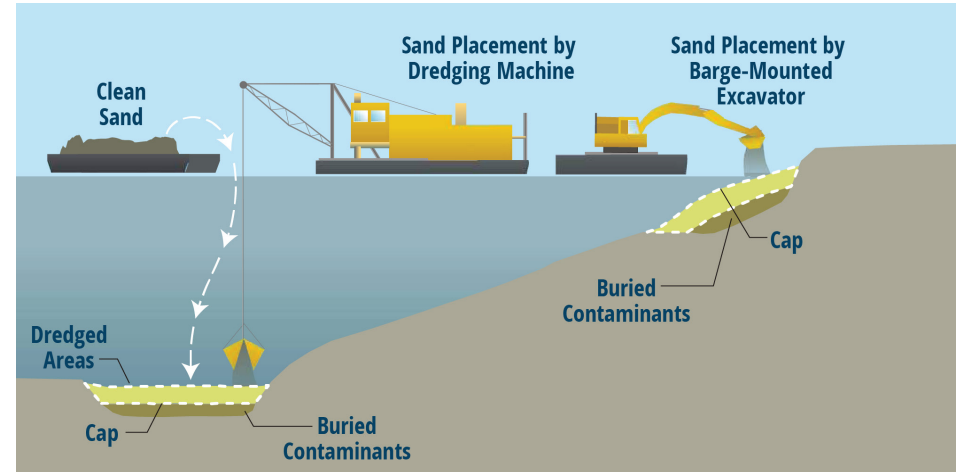
CREDIT: LDWG

# Contaminated Sediment Cleanup Technologies

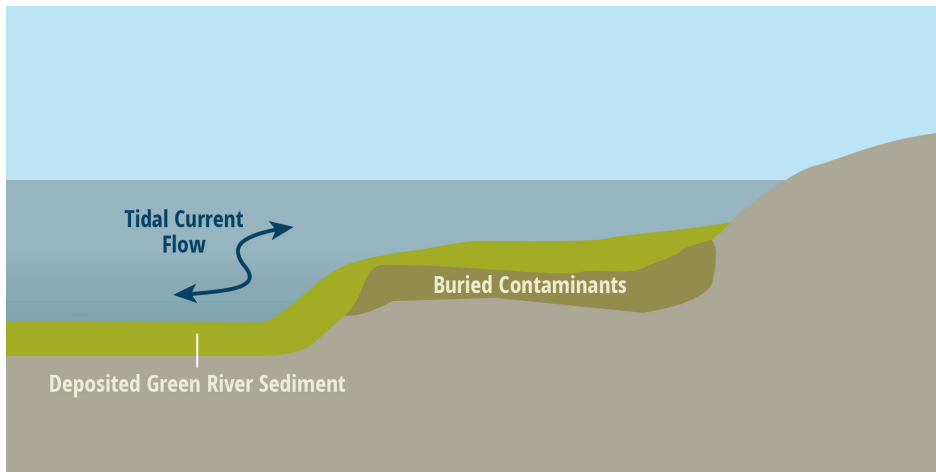
The remedial activities in the upper reach include a combination of the cleanup technologies shown below.



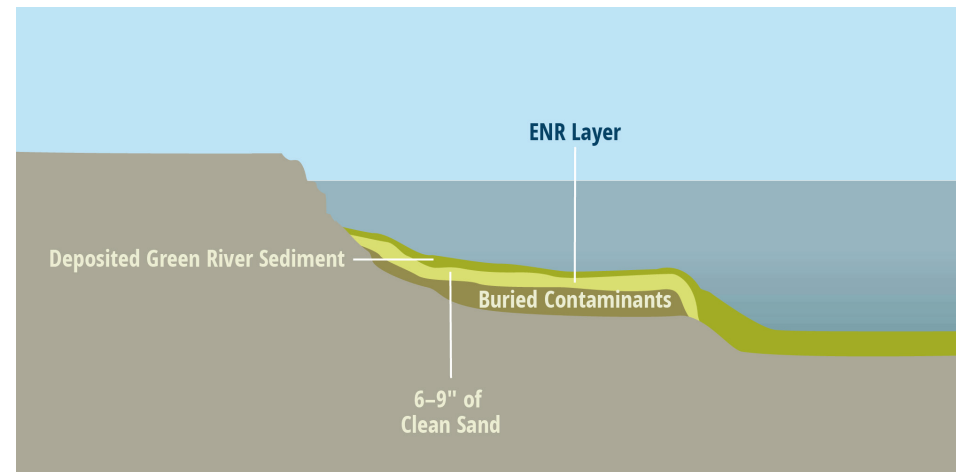
**DREDGING** removes contaminated sediments from the waterway. Dredging will generally occur upstream to downstream. After removal, dredged material will be transported by barge then transferred to land. Material is then transported to and disposed of in a permitted landfill.



**CAPPING** covers the contaminated sediments with engineered layers of sand, gravel and rock to contain and isolate the contamination.



**MONITORED NATURAL RECOVERY** relies on the movement of cleaner sediments from upriver to mix with low to moderately contaminated sediments in the waterway, ultimately reducing concentrations in surface sediments. The sediments are monitored to measure contamination reduction over time.



**ENHANCED NATURAL RECOVERY** uses a thin layer of clean sand to speed up the natural recovery process.

# What You Can Expect During Construction

Construction in the upper reach will take place within specific areas of the LDW between Duwamish Waterway Park and the South 102nd Street bridge. Construction activities will occur during the months of October through mid-February for three years and are anticipated to begin in October 2024.

Many details of the upper reach cleanup are still being planned, but in general, the public can expect to see:

- ▶ Construction equipment on the waterway including barges for carrying clean sand or contaminated dredged sediment, barges with a crane attached, and tugboats to move the barges around.
- ▶ Construction workers using certain shoreline areas adjacent to the LDW for storing construction equipment and transferring dredged sediment from barge to the shoreline area, and then to railcars for transport to the landfill. These locations will be separated from the public by fencing.
- ▶ Workers driving vehicles, parking, moving barges on the river with tugboats, and using heavy equipment.
- ▶ Boats with workers on the waterway collecting samples of water and sediment for testing.
- ▶ Workers having to work into the night at times, due to tides and other factors.
- ▶ Workers using lights and construction equipment that will generate noise.



Aerial image of the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

PHOTO CREDIT: LDWG

## OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS GOALS

- ▶ Identify community issues, concerns and priorities prior to sediment cleanup to help minimize community impacts to the extent possible.
- ▶ Notify the community before cleanup construction begins.
- ▶ Provide easy and accessible ways for people to learn about cleanup construction and communicate with the project team.
- ▶ Interact directly with shoreline property owners, tenants, businesses and waterway users most affected by construction.
- ▶ Promote public awareness and participation in local hire and job training programs.



PHOTO CREDIT: Windward Environmental LLC

Crews collect a "grab sample" from the upper reach of the Lower Duwamish.

# Proposed Communications and Outreach Methods and Activities

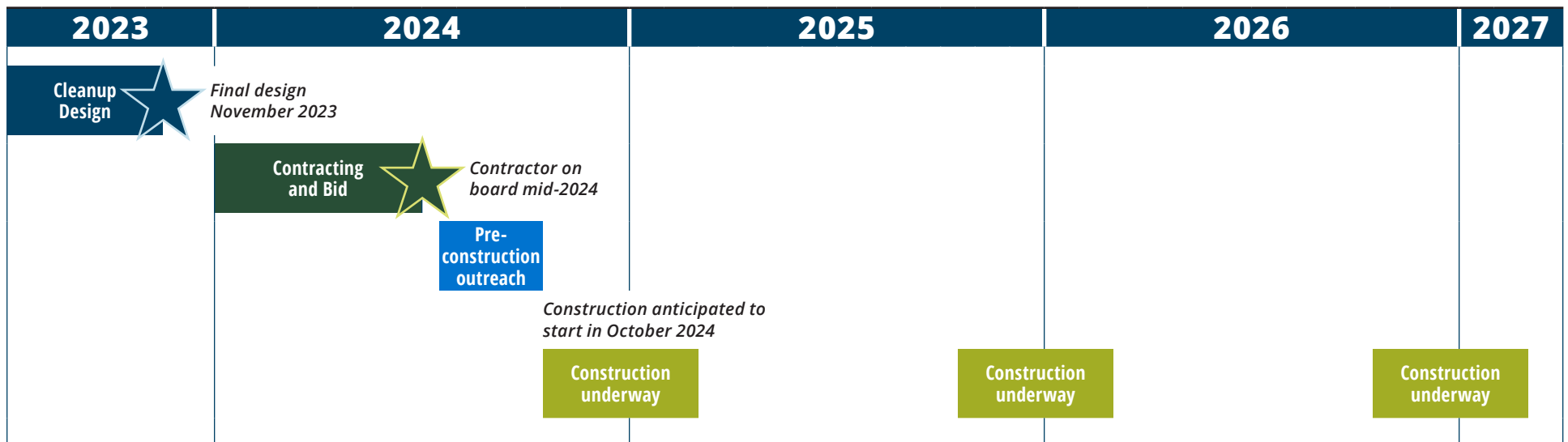


PHOTO CREDIT: LDWG

Community members during the 2022 LDWG Boat Tour on the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

**KEY:** ● Activities during pre-construction ● Activities during construction

# Communications and Construction Timeline for the Upper Reach



# Environmental Justice

The burden of industrial pollution from historical and current practices, and the potential impacts of the cleanup, are environmental justice issues for the Duwamish Valley. Through the Community Outreach and Communications Plan, we gathered community concerns related to construction activities to help LDWG, EPA and other people working on the cleanup understand and work to address impacts and community concerns. We strived to do this in an equitable way.



Youth participants on the 2022 Lower Duwamish Boat Tour hosted by LDWG.

PHOTO CREDIT: LDWG

## EQUITABLE OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Inclusive outreach and communications helps the community have a voice during construction. The project team will use the following outreach strategies:

- ▶ Translating core communications materials to Spanish, Khmer and Vietnamese. These languages are chosen based on previous community feedback.
- ▶ Writing outreach materials in plain language.
- ▶ Using local interpretation services whenever possible.
- ▶ Distributing copies of written materials in addition to providing online resources.
- ▶ Sending mailers for major project announcements.
- ▶ Partnering with multicultural media to help share major project information.
- ▶ Using visual aids such as diagrams, photographs and maps as much as possible.
- ▶ Being careful to not overburden the community with information or requests.

# Understanding Community Concerns about Construction

LDWG works to understand community concerns related to:

- ▶ Maritime, truck and rail traffic
- ▶ Water quality and habitat
- ▶ Quality of life (noise and light)
- ▶ Recreational access to the river and parks
- ▶ Economy and jobs
- ▶ Public communications during construction
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Impacts to people who live and gather in the area

This plan is a living document that may be updated as new information is learned.

A future Community Impacts Mitigation Plan will build on the Community Outreach and Communications Plan and will also identify concerns not already addressed in design. In this plan, we will continue to document community feedback and explore opportunities to lessen community impacts during construction.



Lower Duwamish Waterway, looking south. PHOTO CREDIT: King County



Community members during the 2022 LDWG Boat Tour on the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

PHOTO CREDIT: LDWG

## About LDWG

The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) is a public-private partnership that is committed to advancing the EPA-led cleanup of the Lower Duwamish.

In mid-2024, LDWG will conduct outreach with the community to share construction information before work starts this fall.

**INTERESTED IN RECEIVING UPPER REACH CLEANUP CONSTRUCTION UPDATES IN THE FUTURE?**

Email [ngraves@stephersonassociates.com](mailto:ngraves@stephersonassociates.com) and we will add you to the list.

