Plant 2 Habitat Restoration and Sediment Cleanup
Lower Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, Washington
Over the past decade, Boeing has demonstrated its commitment to the health of the Lower Duwamish Waterway and surrounding communities by investing in cleanup activities and habitat restoration. Boeing partners with businesses, tribes, government agencies, and the local community to give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology the tools to implement protective, timely, and cost-effective cleanup solutions.

Restoring habitat for fish and wildlife

In 2013, Boeing completed the largest habitat restoration in the Lower Duwamish Waterway, transforming nearly one mile of former industrial waterfront into a wetland resource that improves Puget Sound salmon runs.

From tufted hairgrass and bulrush to willows and bigleaf maple, more than 170,000 native plants now occupy five acres along the water’s edge. These wetland plants and grasses, along with piles of woody debris that are anchored in place along the shoreline, provide refuge and food sources for fish and wildlife. A protection system built out of ropes and lightweight steel rods is currently in place to prevent geese from uprooting the young plants.

Boeing’s habitat restoration work was done under the oversight of the Natural Resource Trustees, a group that is made up of federal and state agencies and local tribes. Boeing’s efforts to clean up and restore wildlife habitat along the Lower Duwamish Waterway are all part of the company’s larger commitment to conduct environmental work that is valuable to the ecosystem, Puget Sound, and surrounding communities.
Making progress with early cleanup

Boeing is part of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group along with the City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, and King County, which are the four parties that have been leading the cleanup of this five-mile stretch of industrial waterway south of downtown Seattle. The collective “early action” efforts of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group will reduce contaminant risks in the sediment by half prior to the start of the Superfund cleanup.

Significant progress has been made with Boeing’s work to restore the waterway bed near its Plant 2 site. Boeing plans to remove 165,000 cubic yards of sediment and replace it with clean sand by 2015. A state-of-the-art treatment system has already cleaned 9.3 million gallons of water that was removed with the sediment during the second season of dredging in early 2014.

This in-water work is conducted during “construction windows” when juvenile salmon are not migrating. Dredging is being done under the direction and oversight of the U.S. EPA and Washington State Department of Ecology.

Boeing also installed state-of-the-art stormwater treatment systems at North Boeing Field and Plant 2 to ensure pollution will not recontaminate the waterway. The North Boeing Field system treated approximately 176 million gallons of stormwater in its first year of operation. The system at Plant 2 treats an average of 84 million gallons of stormwater annually.

### CLEANUP BY THE NUMBERS

- **3,000 railcars** full of sediment to be removed
- **9.3 million** gallons treated in the water return system
- **100+ million** gallons of stormwater treated annually
History of Boeing Plant 2

Boeing can trace its nearly 100-year history back to the banks of the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

In 1936, the federal government ordered 13 of Boeing’s new B-17 Flying Fortress, the nation’s first four-engine bomber. Due to the lack of space at Boeing’s original manufacturing plant, the company purchased 28 acres along the Lower Duwamish Waterway and constructed an assembly building to accommodate the government’s growing need for military aircraft. By the end of World War II, Plant 2 had expanded to almost 1.7 million square feet.

To protect Plant 2 from any foreign surveillance, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers camouflaged the building’s roof to resemble a hillside neighborhood dotted with homes and trees. From the air, Plant 2 seemed to disappear into the residential communities surrounding it.

In addition to supplying the military with nearly 7,000 B-17s, Plant 2 provided thousands of Washington men and women with manufacturing and industrial jobs. As more men left the assembly lines for the front lines, Boeing began recruiting women, who were known as Rosie the Riveters and built an average of 12 B-17s a day.

In December 2011, the aging Plant 2 facility was demolished to clear the way for Boeing’s cleanup and habitat restoration efforts along the Lower Duwamish Waterway. Over 85 percent of the building materials were recycled or reused, including steel and wood beams, copper wiring, and concrete.

**PLANT 2 BY THE NUMBERS**

- **7,000** B-17s built at Plant 2 to support the war effort
- **1.7 million** square feet and **700** pilings demolished
- **85%** of building materials recycled or reused

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