

Environmental & Community Protection

Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site - Upper Reach Construction

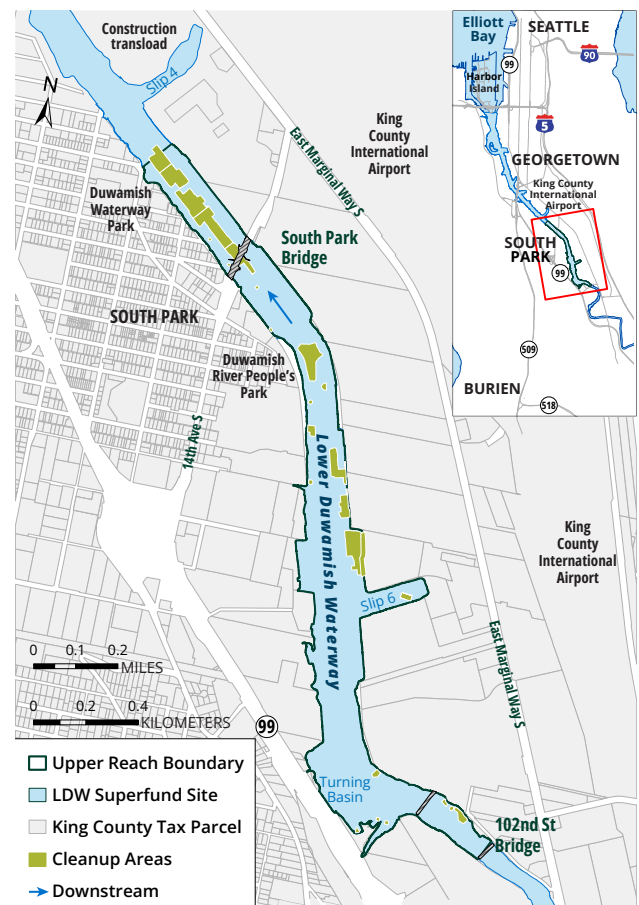
What's happening now?

Sediment cleanup construction of the upper reach began in fall 2024. Construction activities in the upper reach are planned to take place from October through February each year, for the next three years (ending in February 2027).

For the purpose of implementing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) selected cleanup, the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site is divided into three geographical reaches, or segments: upper, middle, and lower. Sediment cleanup construction activities will start in the upper reach first (the upper 2 miles of the Lower Duwamish Superfund Site). Middle and lower reach cleanup will follow, continuing downstream towards the south end of Harbor Island. Seasonal cleanup construction in these three Lower Duwamish Waterway reaches will likely take a decade to complete.

Under the direction of the EPA, the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) is committed to advancing the cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site. LDWG is a partnership between the City of Seattle, King County, and Boeing.

The EPA and LDWG are also working with the Washington State Department of Ecology, which is leading efforts to control sources of contamination from areas upland of the waterway.



2024				2025								2026								2027											
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
		Construction Season 1										Construction Season 2													Construction Season 3						
Ongoing Community Outreach and Communications																															

About the Contamination

Contaminants found in the river bed sediment (mud at the bottom of the river) include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals like arsenic, lead, zinc, and other types of contaminants including dioxins, furans, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

The contaminants in the sediment are also found in fish and shellfish that spend their lives in the waterway. This contamination can be harmful to people who eat resident seafood or who come into frequent contact with the river bed sediment. Salmon caught in the Lower Duwamish Waterway are a safe choice to eat because they only spend a short time in the river as they migrate through.

Cleanup of the contaminated sediment will enhance the health of the river for Tribes and community members, support a more thriving economy, and provide a healthier habitat for fish and wildlife.



PHOTO CREDIT: WINDWARD ENVIRONMENTAL LLC

Protecting the Environment and Our Communities During Cleanup Construction

The Duwamish Valley is home to vibrant communities that deeply value the Duwamish River. During cleanup construction, the EPA, LDWG, and the construction contractor (Pacific Pile and Marine) will take care to protect the people, fish and wildlife, and habitat in and along the river.

Protecting the Environment During Cleanup Construction

We will protect migrating salmon and threatened and endangered fish by:

- ▶ Working only during specific months of the year (typically October through February).
- ▶ Working with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Suquamish Tribe to minimize construction impacts on the active Tribal salmon fisheries.

We will monitor the environment by:

- ▶ Testing water and sediment quality as needed, to confirm dredging is being conducted as required and to protect water quality.
- ▶ Checking for impacts on air quality, noise, odor, and light, and monitoring for cultural or historic artifacts. If you have concerns about water, air, noise, or light impacts, please contact the project team at info@ldwg.org or 888-561-LDWG.



PHOTO CREDIT: WINDWARD ENVIRONMENTAL LLC

We will limit the amount of sediment getting stirred up in the river during cleanup by:

- ▶ Following strict dredging guidelines and using closed buckets, when possible, to dredge the sediment.
- ▶ Monitoring water quality to confirm dredging is being conducted as required and taking steps to address it, if needed.



PHOTO CREDIT: KING COUNTY

We will limit impacts from transporting the contaminated sediment by:

- ▶ Transporting the dredged material in sealed and secured barges, train cars, and/or covered trucks to prevent spills or releases.
- ▶ Cleaning the wheels of trucks we use to transport contaminated sediment.
- ▶ Limiting the use of truck transport, and using rail to transport dredged material to the landfill.
- ▶ When trucks are required, they will use arterials to the extent feasible to limit local traffic impacts.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANCHOR QEA

Protecting the Community During Cleanup Construction

We will coordinate with Tribal Fisheries and communicate with recreational fishers during construction. Keeping people who fish on the Duwamish River informed about our work will help reduce the negative impacts of construction. Remember: the only Duwamish River seafood that is safe to eat is salmon. This will remain true during cleanup activities and beyond, because it takes time for seafood contamination to show improvement from the cleanup.



PHOTO CREDIT: KING COUNTY

We will limit construction impacts on businesses and residents by:

- ▶ Performing construction during the standard work hours (7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday). We will require the contractor to obtain special approval for any late night work they deem necessary.



PHOTO CREDIT: KING COUNTY WASTEWATER TREATMENT DIVISION

- ▶ Avoiding extended bridge closures (needed when construction activities take place within 30 feet of the bridge) during peak commute hours (which are between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.).
- ▶ Repairing any damage to roads caused by construction cleanup activities.
- ▶ Limiting the use of trucks, and restricting construction truck routes to main arterials, when feasible.
- ▶ Setting air emission control requirements for construction equipment.
- ▶ Monitoring water and sediment quality.
- ▶ Checking for impacts on air quality, noise, odor, and light. The contractor must comply with all local regulations and ordinances.
- ▶ Limiting impacts to parks and public shorelines to the extent feasible.

We will put community safety first by:

- ▶ Communicating directly with live-aboard communities and marinas in the cleanup area.
- ▶ Following a vessel management plan that outlines how the contractor will coordinate transit for larger vessels.
- ▶ Establishing an in-water safety buffer around any cleanup construction equipment and warn any recreational waterway users, such as kayakers, when they approach.
- ▶ Developing plans that outline how the contractor will safely perform work during construction (e.g., emergency response, noise, air quality, traffic control, sediment, and waste disposal).



PHOTO CREDIT: STEPPERSON & ASSOCIATES

Stay informed during cleanup construction

LDWG, with the EPA's oversight, will work to learn about and mitigate community concerns through digital and in-person outreach, such as responding to project emails and phone calls, and by speaking with people at community events.

You can stay informed of the upper reach cleanup activities by visiting LDWG's website www.ldwg.org and signing up for email updates. When appropriate, the cleanup outreach team will inform the community of major updates by distributing mailers, posters, and flyers. Also, look for the outreach team at community events and meetings.



Learn more about the Lower Duwamish Waterway's Superfund Site cleanup on the EPA website at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/lower-duwamish.



Call or email the Cleanup Outreach Team with your questions or concerns.



1-888-561-5394
(1-888-561-LDWG)



info@ldwg.org

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 cleanup of the Lower Duwamish under EPA oversight.