

Lower Duwamish Season 3 Cleanup Begins This October

About the project

The U.S. 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 another season of cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway upper reach 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.

Timeline

This is the third construction season in the upper reach, the two most upstream miles of the Superfund site. The construction season for this in-water work is October - February to protect certain fish species.

After the upper reach cleanup is complete, work will continue into the middle and lower reaches, with construction ending at the south end of Harbor Island. Overall, cleanup in all three reaches is expected to take about 12 years.



PHOTO CREDIT: BOEING

Crews use an excavator to dredge contaminated sediment and place it on a barge.

Background

More than 100 years of industrial activity has left harmful chemicals in the mud at the bottom of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. This polluted mud is called contaminated sediment. 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 located at 7400 Eighth 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.
- ▶ Noise related to construction equipment.
- ▶ Crews working near parks, public access points, and marinas, at times.

Season 3 construction

This season, the contractor will continue dredging sediment in areas near parks and homes in South Park. We don't expect this season's construction work to require extended South Park Bridge closures. Extended bridge closures are when the bridge is closed to people driving, walking, or biking, for more time than routine bridge openings for vessel passage.

At one cleanup area, Sediment Management Area (SMA) 5, cleanup work will be done from private property on land, instead of from the water. SMA 5 is just north of Slip 6.

Construction will occur on weekdays and Saturdays. It will occur during both the daytime and nighttime. Work hours will vary depending on tides and the type of work being done. Types of work could include dredging sediment or placing new clean material, such as sand.

Our outreach team will keep the community informed as construction progresses.

Stay informed

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.