

Community Impacts Mitigation Plan Outreach Summary

MIDDLE REACH OF THE LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY

SUMMER 2026

LOWER DUWAMISH
WATERWAY GROUP



Introduction

In early 2026, the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) conducted outreach about future cleanup construction in the middle reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. LDWG consists of King County, the City of Seattle, and The Boeing Company.

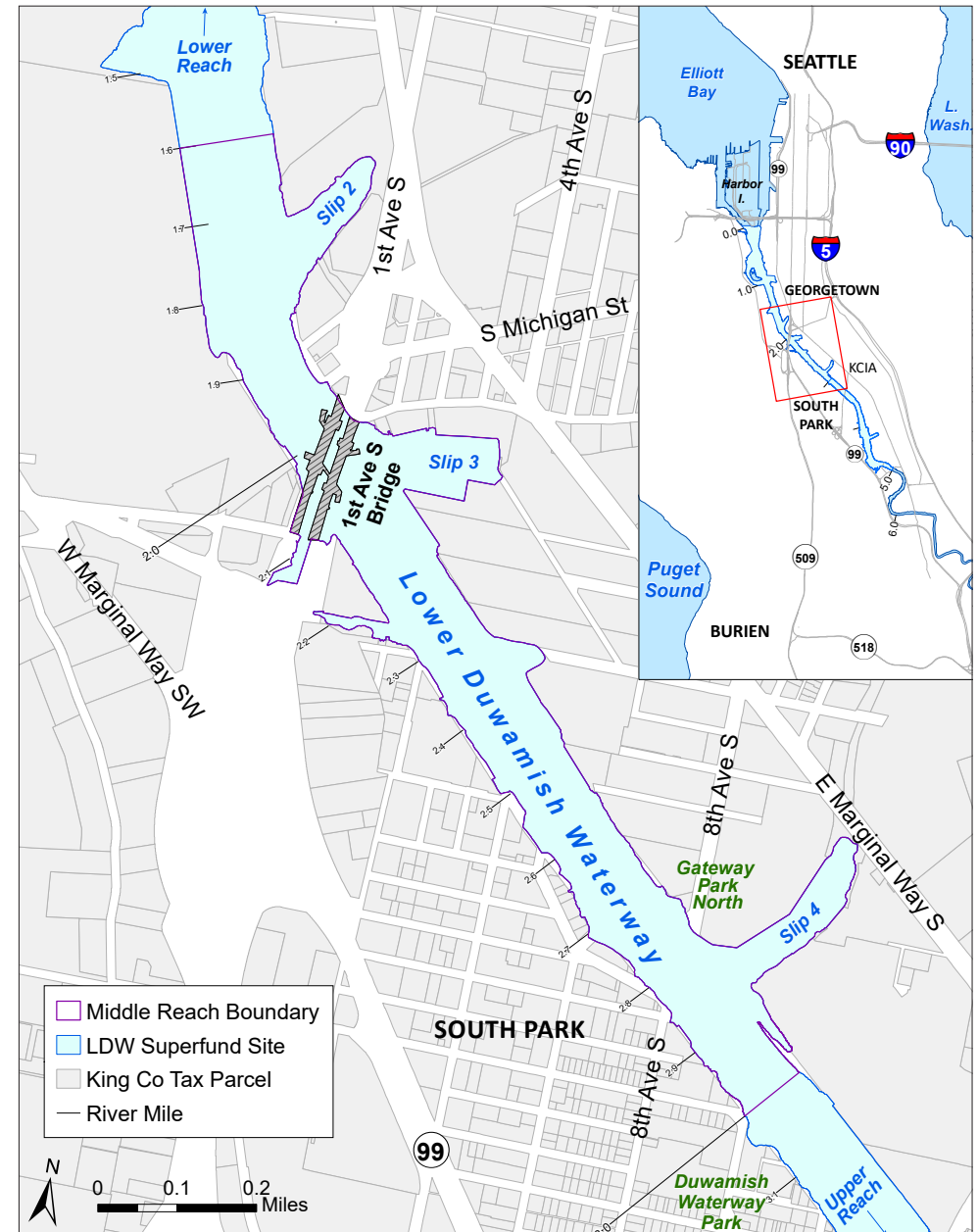
While cleanup construction continues in the upper reach, LDWG is developing the design for the middle reach. This means that scientists and engineers are identifying the sediment areas that need cleanup. They are also designing the cleanup methods that will guide our construction work. We expect to complete the initial design plans for the middle reach in fall 2027 and cleanup construction is planned to begin in fall 2028. We expect middle reach construction will happen each fall and winter for about 6 to 10 years.

Planning for cleanup construction in the middle reach

LDWG is developing a Community Impacts Mitigation Plan for the middle reach sediment cleanup. This plan will outline strategies to manage potential construction impacts. As part of developing the plan, we want to learn the community's questions and concerns about middle reach cleanup construction. We'd also like to hear how people want to stay informed once work is underway. We are developing construction plans with this feedback in mind, which will help us lessen construction impacts on the community.

This summary outlines how LDWG reached out to the community to gather early feedback and shares high-level themes we heard. The draft Community Impacts Mitigation Plan for the middle reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway will be available in August 2026.

Map of Middle Reach of the Lower Duwamish Superfund Site



The middle reach is a 1.4-mile stretch of the waterway between Duwamish Waterway Park and about a quarter mile north of the 1st Avenue South Bridge.

Outreach Activities

In March 2026, LDWG shared information about future middle reach sediment cleanup construction and gathered community feedback to inform the middle reach Community Impacts Mitigation Plan through the following activities:



- Presented **briefings at two community meetings**: March 10 at the South Park Neighborhood Association and March 23 at the Georgetown Community Council. There were more than 30 people in attendance across these briefings.



- Hosted **one in-person drop-in session** on March 24 at Post Pike Pizza in Georgetown. This was an opportunity for community members to speak with the project team, learn more about the cleanup, sign up for updates, and provide their thoughts on upcoming construction. Three community members attended.



- Launched **a community survey** that was available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Khmer. The goal of the survey was to learn more about the community's level of interest, potential concerns about construction, and communication preferences for staying updated on the project. The survey was available from February 27 to March 31, 2026. We received 32 responses, with most participants living in zip codes near the middle reach project area.



- Sent out **email newsletters**, updated the **project website**, distributed **posters**, and **posted** on the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Facebook page.



- Delivered **a mailer to 675 residential and business addresses** near the project area.



- Sent nearly **100 emails to individual businesses and community groups** near the middle reach.

We are planning for cleanup construction in the middle reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site.

Tell us what is important to you!

Please help us plan ahead for middle reach cleanup construction by sharing your thoughts in a short survey. Your feedback will help us address potential impacts of future cleanup construction and continue to refine our community outreach.

The survey will be open until March 31, 2026.

Visit [LDWG.org](https://ldwg.org) to learn more!

Questions? Email info@ldwg.org or call 1.888.561.5394.

About the cleanup

The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group, under the oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is working to clean up sediment pollution in the Lower Duwamish Waterway to improve the river's ecosystem and protect people who use it. Cleanup construction in the upper reach began in 2024. Construction in the middle reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway will begin as soon as fall 2028. The construction will take place within areas of the river between the Duwamish Waterway Park and about a quarter mile north of the 1st Avenue South Bridge. The middle reach construction contract will be managed by the City of Seattle.

Take this quick survey!
Attend an informational drop-in session!

Please stop by to speak with the cleanup team! Details below:

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 4 - 6 p.m.

**Post Pike Pizza Georgetown,
5701 Airport Way S, Seattle, WA 98108**



PHOTO CREDIT: KING COUNTY

Mailer used to promote the survey and introduce cleanup of the middle reach.



LDWG Outreach Team and the EPA meet with community members at office hours during construction of the upper reach. Photo: LDWG

In addition to the engagement activities just mentioned, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collected feedback through its Lower Duwamish Waterway Roundtable on December 4, 2025. At this event, the EPA presented preliminary design plans for the middle reach's cleanup areas. They gathered participants' thoughts on potential impacts using an interactive map exercise. The comments collected at the EPA Roundtable event are included in this summary.

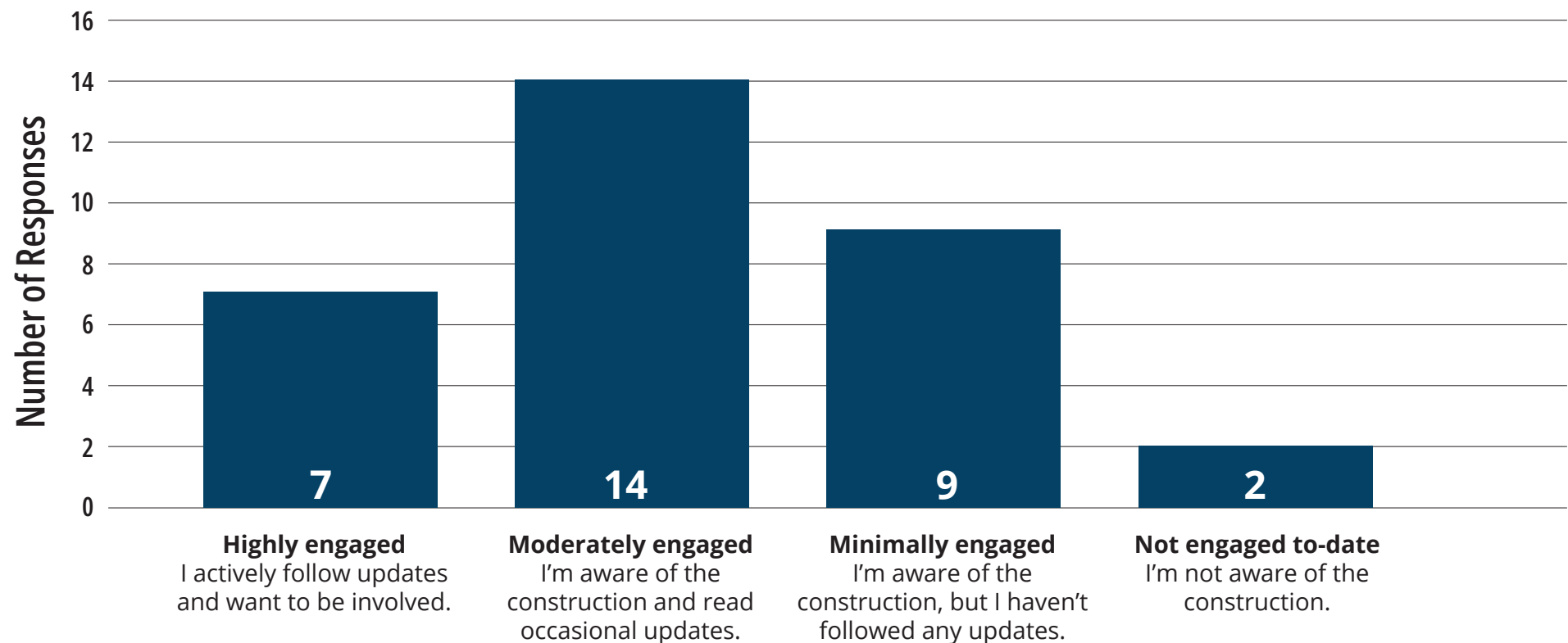
Additionally, the project team met with some members of the Georgetown Open Space Committee on December 19, 2025. During this meeting, participants focused on the area of Gateway Park North. This park is owned by the City of Seattle and is adjacent to the middle reach project area. Representatives of the EPA, Washington Department of Ecology, LDWG, Duwamish River Community Coalition, and Georgetown Youth Council attended.

Project interest and engagement

Overall, most survey participants (60%) expressed a high level of interest in the Lower Duwamish Waterway sediment cleanup. Additionally, most participants (66%) were either moderately or highly engaged in active cleanup construction of the upper reach.

Community members at the drop-in and throughout our outreach were interested in the general history of the project and the specific contaminants being removed.

Survey question: How engaged have you been in the already ongoing cleanup construction on the upper reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway (the two most upstream miles of the Superfund Site)?



Middle reach cleanup activities concerns and comments

Throughout LDWG's outreach, people shared concerns about how future construction in the middle reach could affect the community. Below are some themes drawn from what we heard from the survey, briefings, drop-in session, and Roundtable. **The community shared a variety of concerns and suggestions for improving the quality of life in the Duwamish Valley, not all of which are within the scope of this project. These comments will be shared with the relevant agencies or organizations to consider these concerns.**

The survey asked participants to rate their level of concern regarding seven potential impacts of cleanup construction. Below are those activities ordered from highest to lowest priority.

1. Potential for short term 1st Avenue South Bridge closures (highest priority)
2. Potential impacts on public access locations
3. Truck activity
4. Noise
5. Additional vessels and construction equipment in the waterway
6. Restricted access in the waterway around construction equipment
7. Artificial lighting (lowest priority)

Participants at the community meetings and events shared feedback about lessening potential impacts to public access, areas where people fish, bridge traffic, and vulnerable wildlife. Community members wanted to learn more about the existing contamination and shared ideas about flood prevention and habitat restoration. We also heard concerns about ongoing sources of contamination.



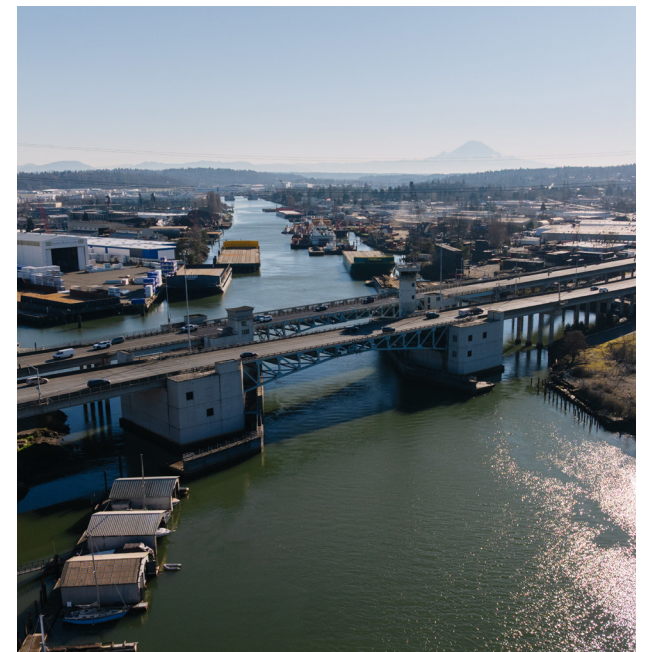
Potential short-term 1st Avenue South bridge closures

Survey participants were most concerned about potential short-term closures of the 1st Avenue South Bridge. One survey participant asked if work under the bridge could be done outside of busy traffic times. A participant at the EPA Roundtable suggested doing cleanup work under the bridge only at low tide and another wondered about bus reroutes as a result of cleanup-related bridge closures.

One survey participant said, *"Closing the 1st Ave South Bridge will cause huge amounts of traffic to be routed through West Seattle, White Center, and South Park neighborhoods as well as to I-5. Please be cautious of the timing of these closures to keep cars on highways, not on side streets."*



Kayakers enjoying the Lower Duwamish. Photo: King County



First Avenue South Bridge, looking south. Photo: King County



Public access locations

Community members emphasized continued access to public parks or access points. Potential impacts on public access locations were the second highest priority for survey participants. One participant said, *“I hand launch my paddleboard from the Duwamish Waterway Park a dozen times a year.”*

Participants at the Georgetown Open Space Committee meeting expressed interest in an ADA-accessible path down to the water, a non-motorized launch point, and a fishing dock at Gateway Park North. One meeting participant said, the *“community’s dream supported by the last 10 years of outreach includes access to the river at multiple points.”*

EPA Roundtable participants identified important areas used by the Georgetown and South Park communities to access the waterway. One participant noted, *“Not much access in this reach. It would be great to enhance those opportunities. Lots of public/state property that could be used for access.”*

They identified areas under or near the 1st Avenue South Bridge and across from Boeing Plant 2 as important access points for fishers and business activities. Another participant noted it as a potential area for launching kayaks. One participant asked about potential vulnerable wildlife in the mudflats. Multiple areas were proposed for habitat restoration.

EPA Roundtable participants expressed interest in upland cleanup and park design at public access points, specifically near Gateway Park North. Participants noted the presence of fishers in this area and would like to see the site cleaned up. One participant was concerned about contaminant exposure to people recreating or fishing in the area. One participant noted, *“this is one of the only parks for Georgetown residents to access.”*



Truck activity

Survey respondents expressed moderate concern about truck activity. There were 11 survey participants that were highly concerned about truck activity. One participant noted, *“Truck activity. Changing roadways that backup local traffic for those that live here.”*



Participants’ comments on the early design plans for cleanup in the middle reach from the EPA Roundtable in December 2025.
Photo: EPA



The hand boat launch at the Duwamish River People’s Park and Shoreline Habitat in the upper reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. Photo: LDWG



Noise

Survey participants rated noise as the fourth greatest concern. One survey participant said, *“I live next to the area that has just finished dredging. I found it very interesting to watch the activity in the river. Occasionally there were loud noises very early in the morning, but it wasn’t a serious problem. It’s worth it to have the river cleaned up.”*

One person commented at the Georgetown Community Council meeting that they would like the trains on East Marginal Way to stop honking horns as they move. This is near the Duwamish Reload Facility. They noted that the noise carries. At the EPA Roundtable, participants noted possible noise impacts from middle reach cleanup activities to South Park and nearby Georgetown neighborhoods.

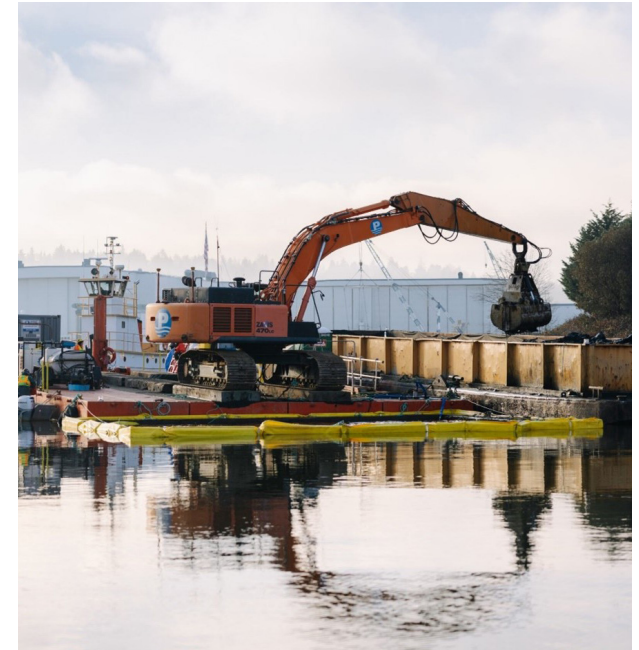


Additional vessels and construction equipment in the waterway and restrictions around equipment

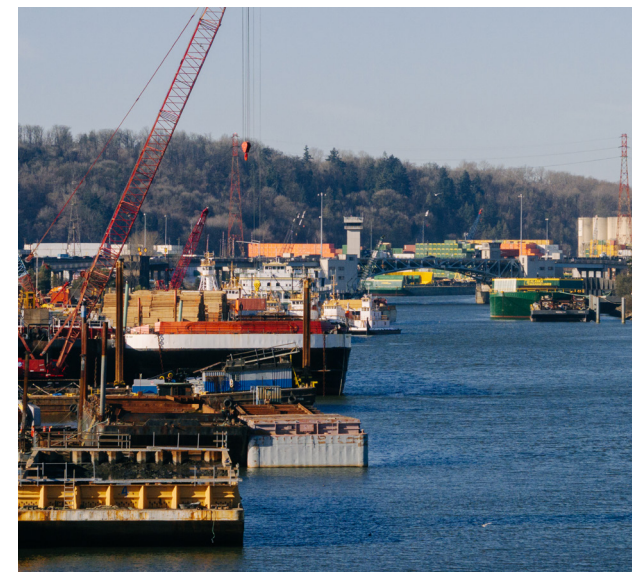
The potential for additional vessels and construction equipment on the river, and restricted access around that equipment, were rated as moderate concerns by survey participants overall. However, there were eight survey participants that rated these concerns highly, including an organization providing recreational tours of the river and a business with marine operations. That business noted *“we [have] very busy facilities and there will be limited timelines where we can stop barge operations.”*

At the Roundtable, people commented that they are concerned about access and business activities near Slip 2. One participant wanted to know, *“is being in and around the water more hazardous during cleanup?”* Another person flagged the cleanup activities in the navigation channel overlapping with other activities, noting that *“it will be complicated to do cleanup in this area. Have 15 upland properties being involved with the cleanup compared to 5 in the lower reach. Communication will be key.”*

Near Terminal 115, a Roundtable participant expressed concern about turning movements in the navigation channel impacting waterway traffic. A few people noted communicating with businesses will be important and asked what the impact will be on these businesses, during and after cleanup.



An excavator dredges contaminated sediment near the shoreline in the upper reach of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. Photo: King County



Middle reach of the Lower Duwamish looking north towards the First Avenue South Bridge. Photo: King County



Artificial lighting

Participants rated artificial lighting as the least concerning among survey participants. However, one participant said, *"Artificial lighting will affect surrounding communities greatly, especially at night. Please consider doing construction during the day."*

Contamination concerns and questions

Throughout our outreach, community members had questions and concerns about the contamination. Several participants wanted to know more details about the cleanup. Below are some quotes and questions from participants in the survey, from the EPA Roundtable, and from community meetings:



Sediment contamination

- ▶ *"Will areas that were previously cleaned be retested when the other contaminated areas are being cleaned?"*
- ▶ *"I'm concerned about disturbed contaminated sediment being carried upriver by tidal action. How will this be mitigated?"*
- ▶ *"In this area [near South Park], sediment standards will need to assume direct contact with residents because of increasingly frequent flooding carrying water and sediments into the neighborhood."*



Fish and shellfish contamination

- ▶ *"My concern is what are we going to do with the fish/shellfish that are contaminated?"*
- ▶ *"It would be amazing if the water could be revitalized to the point where the community wouldn't be concerned about swimming in it or eating certain fish/shellfish."*



Pollution from littering or illegal dumping

- ▶ *"There always seems to be roadside trash in the area, whether this is from debris blowing off cars headed to the dump, or debris from the RVs and campers in the area. All of which probably finds its way to the Duwamish. What are the prevention plans to keep the area clean?"*



The Cleanup Outreach Team talking with a community member at the middle reach drop-in session event. Photo: LDWG



Construction crews sample water for contaminants during upper reach cleanup construction. Photo: Geosyntec



Other feedback we heard

Overall, community members expressed patience and gratitude for the cleanup. Below are some of their comments:

- ▶ *"I am just grateful cleanup is finally underway!"*
- ▶ *"I just want this to be done right and prioritize long term positive impacts over short term inconveniences. If this is done right the positive impact will be worth it."*



Community events

We asked survey participants if there are any activities or events that might be affected by cleanup construction activities in the middle reach. A few survey participants identified specific activities, including monthly garbage cleanups of the waterway, fall salmon fishing event with veterans, and a planned nearby tiny home village.



Preferred method of communication

Most survey respondents prefer email newsletters and the project website to stay updated on cleanup construction.



Languages and zip code

Most survey respondents indicated they speak English at home (about 90%). 7% indicated they speak Spanish at home and 7% speak Tagalog at home. About 3% said they speak another language at home. One respondent took the survey in Spanish.

Most of the respondents said they live in South Seattle in the immediate vicinity of the middle reach (about 63%).



Community members learn about the Lower Duwamish Superfund Cleanup during a summer boat tour. Photo: LDWG

Next Steps

In August 2026, LDWG will publish a draft Community Impacts Mitigation Plan. This plan will address community comments and concerns about cleanup in the middle reach and outline strategies to manage specific impacts.

Communications and construction timeline for the middle reach

2026	2027				2028				2029	
Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Initial cleanup design										
				Contracting, bid, and pre-construction period			Pre-construction outreach	Construction underway October – February for up to 10 seasons		

About LDWG

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

Stay updated and learn more at ldwg.org:

- ▶ [Sign up for updates](#) to receive weekly newsletters during upper reach and middle reach construction
- ▶ Read about [what we're working on](#)
- ▶ Review the [Project Library archive](#)

Contact Us!

We welcome the community to contact the Cleanup Outreach Team with any concerns related to the cleanup.



Email us: info@ldwg.org



Call us: **1-888-561-5394** (1-888-561-LDWG)



Visit: LDWG.org



PHOTO: KING COUNTY