

Cleanup construction starts soon in the Lower Duwamish Waterway!

About the project

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the members of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG), which includes Boeing, the City of Seattle, and King County, will begin cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site this fall.

The Lower Duwamish Superfund site is divided into three geographical reaches, or segments: lower, middle, and upper. Construction activities for the cleanup will start in the upper reach first (please see the map to the right). Middle and lower reach sediment cleanup construction will follow, continuing downstream toward the south end of Harbor Island. Overall, cleanup construction in all three reaches is expected to take a decade to complete.

Timeline

Construction in the upper reach is expected to begin in October 2024. The construction season for this in-water work is October – February and is anticipated to last for three years, ending in February 2027.

In-water construction activities are restricted to these months to limit impacts on certain fish species.

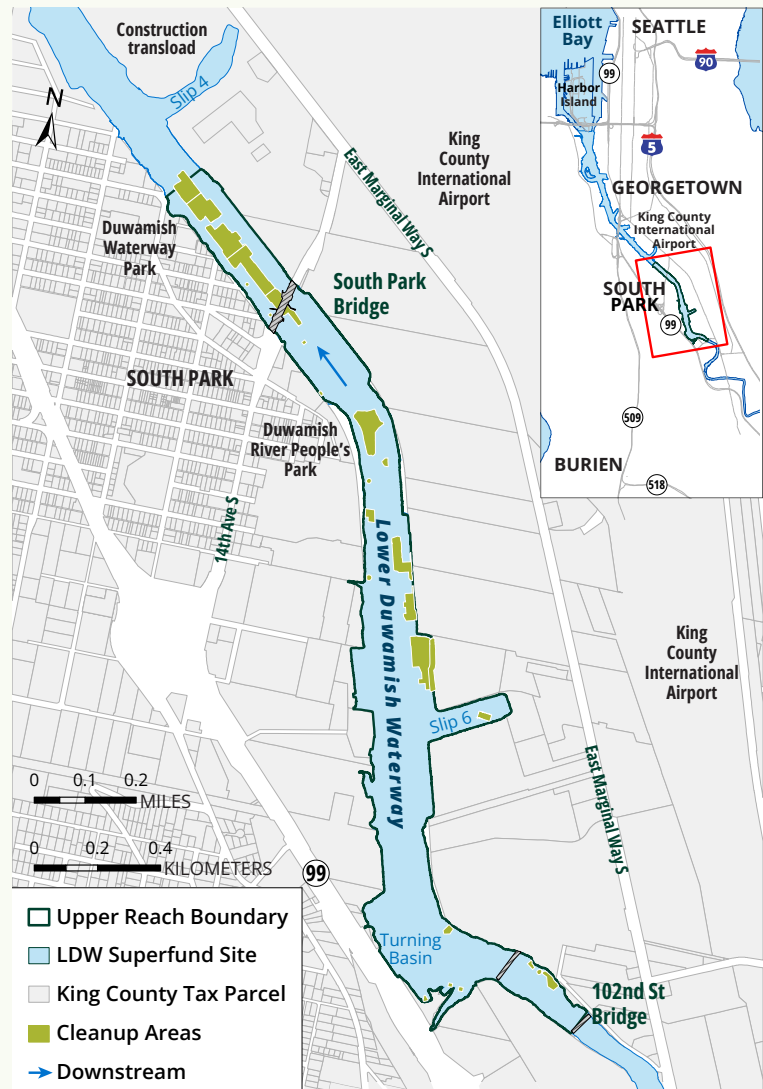


PHOTO CREDIT: KING COUNTY

Closed buckets are used to dredge sediment.

Background

Over a century of urbanization polluted the sediment on the bottom of the Lower Duwamish Waterway with toxic contaminants. The EPA and the members of LDWG are cleaning up this contamination to improve the waterway's ecosystem and protect people who use it.



The upper reach is the southernmost two miles of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site, between Duwamish Waterway Park and the South 102nd Street Bridge.

What you can expect during construction

The contractor will use a few different methods to clean up the river bottom, including dredging (removing sediment), capping (covering sediment), and natural recovery processes (when cleaner sediments from upriver cover contaminated sediment over time).

In general, the public can expect to see:

- ▶ Construction equipment on the river. This includes barges for carrying contaminated sediment or clean sand, barges with dredging or excavation equipment attached, and tugboats to move the barges around.
- ▶ Construction workers using certain shoreline areas next to the river for storing construction equipment and for transferring dredged sediment from barges to the shoreline area, then to railcars for transport to the landfill. When not working, the contractor's floating equipment (e.g., barges) will be moored overnight outside of the federal navigation channel in the general area of where the equipment was working that day.
- ▶ Boats on the river collecting samples of water and sediment for testing.
- ▶ Workers driving construction vehicles, moving barges on the river with tugboats, and using heavy equipment.
- ▶ Workers using lights and construction equipment as necessary after dark. Late-night work (after 7 p.m.) may also be necessary for limited periods due to tides and other factors. Community members will be notified in advance if late-night work occurs.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANCHOR QEA

Dredging will be used to remove contaminated sediment from the river bottom

During the first construction season (October 2024 through February 2025), most of the construction will occur upstream of South Park residential areas. During the second and third construction seasons, cleanup activities will be more visible and closer to homes, parks, and bridges in South Park.

Construction vessels that travel under the South Park Bridge may need short-duration bridge openings to allow safe passage, like any other tall vessel. We do not anticipate extended bridge closures (i.e., when construction activities take place within 30 feet of the bridge) during peak commute hours.

Stay informed during cleanup construction

You can stay informed of the upper reach cleanup activities by visiting LDWG.org and signing up for email updates.



Visit EPA's website about the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Cleanup. EPA.gov/Superfund/Lower-Duwamish



Call or email the outreach team with your questions or concerns.



[1-888-561-5394](tel:1-888-561-5394) (1-888-561-LDWG)



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About LDWG

The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group is a collaboration between Boeing, the City of Seattle, and King County. We are committed to advancing the EPA-led cleanup of the Lower Duwamish.