



Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

June Public Meeting

Zoom Participation

There is a hybrid portion to today's workshop, which means that:

- Some participants will join via Zoom
- Zoom participants will be following along with the presentations and can ask questions
- This meeting will be recorded

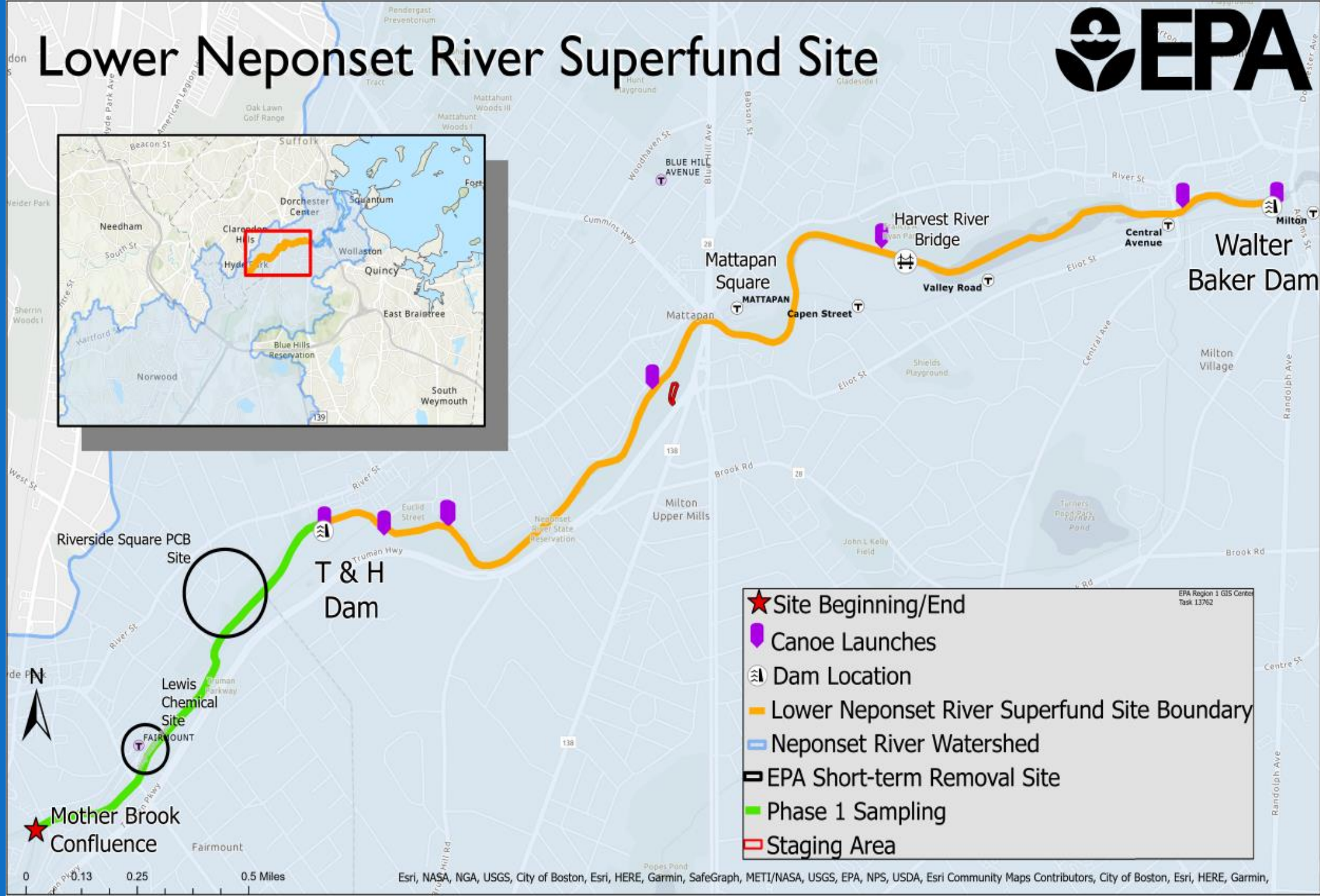
Agenda

- EPA Introductions
- Lower Neponset River Site Summary
- Lower Neponset River Site Updates
- Timeline
- Community Involvement Resources
- Environmental Justice Resources
- Questions and Answers

Introductions

- Ashlin Brooks, Community Involvement Coordinator
- ZaNetta Purnell, Community Involvement Coordinator
- Gevon Solomon, Environmental Justice Program Specialist
- Tristan Pluta, Remedial Project Manager

Lower Neponset River Superfund Site



- ★ Site Beginning/End
- 🚣 Canoe Launches
- 🏰 Dam Location
- Lower Neponset River Superfund Site Boundary
- Neponset River Watershed
- ⬜ EPA Short-term Removal Site
- Phase 1 Sampling
- ▭ Staging Area



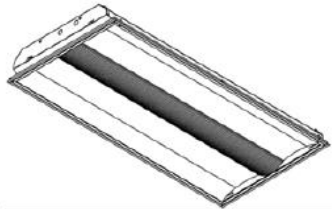
0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

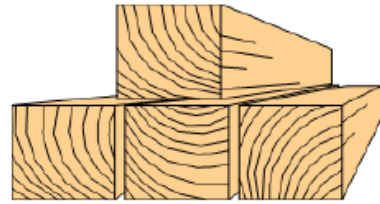
- Man-made chemicals
- Manufactured from 1929 – 1979
- Used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications



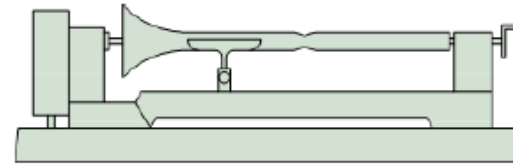
Examples of Historical Uses of PCBs



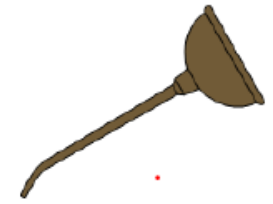
Fluorescent light ballasts



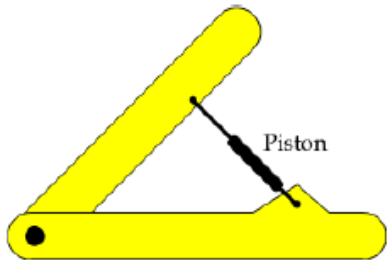
Construction materials
(ex. caulk, sealants, tiles,
etc.)



Cutting oils



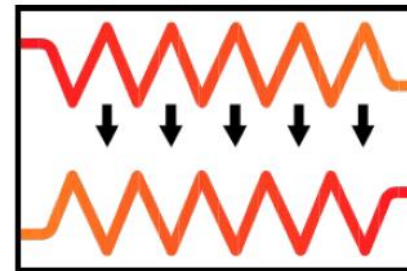
Lubricants



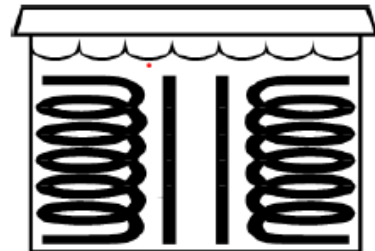
Hydraulic fluid



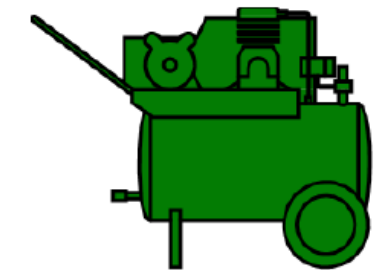
Gaskets & Damping felt



Heat transfer fluid



Dielectric fluid



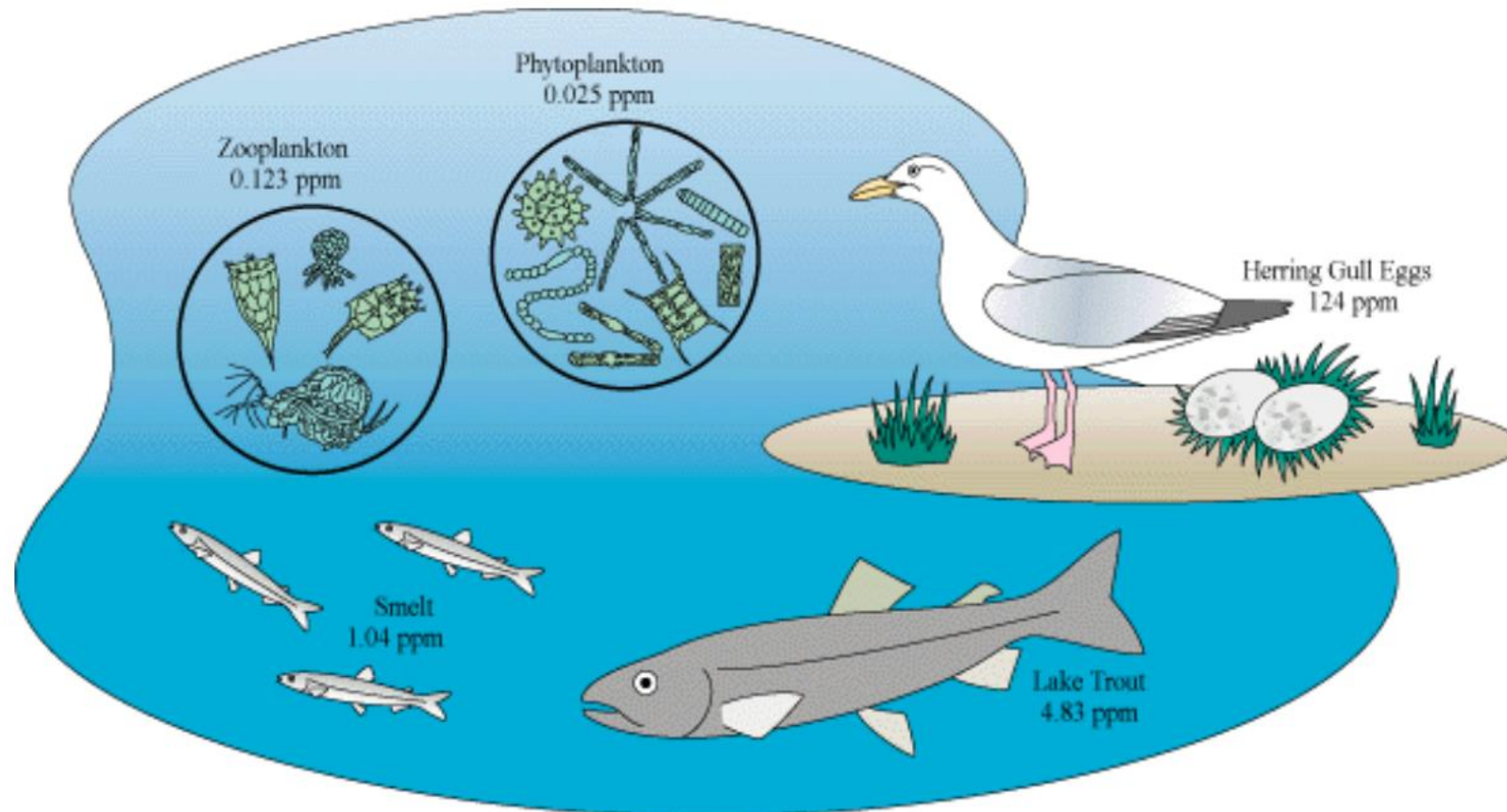
Vacuum pump fluid



Pesticide extenders

PCBs and the Environment

- Bioaccumulation: Once in the environment, PCBs tend to concentrate up the food the food chain.



Recreational Use of the Neponset River Community Fact Sheet 2022

On March 16, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the Lower Neponset River on the National Priorities List (NPL). This means that certain activities, like eating fish caught in the river, may not be safe for certain people. For more information visit: epa.gov/superfund/lowerneponset.

Can I fish in the Neponset River?

Anyone can catch fish, but not everyone should eat the fish. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has specific advice about who can safely eat the fish that is caught from the Neponset River.

Why can't I eat fish caught in the Neponset River?

Eating freshwater fish that you catch from the Neponset River may be harmful because of chemicals in the fish. It is important to follow the information below for:

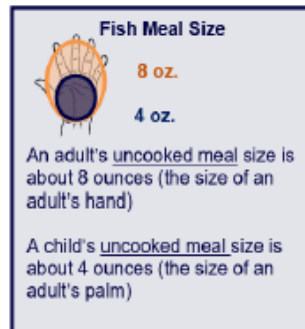
- the stretch of Neponset River between the Hollingsworth & Vose Dam in Walpole and the Walter Baker Dam in the Dorchester/Milton Lower Mills Industrial Complex
- the Mother Brook between the Knight Street dam and the Neponset River.



Children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women that may become pregnant **should NOT eat** any fish caught from these areas. Chemicals in these fish can harm a developing fetus, infants, and young children. These groups may be at higher risk than other people of being harmed.

All other people should:

- **NOT** Eat any American Eel or White Sucker fish from this area. These types of fish have high amounts of chemicals that are not safe for anyone to eat.
- **LIMIT** Eating all other freshwater fish from this area to no more than two meals per month. Other freshwater fish from the Neponset River have lower amounts of chemicals than the American Eel or White Sucker, but they still should not be consumed more than twice a month.



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

NEPONSET RIVER

(Between the Hollingsworth and Vose Dam in Walpole and the Walter Baker Dam in Boston)



Fish Contaminated with PCBs and DDT

CHILDREN UNDER 12, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE WHO MAY BECOME PREGNANT:

- Do not eat any fish: catch & release

ALL OTHER PEOPLE:

- Do not eat American eel or white sucker: catch and release
- Limit consumption of all other fish to two meals per month

Issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health
This advisory does not apply to fish that are stocked. MDPH has issued other important health recommendations for fish consumption.

To find out more information, please call 617-624-5757 or visit our website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/fishadvisories>

How can I safely use the Lower Neponset River?



It is safe to use the Lower Neponset River for activities such as walking, biking, boating, rowing, kayaking, and visiting parks/playgrounds.



These types of activities are considered safe because it is unlikely that you will come in close or prolonged contact with contaminated water, soil, or mud at the bottom of the river during these types of activities.

It is also safe to go fishing and release fish unharmed back into the river.

Do Not Swim or Wade in the Lower Neponset River.



Sometimes when people are swimming, they accidentally swallow small amounts of water, and the water in the Lower Neponset River may be contaminated with chemicals that can be harmful to your health. It may also contain high levels of harmful bacteria, especially after storms with a lot of rainfall. These bacteria can make people sick if they are swallowed.



While swimming and wading, people may also contact the soil and the mud at the bottom of the river or along the riverbank. This could be harmful because the mud in some stretches of the Lower Neponset River has high levels of chemicals. Soil in some areas along the river may also be contaminated with chemicals.

Steps to minimize potential exposure to chemicals in soil in the Lower Neponset River:

- Wear shoes so that your feet don't touch areas with mud or bare soil
- Clean off mud/soil from shoes prior to leaving the river area to prevent bringing mud or soil into the car or home
- Wash feet if they contact mud or bare soil
- Wash hands after touching the mud or soil, especially before eating so you don't accidentally swallow the mud or soil
- Avoid sitting or playing in bare soil or mud along the riverbank
- Monitor young children to prevent swallowing mud or soil
- Keep dogs leashed and away from the river and muddy areas of the riverbank

What if I contact water from the Lower Neponset River while boating or fishing?

Touching the water while boating, rowing, kayaking, or fishing is not likely to harm your health. The amount of chemicals in river water is expected to be less than the amount in fish or mud at the bottom of the river. Also, the amount of chemicals that you may be exposed to from touching the water is much less than the amount you may be exposed to from accidentally swallowing water while swimming. Although there may be bacteria in the water, bacteria are most harmful if swallowed. Simply washing your hands after touching the water will reduce the chance that bacteria will be swallowed or remain in open wounds on your skin.

Safe Activities



Not Recommended:



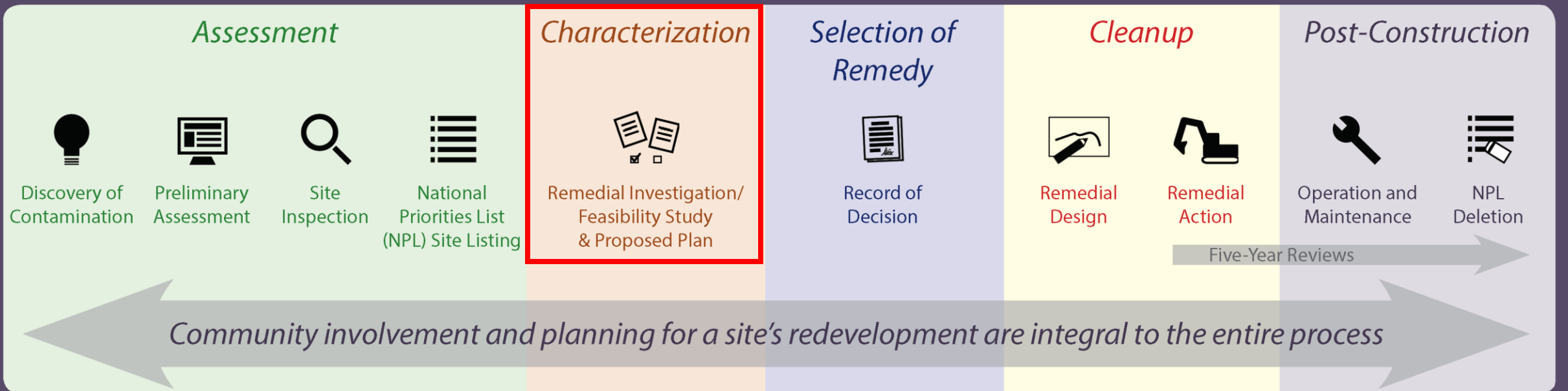
American Eel



White Sucker

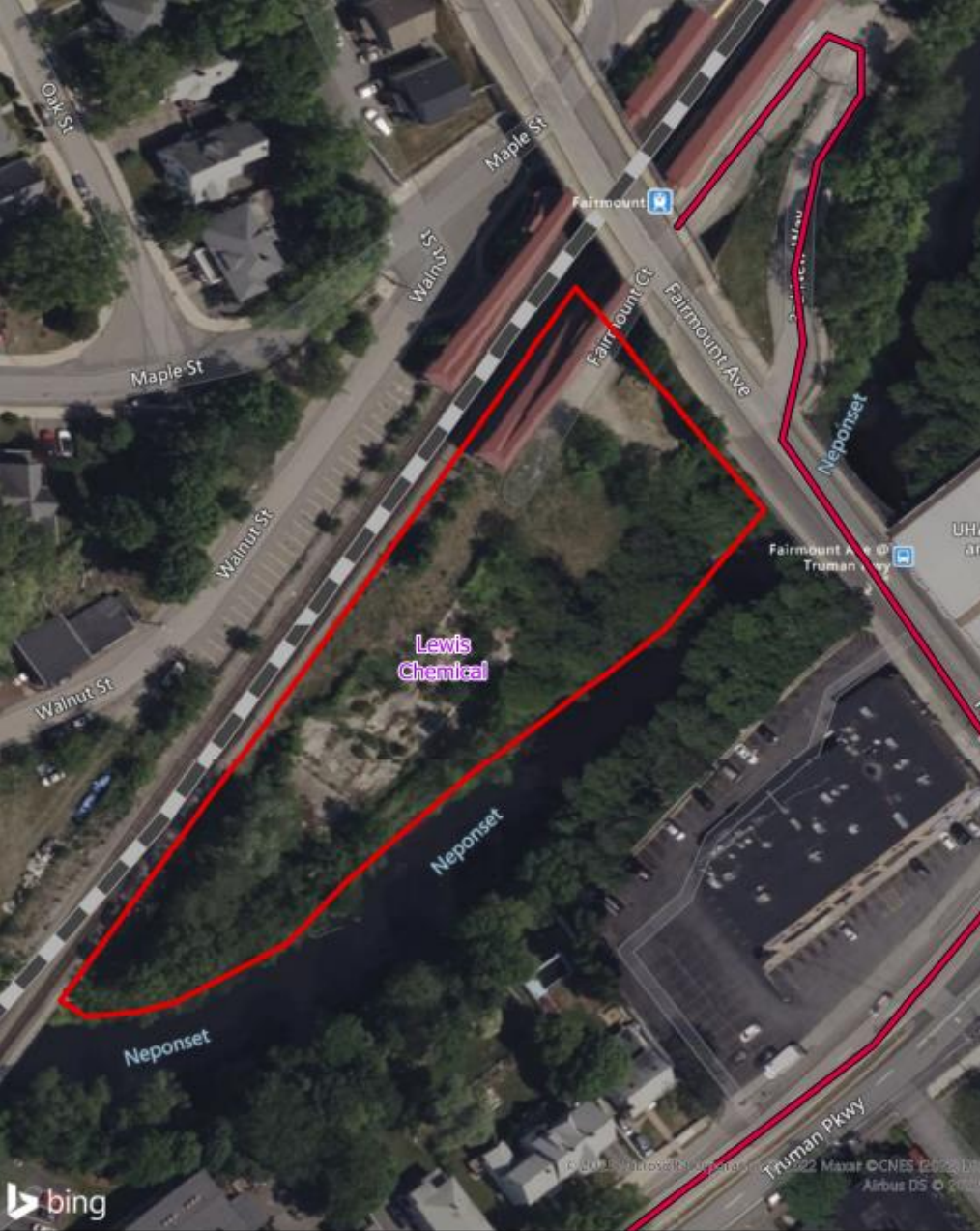
Where in the Superfund process is the Lower Neponset River?

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS



Lewis Chemical Update

- Clearing vegetation and trees prior to excavation
- Excavation to begin week of June 12th
- Air monitoring
- Water suppression to mitigate airborne dust
- All stockpiles secured during non-working hours
- Traffic transportation plan coordinated with City of Boston, local police, and traffic departments
- Approximate 6 months to complete excavation and remediation



Lewis Chemical (Removal Action)

— Travel Route

0 50 100 200 Feet

Riverside Square Update



- Boundary survey completed
- 25-foot sampling grid established with signed access agreements
- Soil sampling will occur in top 3 feet
- Sampling in backyards and DCR-owned land
- Sampling for PCBs and metal contamination
- Sampling plan coordinated with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Sampling planned for July 2023
- Results planned for September 2023

Lower Neponset River Remedial Updates

- Mapping of river channel and banks
- Ecological and historical survey
- Phase I sampling this summer in the first mile of the River
- Phase II sampling (rest of river) in contracting phase.
 - Planned for Spring/Summer 2024

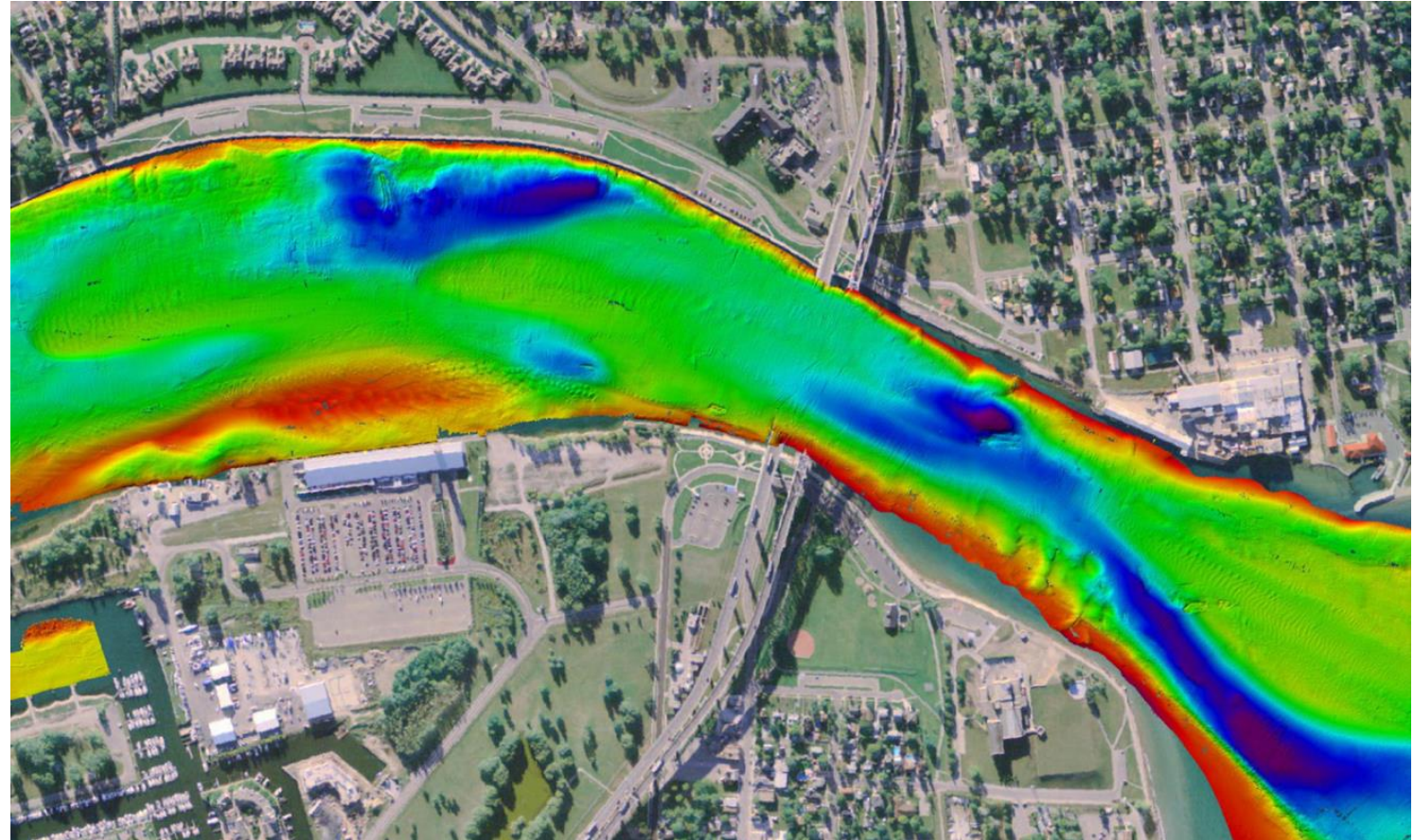
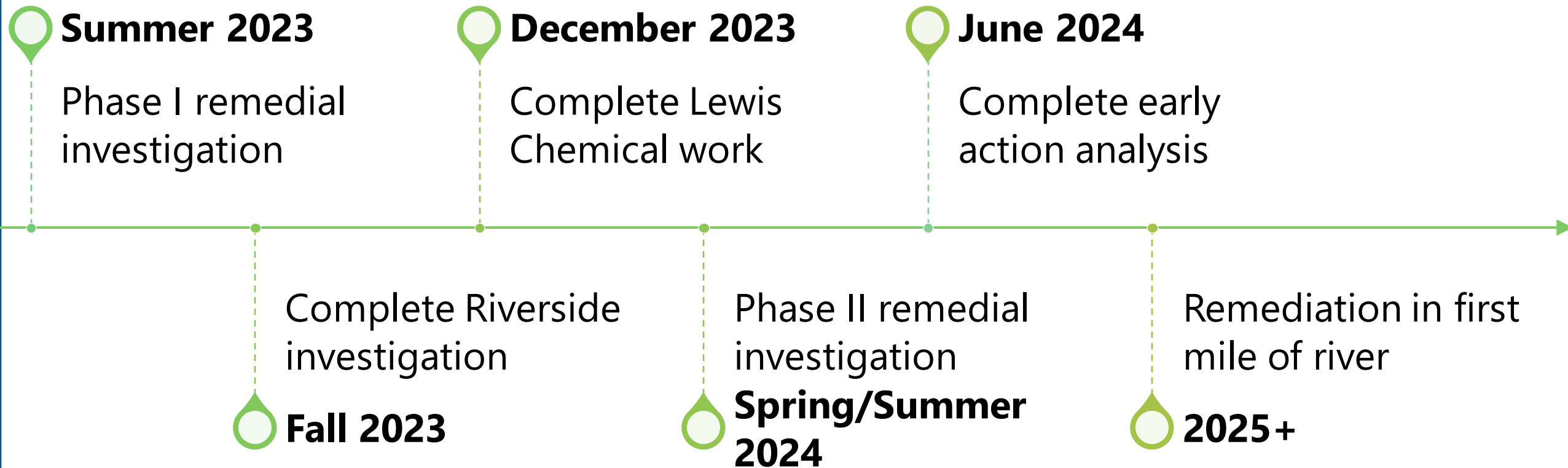


Image from United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Timeline for Remediation Work





How Does This Work Affect the Community?

- Temporary use of a portion of the parking lot at Neponset Esplande Park
- Increased truck traffic near Fairmount Station
- Possible increased construction noise near the Fairmount Station
- Sampling crews will be present along the river (small team)
- Coordination with landowners along the river

EPA in the Community

- November 2022 Superfund workshops
- Reuse interviews
- Consultations with historical and tribal offices
- Doyle Park Day
- Hyde Park Idea Exchange
- Juneteenth Joy Celebration in Hyde Park
- Boston Public Schools KeySteps Program

Community Involvement Timeline



Community involvement and planning for a site's redevelopment are integral to the entire process



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

EPA is seeking comments on the draft Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the **Lower Neponset River Superfund Site in Boston/Milton, MA**. A CIP is a site-specific strategy to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund cleanup process.

Public Comment Period

Monday, June 26th, 2023 to midnight on Thursday, August 10th, 2023.

To access a copy of the draft CIP, scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/neponsetriver> and go to the “community corner” section.



Comments can be submitted by email or in writing by mail:

brooks.ashlin@epa.gov

Or mail to:

Ashlin Brooks

5 Post Office Square, 1-CO

Boston, MA 02109

CIC CONTACT

Ashlin Brooks

brooks.ashlin@epa.gov

(617) 913-9140

toll-free @ 1 (888) 372-7341

Community Involvement Resources

- Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)
- Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program
- Technical Assistance Needs Assessment
- Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center

What is a Community Advisory Group (CAG)?

- A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is made up of representatives of diverse community perspectives.
- It provides a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to Superfund decision-making. A CAG can assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site.
- The earlier a CAG is formed, the more its members can participate in and impact site activities and cleanup decisions.

What is a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)?

- A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is a federal grant that helps communities participate in Superfund cleanup decision-making.
- It provides funding to community groups to contract their own technical advisor to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions.
- There can only be one TAG at a time.

What is The Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program?

- Provides independent assistance through a national EPA contract.
- Services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities.
- There are also no administration responsibilities for the community.

What is a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA)?

- A process to identify whether a community requires additional support understanding technical information
- TANAs can be conducted by the EPA site team or a contractor and are informed by discussions with community members.
- A TANA results in a summary report with a list of technical needs and recommendations to meet those needs.

What is the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center?

- Expert services in conflict and environmental issues assessment
- Services are provided by independent neutral mediators and facilitators who are trained conflict resolution specialists.

Environmental Justice Funding Resources

- National EJ Grant Programs
 - EJ Small Grants Program
 - Supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues
 - Designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks
 - Funds projects up to \$100,000

Environmental Justice Resources

- National EJ Grant Programs
 - EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Program
 - Provides financial assistance to community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) in their collaboration with other stakeholders to develop solutions that significantly address environmental or public health issue(s) in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms
 - Assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, academia, etc.) to develop solutions to environmental or public health issue(s) at the community level
 - Funds projects up to \$500,000

Environmental Justice Resources

- National EJ Grant Programs
 - EJ Government to Government Program
 - The Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) program provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and tribal level to support government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms.
 - Funds cooperative agreements nationwide up to \$1,000,000 per award

Environmental Justice Resources

- National EJ Grant Programs
 - Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Program
 - New program under Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - Provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities
 - Congress has appropriated \$2.8 billion for financial assistance, and \$200 million for technical assistance, to implement this new program at the EPA

Environmental Justice Resources

- Region 1 Grant Program
 - Healthy Community Grant Program
 - Targets resources to benefit communities at risk assess, understand, and reduce environmental and human health risks in communities; increase collaboration and partnerships; build institutional and community capacity to understand and solve environmental and human health problems; and achieve measurable environmental results
 - Generally issued every year January-March
 - Funds projects up to \$40,000

Urban Waters - Neponset River

Community Updates

EPA will hold a hybrid public meeting on June 12th from 6:30-8pm at the BCYF Hyde Park Community Center located at 1179 River Street Hyde Park, MA 02136.

- [Meeting Information Materials](#)



Lower Neponset River Cleanup



- [Why cleanup the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site](#)
- [What progress has been made in the remedial investigation?](#)
- [Superfund Community Involvement](#) Technical Assistance, Tools and Resources, and Community Advisory Committee Formation

Understanding Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)



- [What are PCBs](#)
- [Health Effects of PCBs](#)
- [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health Recreational Use of the Neponset River Fact Sheet \(pdf\)](#) (462 K)

Stay Updated!

- [Events, Meetings, and Updates](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Join Mailing List](#)
- [Sign me up for Redevelopment Discussion](#)

Popular Documents and Resources

Stay Updated

Website:

Epa.gov/neponsetriver

Mailbox:

R1Neponset@epa.gov

Join our email list!

We will continue to send out information in coordination with community groups, newspapers, paper mailings, etc.



Questions and Answers



Thank you for your time!

**Our new site email is
R1Neponset@epa.gov**