



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Solid Waste Division

# KING COUNTY BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM ELLISPORT CREEK GREENSPACE PROJECT BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT FACT SHEET #1 JULY 2006

<b>Project Name:</b>	Ellisport Creek Greenspace Project.
<b>Location:</b>	Chautauqua Beach Drive SW, Vashon Island, WA.
<b>Site Description:</b>	Four parcels totaling about 8.67 acres at the head of Tramp Harbor consisting of both tideland and wetlands bisected by Ellisport Creek.
<b>Site History:</b>	The property was developed in the 1920s as a sawmill with a millpond and as greenhouses for growing vegetables. These operations were run using boilers that burned heavy Bunker C oil imported by barge and stored on site in large above ground storage tanks (ASTs). The mill and greenhouses were demolished in the 1940s but the ASTs continued to be used as oil storage and transfer facilities serving other greenhouse complexes on Vashon Island. The ASTs were finally removed in the early 1960s.
<b>King County Brownfields Program:</b>	The King County Solid Waste Division has received grant funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct environmental assessment and cleanup on contaminated Brownfield properties. King County's Brownfields Program uses the funds to hire consultants to conduct the assessment and cleanup work on behalf of public and nonprofit entities. The Brownfields Program website is: <a href="http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrm/swd/brownfields/index.asp">http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrm/swd/brownfields/index.asp</a> .
<b>Assessment Description:</b>	The Brownfields Program used EPA assessment grant funding to conduct a Phase II Environmental Assessment of this site in September 2005. This work included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. collection of ten soil samples at less than a foot from the surface.</li><li>2. collection of soil samples from 8 test pits ranging from 2.3 to 6 feet below ground surface.</li><li>3. collection of one sediment sample from Ellisport Creek.</li></ol>
<b>Reason for Assessment:</b>	Over a period of forty years, leaks, spills and poor housekeeping practices led to releases of Bunker C oil in and around the AST area. When these tanks were removed, the site was regraded and oil contaminated soil was incorporated with debris into a new soil layer which subsequently has become a heavily overgrown wetland. Because Bunker C is a regulated contaminant and contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH), a potential carcinogen, identifying the degree and extent of the Bunker C oil contamination is necessary to assess the risk to human health and the environment as well as to identify possible cleanup alternatives.
<b>Results:</b>	The soil samples were analyzed and found to contain variable amounts of contamination. Two of the test pit samples were contaminated with Bunker C oil above state cleanup levels and one of these contained PAH exceeding cleanup levels. A copy of the assessment report is available at the Vashon Library.
<b>Conclusions/ Next Steps:</b>	Although contamination exceeds cleanup standards, its effects on local habitat, particularly fish habitat in Ellisport Creek, has not been determined. Further sampling is planned for summer 2006 which will test the soil to better define the area of greatest Bunker C concentration. The program will also sample surface water from Ellisport Creek, groundwater downstream from the contaminated area and sediments from the creek bed and beach. Results from this work should provide information to complete a Terrestrial Ecological Evaluation (TEE) which will establish appropriate cleanup levels for the site. This in turn will allow an engineer's estimate of cleanup costs to be calculated.
<b>Contact Information:</b>	<u>Vashon Island Contact:</u> Ann Spiers, Community Coordinator, 206-463-9858, <a href="mailto:spiers@eskimo.com">spiers@eskimo.com</a> . <u>King County Contact:</u> Lucy Auster, Senior Planner, King County Solid Waste Division, 206-296-8476, <a href="mailto:lucy.auster@metrokc.gov">lucy.auster@metrokc.gov</a> .