

Groundwater, soil, and vapor sampling near Pacific City Park Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is happening near the Park?

King County will be collecting groundwater, soil and vapor samples near Pacific City Park. This is in preparation for the Pacific Right Bank Flood Protection Project, which will reduce the risk of flooding and improve environmental conditions along the river.

2. Why is sampling needed?

Pacific City Park is on top of a former dumpsite that was filled in the 1960s. The proposed flood protection project triggered the need to investigate the site for cleanup. King County is currently characterizing potential dumpsite contamination and migration pathways as part of a multi-step investigation process. Due to site specific conditions and out of an abundance of caution, additional sampling is advised by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to characterize vinyl chloride and potential vapor intrusion migration pathways.

3. What is vapor intrusion?

Vapor intrusion is when volatile chemicals, like vinyl chloride, in contaminated soil or groundwater move into the nearby buildings through the building's slab or crawl space. According to the Washington State Department of Health low levels of volatile chemicals are normally found in indoor air at a typical home or business. Vapor intrusion can add to these types of chemicals but usually at very low levels. The investigation will identify if actions are advised to address vapor intrusion.

4. What will sampling look like?

Truck mounted drilling equipment, hand tools and other devices would be used to collect soil and vapor samples. Groundwater monitoring wells will be installed in the roadway and be capped at or slightly below ground level. Groundwater samples will be collected several times a year. Multiple property visits may be necessary depending on initial findings. All locations where monitoring has occurred will be repaired.

5. When will sampling take place?

King County will be collecting additional samples to the west of Pacific City Park in 2022 and 2023. Sampling will occur during normal work hours on weekdays and in accordance with City ordinances.

6. Where can I get more information?

General information about the dumpsite cleanup investigation and this sampling effort will be posted to the project website at: kingcounty.gov/PacificDumpsite. If you have questions about the Pacific Right Bank Project including investigation of the dumpsite and possible cleanup actions, please contact Mary Strazer at 206-263-5817. The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on any proposed cleanup options when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is released.