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Cleanup Construction Season 3 Starts This October

The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) is preparing to begin the third season of construction in the upper reach of the waterway to remove contaminated sediment. The upper reach is the [two most upstream miles of the Superfund Site](#).

To protect certain fish species, in-water construction will occur from October 2026 through February 2027. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing the cleanup process of this Superfund Site, following its 2014 Record of Decision.

Since starting construction in fall 2024, LDWG and its contractor have made great cleanup progress in the upper reach. In the first two construction seasons, the team completed about 65% of the upper reach cleanup. Thus far, our team has removed about 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment. That is enough to fill 1,129 railcars! Once removed from the waterway, the sediment is taken to a regulated landfill. Read more about [how we clean up the sediment here](#).

The sediment cleanup is organized into Sediment Management Areas (SMAs). Since construction began, crews have completed 17 of the 26 SMAs in the upper reach. See the map of cleanup areas below.

Lower Duwamish Waterway Upper Reach Cleanup Areas

As of March 6, 2026



What to Expect During Season 3

Starting as soon as October 1, the construction contractor, Pacific Pile and Marine, will begin dredging contaminated sediment from the waterway near parks and homes in South Park.

The community can expect multiple barges and equipment working on the water, lights for safe work during dark hours, and typical construction equipment noise.

Season 3 construction hours will be during both daytime and nighttime, Monday – Saturday. Hours will vary depending on the tides and the type of work being done. In the event of night work, we will notify the community and nearby residents ahead of time.

We do not 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 a longer duration than what is needed for routine bridge openings for vessel passage.

At one cleanup area, SMA 5, which is near Raisbeck Aviation High School and the Aviation Pavilion, cleanup work will be done from private property on land, instead of from the water. When work happens at SMA 5, there may be short periods during the day with limited access to a part of the public sidewalk directly adjacent to the cleanup work area. This is to keep the public and crew safe. Cleanup at SMA 5 will include night work. We will let the community know in advance of this work.



Removing (or offloading) contaminated sediment from barge at Duwamish Reload Facility. This facility is where contaminated sediment is removed from each barge and loaded into rail cars. It is then transported and disposed at a permitted landfill. Photo Credit: Geosyntec

Stay Connected!

For questions or concerns, you can always reach our team at info@ldwg.org or 1-888-561-LDWG (1-888-561-5394). Visit [LDWG.org](https://www.ldwg.org) for the most up-to-date information.



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