

Lower Duwamish Waterway Season 2 cleanup construction begins in October!

About the project

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the members of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG), which consists of The Boeing Company, the City of Seattle, and King County, are starting the second season of cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site this fall.

The five-mile Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site is divided into upper, middle, and lower reaches, each with its own design and schedule.

Construction activities began in the upper reach, the most upstream two miles of the Superfund site, in November 2024. It will continue moving downstream towards the middle and lower reaches, with construction activities ending at the south end of Harbor Island. Overall, cleanup in all three reaches is expected to take about 10 years of construction.

Timeline

Construction in the upper reach began in November 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.



PHOTO CREDIT: KING COUNTY

Dredging equipment is used to remove contaminated sediment from the river bottom.

What you can expect during construction

In general, the public can expect to see:

- ▶ Construction equipment working on the river, including tugboats, excavators on barges, and barges carrying material to and from work areas.
- ▶ Transferring of dredged sediment from barges to land at the Duwamish Reload Facility (operated by Waste Management) located at 7400 8th Avenue South. The sediment will be transferred to railcars and transported to a regulated landfill.
- ▶ People in smaller boats observing, doing surveys, monitoring water quality, and collecting samples.
- ▶ Lights for safe work during dark hours and noise related to construction equipment.
- ▶ Crews working near parks, public access points, and marinas, at times.
- ▶ Full closures of South Park Bridge to vehicles and pedestrians for equipment access and safety.

Season 2 Construction: October 2025 - February 2026

This season, the contractor will begin dredging contaminated sediment near the South Park Bridge and Duwamish River People's Park. Season 2 construction hours vary based on several different factors, such as tides and the type of work being conducted. Construction activities will be conducted during both daytime and nighttime hours this season. Our outreach team will keep the community informed as construction progresses.

At times, some of the construction work near and under the South Park Bridge will require full bridge closure to vehicles and pedestrians for equipment access and safety.

As per requirements, bridge closures will not occur during the peak morning and afternoon commute hours (7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.). We will provide advance notification to the community and traveling public so you can plan ahead.

During the first three weeks of October, in-water construction work is not expected to occur on Mondays and Tuesdays to coordinate with tribal fishing.

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 The Boeing Company, the City of Seattle, and King County. We are committed to advancing the EPA-led cleanup of the Lower Duwamish.