



Community Involvement Plan for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Cleanup

What is a Community Involvement Plan?

A Community Involvement Plan (CIP) provides an overview on the outreach tools and techniques that we will use throughout a cleanup of a polluted site. This update of the Lower Duwamish Waterway CIP is based on inputs from local residents, tribal leaders, community organizations, businesses, government representatives, and other stakeholders.

Early Action Area (EAA) Cleanups



Where is the Lower Duwamish Waterway?

The Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund site is a five mile segment of Seattle's only river, the Duwamish. The river flows between Georgetown and South Park and through the industrial core of Seattle into Elliott Bay.

Why is the Lower Duwamish Waterway polluted?

The LDW has served as Seattle's major industrial corridor since the early 1900s. This has caused the Waterway's sediments (river bottom) to be contaminated with toxic chemicals from many sources, ranging from stormwater runoff, wastewater, and industrial practices. While the environment has considerably improved, contamination continues to threaten human health and the environment. The Washington Department of Health issued a fish advisory recommending no one eat crab, shellfish and fish (except salmon) from the Lower Duwamish Waterway. Salmon (except blackmouth salmon) are the healthiest choice because they spend a short time in the Duwamish River.

Who is most impacted by the cleanup?

The Duwamish Valley is the ancestral home of the Duwamish Tribe. It is one of the most diverse areas in Seattle. Roughly 42% of the Duwamish Valley's population are people of color and roughly 21% of the population lives below the poverty line. The cleanup will impact many groups, including the Georgetown and South Park neighborhoods, the Suquamish, Muckleshoot, and Duwamish Tribes, the business/industry community, and people who catch and eat fish and other seafood from the LDW.

What has been done to clean up the Lower Duwamish Waterway?

The EPA declared the Lower Duwamish Waterway a "Superfund" site in 2001, meaning it was eligible for a special federal cleanup program due to the severity of its contamination. The EPA is responsible for administering the cleanup of sediments in the Waterway, and the Department of Ecology is responsible for controlling sources of pollution to the Waterway. The City of Seattle, King County, the Port of Seattle, and the Boeing Company stepped forward to complete a comprehensive study, as well as cleanups of some of the most contaminated areas (Early Action Areas, shown at left). In 2014, the EPA published a cleanup plan for the remaining sediment cleanup.

What will happen next in the cleanup?

Studies and engineering designs are the next steps. Then, once pollution sources are controlled sufficiently, almost half of the LDW will be actively cleaned up through dredging or placing clean sediment on top of the river bottom. Construction will take about seven years. The rest of the LDW will be cleaned up through natural processes over an additional 10 years.

Completed Phases				Current Phase	Future Phases	
Investigate contamination and set cleanup goals	Identify areas to get cleaned up	Determine effective methods of cleaning up these areas	Begin cleanup in the most contaminated sites	Develop detailed engineering plans for cleanup	Implement the cleanup plan	Monitor the cleanup
Involve the public (ongoing)						
Control sources of pollution (ongoing)						



The US Environmental Protection Agency's

Community Involvement Plan for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Cleanup

How will we keep people informed about and engaged throughout the cleanup?

We will use a variety of tools and techniques to provide opportunities for you to give input into the cleanup. These tools will take into account environmental justice, meaning it will aim to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income. For example, as needed, we will provide interpretation services at meetings and translation of written documents.

Our tools and techniques

Go to community gathering places (cafes, neighborhood meetings, etc.) to give presentations and solicit input.



Host informal and formal public meetings that are convenient and inclusive, for community members.



Send out updates via websites, email, and social media; as well as mailings, flyers, and fact sheets.



Provide press releases to media outlets that reach diverse audiences.



Coordinate with other federal, state, and local government agencies.



Engage in government-to-government consultation with the Muckleshoot and Suquamish Tribes.*



Provide opportunities for organizations and individuals to apply for job training programs.



Collaborate with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group, the Community Advisory Group.



Hold informational meetings open to all stakeholders involved in the cleanup.



Hold informational meetings for just the tribes, trustees, and community groups involved in the cleanup.



Convene a "Roundtable" to make recommendations to the EPA on the implementation of the cleanup plan.



Convene a consortium to develop advisories and other ways of reducing health concerns from fishing.



How can you learn more and get involved?

Visit <https://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/lduwamish>

Contact Julie Congdon, Community Involvement Coordinator: congdon.julie@epa.gov, 206-553-2752

Contact Elly Hale, Remedial Project Manager: hale.elly@epa.gov, 206-553-1215

Contact the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group: www.duwamishcleanup.org, contact@duwamishcleanup.org, 206-954-0218

*The US has a government to government relationship with federally recognized Tribes, and EPA consultation policy applies.