

What can YOU do?

✦✦ Sign up for DRCC's newsletter!
This is the best way to be alerted to campaigns, concerns, and local events and gatherings



✦✦ Do you know a child with asthma in the Duwamish Valley? Fill out our interest form for support!



✦✦ If you would like to support our work, you can donate here!



✦✦ Join our coalition in opposition to Ash Grove Cement. We say "NO" to added pollution in the DV!



We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Coast Salish people



Stay connected with us!

DRCC PRESENTS:

AUGUST 2025

State of the Duwamish River Valley



Our Mission: An empowered Duwamish Valley community thriving in a *healthy and just environment*



2025 HIGHLIGHTS! ★ 17

★ **1500+**

community members guiding our work on

policy, clean air, & flooding

★ **900 lbs**

of compost given away

air purifiers at Concord Elementary

★ **217** ★ **800 lbs**

youth graduated from DVYC last year!

of trash collected

★ DVYC gave away

★ **129**

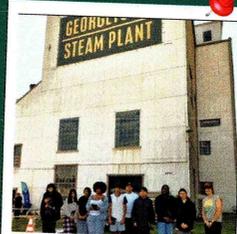
trees to community members

★ Community Health Workers completed

★ **27** healthy-home assessments to reduce asthma triggers

★ **90+**

community members spoken to about flooding risk and ideal solutions



DVYC at GT Science Fair!



25+ partners working for clean air

DAISY has

★ **22**

air monitors inside & outside homes



DAISY in action!

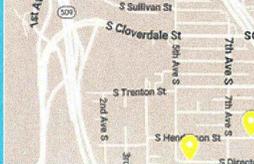
★ The Port added shore power, which reduces diesel pollution from ships in the DV to Terminal 5!



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM OUR AIR MONITORS?

- 14th and Cloverdale: 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Library: 7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Concord Elementary: 6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Marra Farm: 6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

*Measurements are the daily averaged PM_{2.5} from 5/1/24 to 10/31/24

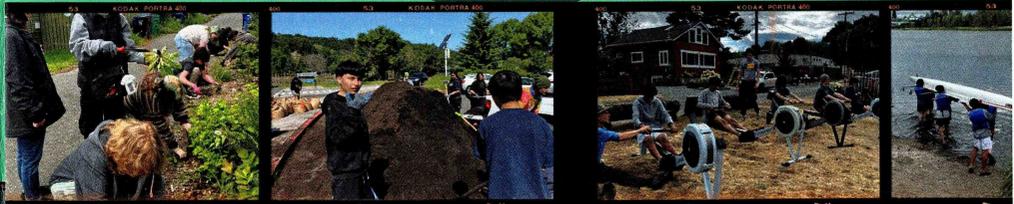


All of our monitors show readings above 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The US EPA has standards for protecting the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. They recommend a yearly average of no more than 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The World Health Organization (WHO) has much better standards. They recommend a yearly average no more than 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

How does DRCC support some of these root cause issues?

- ★ DVYC hosted a rowing club to provide safe activities after school that help boost physical and mental health for youth
- ★ DVYC encourages job searching, supports resume-building, and provides letters of recommendation for students
- ★ DVYC students learn about air quality in the Duwamish Valley & use air monitoring equipment!



- ★ Supported Concord International Elementary School's PTA with capacity building and fiscal development

- ★ Along with the One Roof Foundation, we bought and now maintain air purifiers in every Concord classroom to keep our children healthier!

- ★ Hosted a Concord EJ day for young students & MUCH MORE!



77%

of English Language Learners (ELL) graduated from Chief Sealth in four years

vs. 94%

of non-ELL Chief Sealth students
WA State, 2023-2024

Impacts

978

the average SAT score at Chief Sealth HS

vs. 1390

average at a non-STEM public school

vs. 1083

state average
College Board, 2019

Low school attendance rates

Lower grades and test scores

Disciplinary actions that are too extreme

Gaps in achievements and performance

Youth violence and crime

Problem: Inequitable education & access in the DV

Early childhood education is very expensive

Lack of funding for diverse needs and English language learners

Schools funded by property taxes (property value is less in contaminated areas)

Noise and air pollution from industry impacts student focus

Youth asthma, hunger, and other issues from environmental injustice

\$572k

average South Park home value

vs. \$885k

average Seattle home value

vs. \$610k

average Washington home value

Zillow, 2025

Root causes

What does it mean to be healthy in the Duwamish Valley?

Neighborhood and Environment

- Clean drinking water
- Clean air
- Trees for shade
- Low noise pollution
- Efficient ways to travel on foot, bike, or transit
- Low crime rates



Culture and Community

- Strong community and family ties
- Culturally relevant activities and connections
- Self-determination
- Affordable housing and food accessibility
- Community gatherings



Economic Security

- Safe, local, good-paying jobs
- Affordable, healthy, culturally relevant foods
- Secure housing resilient to climate change

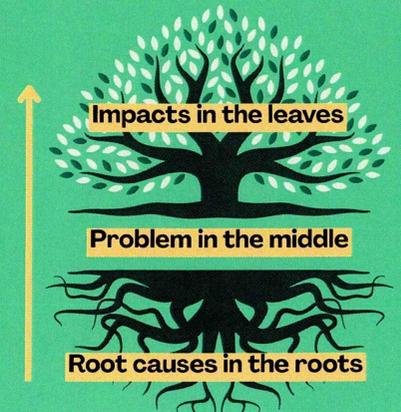


Education Access and Quality

- Education in violence-free environments
- Access to early childhood learning and disability services
- Schools with the right programming
- Ability to graduate high school and college



Continue reading to learn how DRCC supports a healthy Duwamish Valley by addressing root causes!



Average
+10 of
higher
temperatures
in the DV
Census, 2025

Impacts

The DV lost
103
acres
of critical tree
canopy cover
in 4 years
OSE, 2016-2020

3
Superfund
sites on
the River

One of the most heavily
polluted areas in the
Pacific Northwest

Lack of spaces to be
outdoors

Air and water pollution from
industrial activity

Problem: Impacted neighborhood & environment

Prioritization of industry over
neighbors for development

Historic unequal policies
for home interest rates

Settlers straightened, deepened,
and widened the River

Duwamish Valley
youth are
hospitalized for
asthma at a rate

Historic and
ongoing water
and air pollution

2.7x
higher than
Laurelhurst youth
PHSKC - APED, 2025

Only
6%
of Georgetown
is covered by
tree canopy
Census, 2025

Root causes

How does DRCC support some of these root cause issues?



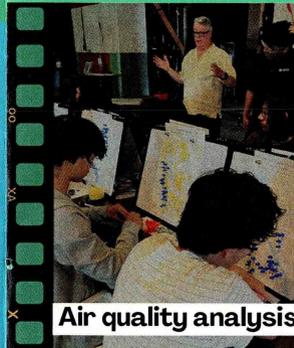
Bringing local
jobs to the DV



- ★ Through our partnership with the Duwamish Valley Affordable Housing Coalition, we built capacity to buy land for housing and community spaces
- ★ DRCC is helping shape new City zoning plans to ensure they are inclusive and will support affordable housing in the DV

- ★ DRCC hosts Job Fairs to connect neighbors to local, good-paying jobs.

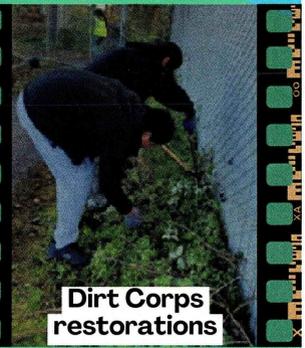
- ★ The Duwamish Valley Youth Corps provides education and job training!



Air quality analysis



Mini Mart City Park
- making music



Dirt Corps
restorations

- ★ Maritime High School, which prioritizes real-world skills and connecting youth to good-paying jobs (in and out of the water), graduated its first four-year class in the Spring!



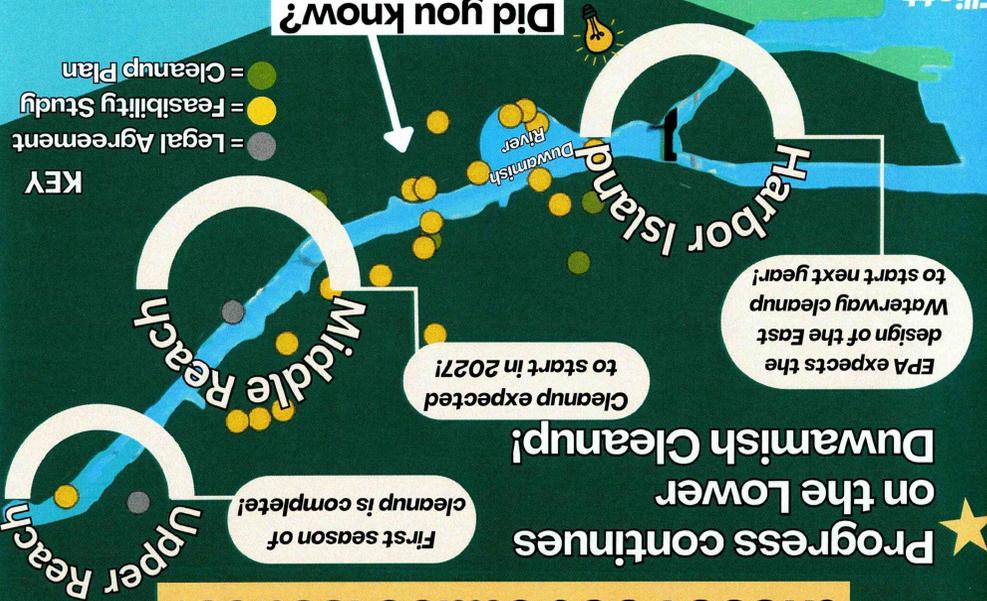
How does DRCC support some of these root cause issues?

★ Progress continues on the Lower Duwamish Cleanup!

First season of cleanup is complete!

Cleanup expected to start in 2021!

EPA expects the design of the East Waterway cleanup to start next year!



Can I swim in the River? YES!! However, you should NOT swim in the River 48 hours after a heavy rain. Toxic pollution is in the mud, so the water is safe to swim in.

Can I fish in the River? YES!! Salmon are the safest food to eat from the River. Resident fish like crab, mussels, and clams are UNSAFE to eat.



Sign on to our campaign to demand CLEAN AIR in the Duwamish Valley!

How do we address flooding?

★ Co-designed solutions for sea-level rise and flooding in the Duwamish Valley with UW, the City of Seattle, & community! ★ Impacted neighbors shared their input through surveys, interviews, and workshops to help shape a community-led vision for flooding adaptation!

Did you know?

★ South Park is in a floodplain with a 1% chance of flooding every year



Impacts

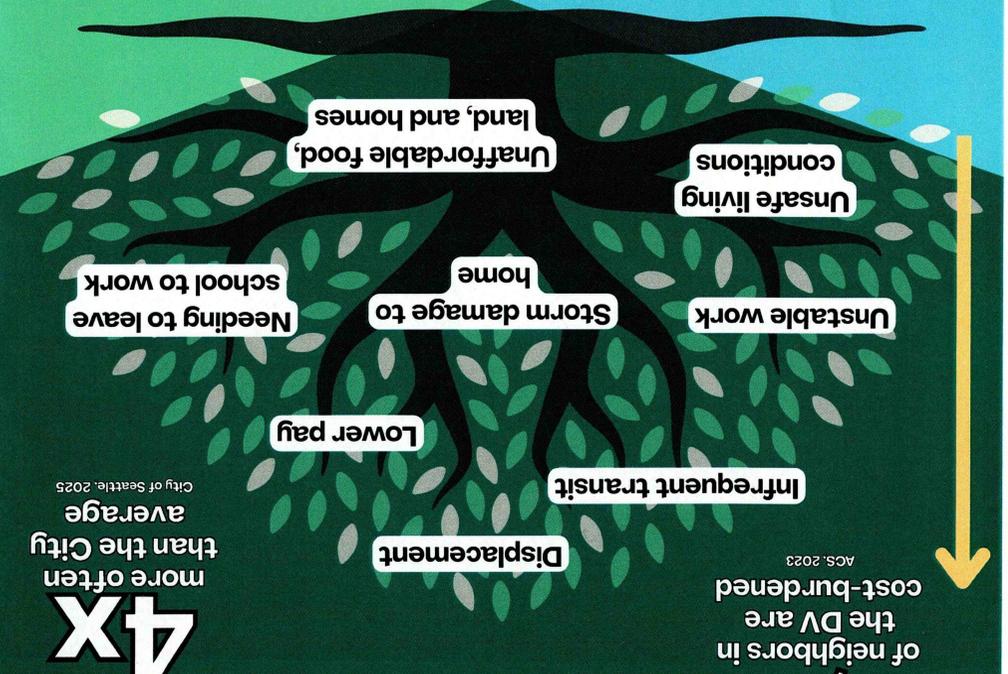
Low-income DV renters are 4X more often displaced than the City average

City of Seattle, 2025

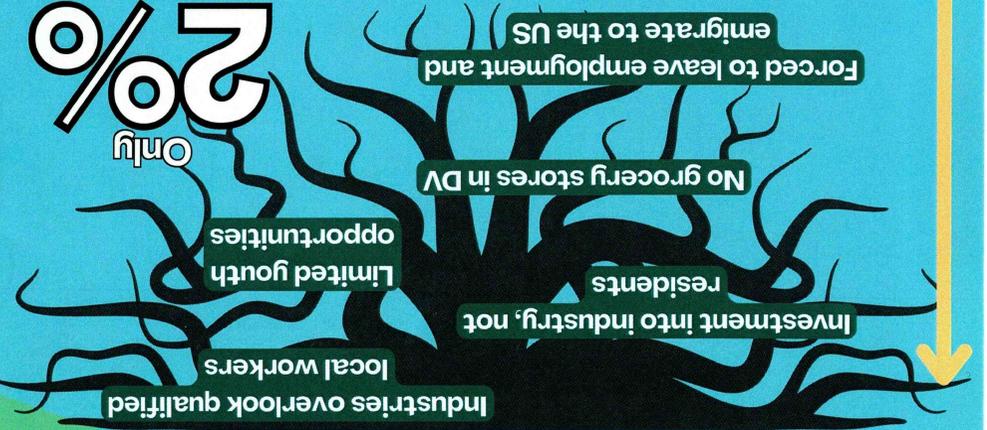
of neighbors in the DV are cost-burdened

ACS, 2023

Problem: Economic insecurity in the DV



Root causes



More than
30

languages are
spoken in the DV
DEOHS, 2025

Impacts

★ **100+**

community members in
leadership councils guiding our
climate, clean air, &
flooding policies

SR-99 splitting South Park in
two

High rates of crime, violence,
and gang activity

Loneliness and isolation

Gentrification

Family separation

Mental health issues

Reduced sense of purpose
and belonging

**Problem: Impacted culture &
community in the DV**

Forced removal of Duwamish/Coast Salish tribes from
their ancestral homelands

Redlining (segregated zoning)

Cruel immigration policies

Immigrants and refugees leaving home cultures
and communities to start over in US

Root causes

**How does DRCC support some
of these root cause issues?**

- ★ **910+** community members at the Duwamish River Festival celebrated community, culture, and Seattle's ONLY River!
- ★ DVYC engages with BIPOC youth on EJ programming
- ★ Partnerships with the *Duwamish Tribe*, *River Access Paddle Program*, and others to increase connection to the land and the River



We provided:

- ★ **60+** air purifiers distributed to neighbors
- ★ **15+** community meetings to discuss air quality concerns
- ★ **1000+** free meals from local vendors to community members at all events



- ★ Supported community groups and hosted *community capacity* meetings
- ★ In discussions with the City of Seattle on *pedestrian safety*
- ★ Advocated for a *new playfield* at Concord Elementary
- ★ Hosted public and individual *safety & immigration* meetings with community members

