

Superfund Job Training Initiative

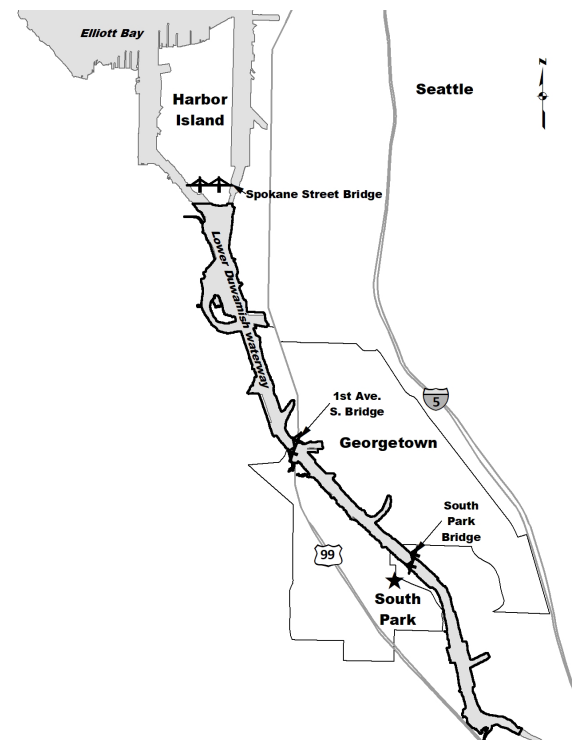
MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY SUPERFUND SITE

Introduction

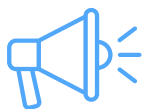
The Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Job Training Initiative 2024 is an environmental remediation job readiness program that provided career development opportunities for 16 trainees living near the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site in Seattle, Washington.

Through a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Duwamish River Community Hub, Duwamish River Community Coalition, King County Priority Hire Program, City of Seattle Priority Hire Program, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, ANEW, Geosyntec, Lower Duwamish Waterway Group, and site contractor Pacific Pile & Marine, the Lower Duwamish Waterway SuperJTI 2024 provided local job seekers with new skills, certifications and hands-on training linked to construction and cleanup.

The EPA's goal is to help communities create opportunities and partnerships related to Superfund cleanups that remain in place for the long term, and to provide the workforce development skills needed to take advantage of those opportunities.



The Lower Duwamish Waterway site extends about five miles south from Harbor Island. The area around the site includes the South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods.



Outreach, Recruitment and Screening: July - August 2024

The SuperJTI program and the EPA's Region 10 reached out to the community by distributing flyers and advertising through area radio stations, local newspapers and social media. Several local organizations helped publicize the program to attract interested candidates.

In July and August 2024, the SuperJTI program and the Duwamish River Community Hub hosted information sessions about the program in Seattle. Forty interested candidates attended the program's 18 information sessions. After these sessions, 17 people returned with required documents and were welcomed into the program. The first day of training featured a program kickoff event that included leadership, team building and role-playing activities, a physical fitness exercise, and observation by a team of evaluators from the program's partners. Sixteen trainees went on to complete the program.



Training and Job Placement: August - September 2024

The 2.5-week training program covered a range of topics. The EPA's contractor Skeo provided a Work Readiness Training. Shoulders Training & Consulting, a local business, provided the 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training, and the Associated General Contractors of Washington provided the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's 10-hour Construction Safety and Health, Basic Rigging, CPR/First Aid and Introduction to Blueprints trainings. The training program consisted of:

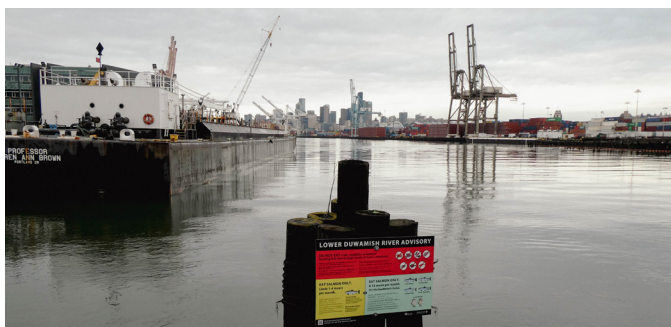
Work Readiness Training: Trainees learned and honed skills in interpersonal communication, interview preparation, resume building, finance management and effective work habits.

40-Hour (HAZWOPER): Trainees earned their HAZWOPER certification and learned about cleanup and safety topics such as environmental legislation and standards, toxicology, hazardous material site/spill control and containment, decontamination and isolation. Trainees participated in hands-on training scenarios using actual equipment and protective gear.

OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety and Health: Trainees earned their OSHA-10 certification and learned about topics such as hazard communication, personal protective equipment, electrical safety and excavation process safety management.

Basic Rigging: Trainees earned their Basic Rigging certification and learned about topics such as the principles of safely lifting and moving heavy loads using ropes, chains, slings and other equipment. The class also covered how to identify the proper rigging hardware for different situations, understanding load capacity limits, and recognizing potential hazards associated with rigging operations.

CPR/First Aid: Trainees earned their CPR/First Aid certification and learned about topics such as soft tissue injuries, burns, shock, rescue breaths, methods to stop bleeding, bloodborne pathogens, poisoning, CPR, and injuries to bones, muscles and joints.



Site Background

The Lower Duwamish Waterway site is a five-mile stretch of the Duwamish River that flows into Elliott Bay in Seattle, Washington. Industrial facilities as well as the South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods flank the waterway. The EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 2001. A century of heavy industrial use left the waterway contaminated with toxic chemicals from many sources, such as industries along its banks, stormwater pipes, and runoff from upland activities, streets and roads. Chemicals found in the river sediment that pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins/furans, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals such as arsenic. Many of these chemicals stay in the environment for a long time and have built up to unsafe levels in resident fish and shellfish. Because of contamination, state and local health departments warn against eating crab, shellfish or bottom-feeding fish from the Lower Duwamish River.

To learn more about the site, please visit www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerduwamishwaterway.

Introduction to Bluebeam Software: Trainees learned how to read and understand construction blueprints, including key elements like different drawing types (floor plans, elevations, sections), symbols, notations, abbreviations, scales, dimensioning, and how to interpret the overall design of a building based on blueprints.

After completion of the training, the SuperJTI program held a mini job-fair/graduation ceremony, which was attended by Pacific Pile & Marine (PPM), the site cleanup contractor, as well as other subcontractors, and representatives from the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County, and the City of Seattle. Graduates directly submitted their resumes with potential employers working on the cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site and other nearby cleanup sites. Through the SuperJTI program, trainees are provided with marketable skills needed to begin a successful career in environmental remediation, helping empower communities affected by Superfund sites.

GRADUATE PROFILES



Alexander Darimont

Alexander was working at a garden store distributor when he decided he needed a career change. After his partner shared a SuperJTI flyer she found online with him, Alexander registered for an information session and recalled that he “was interested in the cleanup and wanted to be a part of that.” Following the recruitment and screening process, Alexander was welcomed as one of the program’s trainees. During the program, Alexander enjoyed the work readiness part of the training and learned a lot about resume development and recruiter expectations. At the end of the program, Alexander felt like he accomplished a lot and felt more confident after earning his certifications. After graduation, Alexander accepted a position at Seattle Metro paratransit, where he works as a driver for people with disabilities who have difficulty using traditional public transportation. Looking back at his time in the SuperJTI program, he is glad to have gone through it and receive the knowledge he walked away with, reflecting that “it can be a great experience for someone having trouble finding work.”



Sherrie Miller

Sherrie first learned about the SuperJTI program from an online flyer while looking for jobs. She signed up and attended an information session. At the information session, Sherrie felt a lot of positive energy, which she found really encouraging when searching for a position. Following the initial steps of the SuperJTI process, Sherrie was welcomed as one of the program’s trainees. During the training, Sherrie found the hands-on aspect of HAZWOPER and basic rigging training to be the most engaging. She also enjoyed her interactions with her fellow trainees. At the end of the program, Sherrie recalled how wonderful it was to see all the different organizations take the time to celebrate the trainees’ accomplishments at graduation, “it gave me the sense of sharing, caring and help when there isn’t always a lot of help out there in the wind.” After graduating, Sherrie accepted a position with Peninsula Metropolitan Park District as a facility specialist.



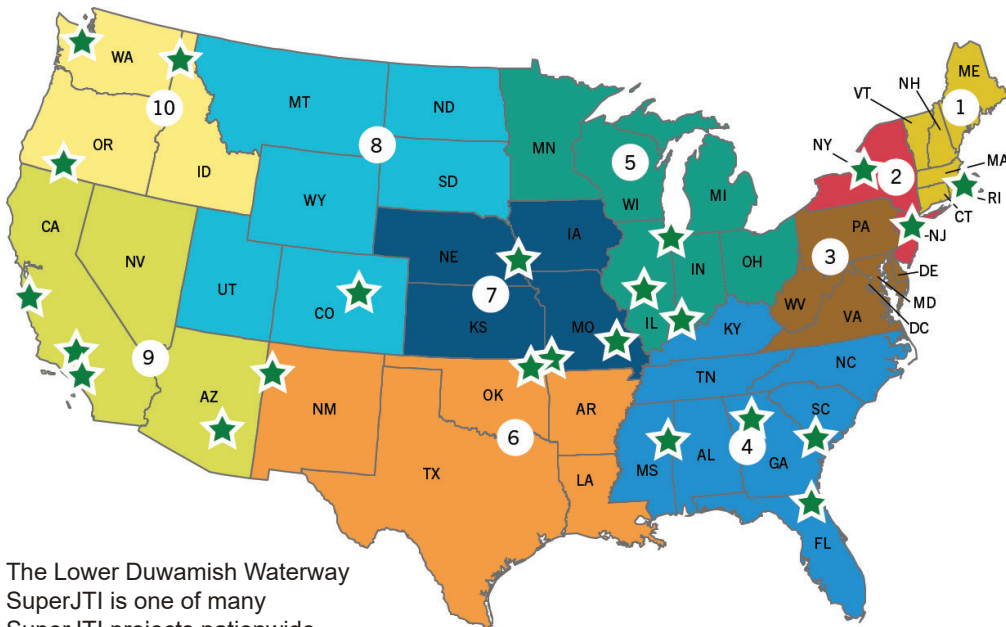
The EPA’s Region 10 site team Remedial Project Manager Nasrin Erdelyi, Remedial Project manager Elly Hale, and Community Involvement Coordinator Laura Knudsen attended the ceremony and handed out certificates to the graduates.

LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY SUPERJTI TRAINEES:

Live on or near areas affected by the site: 75% of the trainees (12 people) live in the greater Seattle Metropolitan area. The other four trainees live in neighboring areas.

Include a wide range of ages: Trainees ranged from people in their 20s to people in their 50s.

What is the SuperJTI Program?

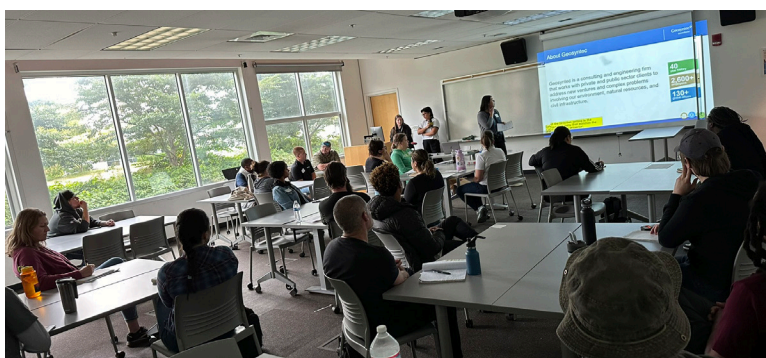
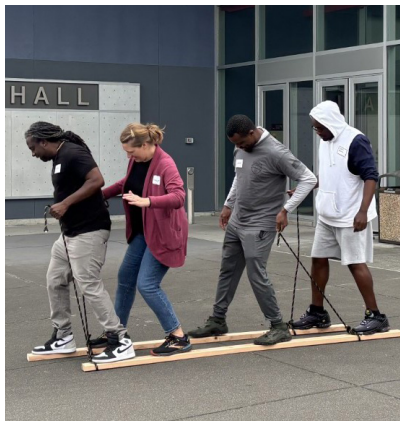


The Lower Duwamish Waterway SuperJTI is one of many SuperJTI projects nationwide that are making a difference for people living in communities affected by Superfund sites.

The EPA's Superfund Job Training Initiative supports job readiness programs in communities affected by nearby Superfund sites and encourages the employment of trainees at local site cleanups.

The SuperJTI program combines extensive classroom instruction with hands-on exercises for each participant. Upon completion of the program, each participant possesses the marketable skills required to become a valuable member of the community's workforce.

The EPA offers SuperJTI training at no cost to training participants.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:
www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-job-training-initiative

Or contact the SuperJTI's National Program Manager:

Devon Martin
(202) 566-0976
martin.devon@epa.gov

Callie Koller
(202) 566-0970
koller.callie@epa.gov