New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Community Update on Site Activities – November 2019

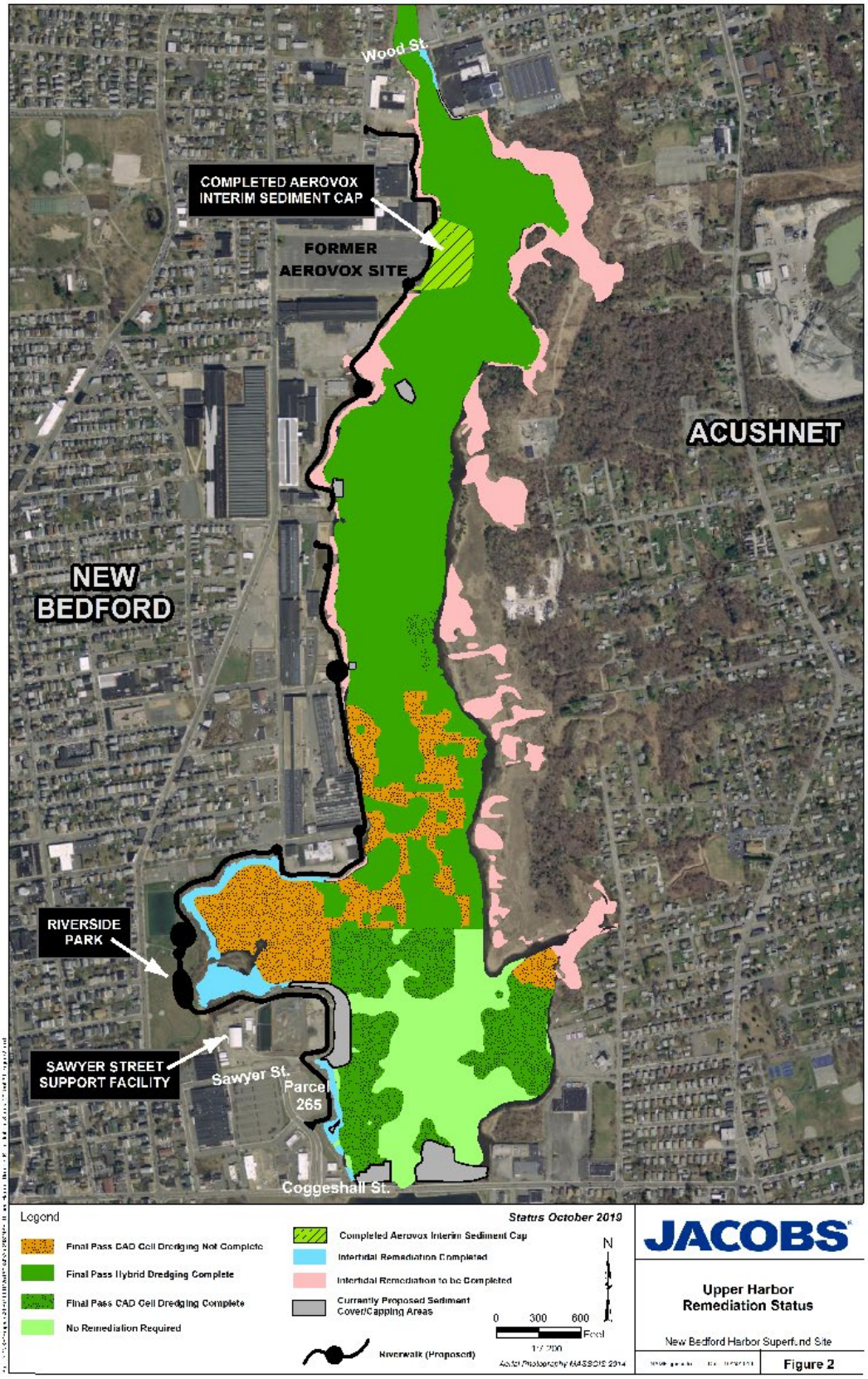
Subtidal Dredging in the Upper Harbor: Hybrid dredging of highly contaminated Upper Harbor subtidal contaminated sediment was completed in early September 2019. Contaminated sediment from the hybrid process was dredged, dewatered, and sent by rail to a secure disposal facility in Michigan. Sediment polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) concentrations within the completed areas have been lowered significantly, to an average of about 1-3 parts per million (ppm). Dredging of the final approximately 50,000 yd3 of PCB contaminated subtidal Upper Harbor sediments (marked on Figure 1 in brown, north of the Coggeshall Street Bridge) is expected to be completed in early 2020, with the exact timing dependent on the severity of the winter. These remaining sediments containing lower levels of PCBs will be placed in the Lower Harbor CAD Cell. Both subtidal dredging and shoreline remediation in the Lower Harbor was substantially completed in 2018.

Demobilization of Subtidal Dredging Equipment Infrastructure: It is anticipated that demobilization of the subtidal dredging equipment and dewatering equipment will be accomplished in 2020. The multi-modal dewatering plant on Hervey Tichon Boulevard will be decontaminated and turned over to the City of New Bedford for commercial waterfront redevelopment.

Interim Sediment Cap Near the Aerovox Site: The "Interim Aerovox Cap' covering the contaminated shoreline boundary of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site with the adjacent Aerovox Site is now in place. Once complete source control is achieved at the Aerovox site pursuant to MassDEP's cleanup authority, the interim sediment cap and underlying contaminated sediments can be removed pursuant to the 1998 Record of Decision for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site.

Construction of Covers/Caps in Upper Harbor: In limited areas of the Upper Harbor it may not be feasible or cost effective to address the remaining contamination with dredging. At many of these locations, the integrity of shorelines or other structural elements make dredging difficult or infeasible. Instead, EPA intends to install a series of multi-layer underwater covers/caps. The locations presently projected to require covers/capping are shown in Figure 1. These underwater covers/caps will generally consist of 2 layers; the bottom layer will consist of approximately 15 inches of silty sand which is designed to permanently sequester the PCB contaminated sediment below. The silty sand layer will be covered by an armoring layer approximately 12 inches thick. The armoring layer will serve to protect the silty sand layer below and provide a clean habitat layer for benthic organisms. A fact sheet regarding the covers/caps in the Upper Harbor is available on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/nbh.

Shoreline Cleanup: The focus of cleanup in the Upper Harbor moving forward shifts to the shoreline in early 2020. This shoreline remediation will proceed north to south on both sides of the river, beginning at the eastern shoreline in Acushnet, closest to the Wood Street/Slocum Street Bridge. After shoreline soils/sediments above cleanup levels have been removed for disposal, the excavated areas will be backfilled with clean topsoil and replanted as saltmarsh. Enormous cleanup progress has been made with the proceeds of the 2013 $366.25 million settlement with a major responsible party at New Bedford Harbor. Remaining cleanup work in intertidal shoreline areas of the Upper Harbor, demobilization of cleanup equipment and facilities, continuing assessment of the Interim Aerovox Cap, and capping of the Lower Harbor CAD Cell will occur over coming years. The timing of remaining cleanup activities will depend on funding levels available to the project year by year.


Wood St
COMPLETED AEROVOX INTERIM SEDIMENT CAP
FORMER AEROVOX SITE
ACUSHNET
NEW BEDFORD
RIVERSIDE PARK
SAWYER STREET SUPPORT FACILITY
Sawyer St.
Parcel 265
Coggeshall St.
Legend
Status October 2019
Final Pass CAD Cell Dredging Not Complete
Final Pass Hybrid Dredging Complete
Final Pass CAD Cell Dredging Complete
No Remediation Required
Completed Aerovox Interim Sediment Cap
Intertidal Remediation Completed
Intertidal Remediation to be Completed
Currently Proposed Sediment Cover/Capping Areas
Riverwalk (Proposed)
N
0 300 600
Feet
1" = 700'
Aerial Photography MASSGIS 2014
JACOBS
Upper Harbor Remediation Status
New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site
Figure 2