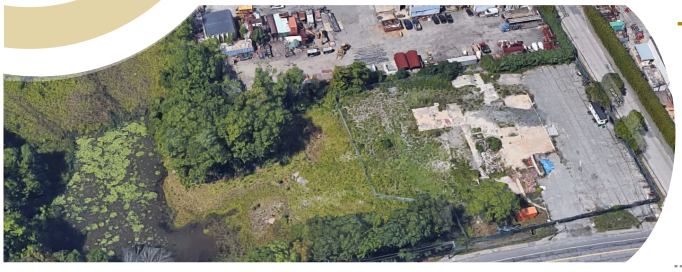
SUPERFUND

SITE SUMMARY

Walton & Lonsbury Superfund Site Attleboro, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

BACKGROUND

The Walton & Lonsbury Superfund Site (Site) is located at a former industrial chromium electroplating facility that operated from 1940 to 2007. Electroplating is a process whereby a thin metal coating is applied to another metal for decorative or protective purposes. Disposal of waste from the facility resulted in contamination consisting primarily of organic solvents, used for cleaning metals, and chromium, (a metal applied as a coating). EPA designated the former facility as a Superfund site in 2013.

In 2019, EPA finalized and presented the cleanup plan for the Site. The public was given the opportunity to provide comments which EPA responded to in a responsiveness summary. EPA memorialized the cleanup plan in a decision document called a Record of Decision (ROD) in 2021. The ROD documents the cleanup actions for a Superfund Site.

EPA BEGINS FINAL CLEANUP PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The cleanup plan is divided into three parts:

(1) Source Area
The removal of some contaminated soil, and the in place treatment of other contaminated soil and groundwater at the Walton & Lonsbury property

(2) PRB Extension
The extension of the underground permeable reactive barrier (PRB) wall to chemically convert contaminants to harmless forms as the groundwater flows through the PRB into the brook.

(3) Mid-Plume
The in place treatment of contaminated groundwater flowing away from the Walton & Lonsbury property at a mid-plume location along North Avenue.

continued >

KEY CONTACTS

RICHARD FISHER
U.S. EPA Project Manager
617-918-1721
fisher.richard@epa.gov

AARON SHAHEEN
U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
617-918-1071
shaheen.aaron@epa.gov

DAVID BUCKLEY
MassDEP Project Manager
781-407-1588
david.buckley@state.ma.us

LEARN MORE AT
www.epa.gov/superfund/walton

EPA's contractors are implementing the design and performing the cleanup at the source area and PRB extension. EPA's contractors prepared engineering and safety plans that are reviewed by the City of Attleboro. Site work is expected to begin in late March 2025. The work areas are shown in Figure 1.

The work at the PRB includes clearing brush and laying gravel for the work area followed by excavating and constructing the PRB. Once the work is complete, the gravel work area is removed, and monitoring wells are installed. The final step is restoring the area with vegetation.

The cleanup at the source area is done in tandem with work at the PRB area. The work at the source area will include:

- Removing the former Walton & Lonsbury building slab
- Excavating contaminated soil
- Treating deeper soil in place by mixing in iron slag
- Injecting pure zero-valent iron to convert hazardous contaminants into harmless forms in certain areas due to the proximity to wetlands
- Placing clean soil over top of the treated deeper soil

Next, the area is paved and the area near the wetlands are seeded. Construction activities for both the source area and PRB are anticipated to be completed by December 2025. Work at the mid-plume is tentatively scheduled to start Spring 2026.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE CLEANUP

Construction trailers and equipment are expected to arrive on-site March 2025. A daily site presence is expected until the cleanup is complete. Construction at the source area and PRB area involves the use of heavy machinery, including excavators and drilling rigs.

Expect increased truck traffic especially during times when soils are excavated and trucked off-site. Trucks will follow the established haul route and staging areas (Figure 2). Approximately 10 to 20 truck trips are anticipated per day to support the cleanup, with the exact number of truck trips depending on project phases. "Trucks Entering Roadway" signage will be placed along North Avenue to alert drivers that they may encounter trucks turning onto or off of North Avenue.

EPA will work closely with the City of Attleboro to minimize disruption and ensure public safety. Air and noise monitoring controls and stormwater management best practices are deployed to safeguard workers and the public.

WATER USE DURING THE CLEANUP

Given the drought conditions in Attleboro, EPA may use clean effluent from the City of Attleboro wastewater treatment plant for construction activities such as mixing the iron slag and zero-valent iron in preparation for placement. Using the effluent wastewater puts no added strain on the City's water supply. Water supporting the PRB cleanup will be stored in three closed-top tanks at the southeastern corner of the Hayward Field parking lot (Figure 1). EPA will coordinate directly with the City of Attleboro Recreation Services Department for water deliveries to these storage tanks in order to reduce the impact to Hayward Field.

HOW TO REACH EPA?

Project identification signs containing contact information are posted on the temporary construction fences outside of the source area and PRB work areas. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming activities, or have any concerns or comments during these activities, please contact either Aaron Shaheen, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator or Rich Fisher, EPA Project Manager (pg 1).

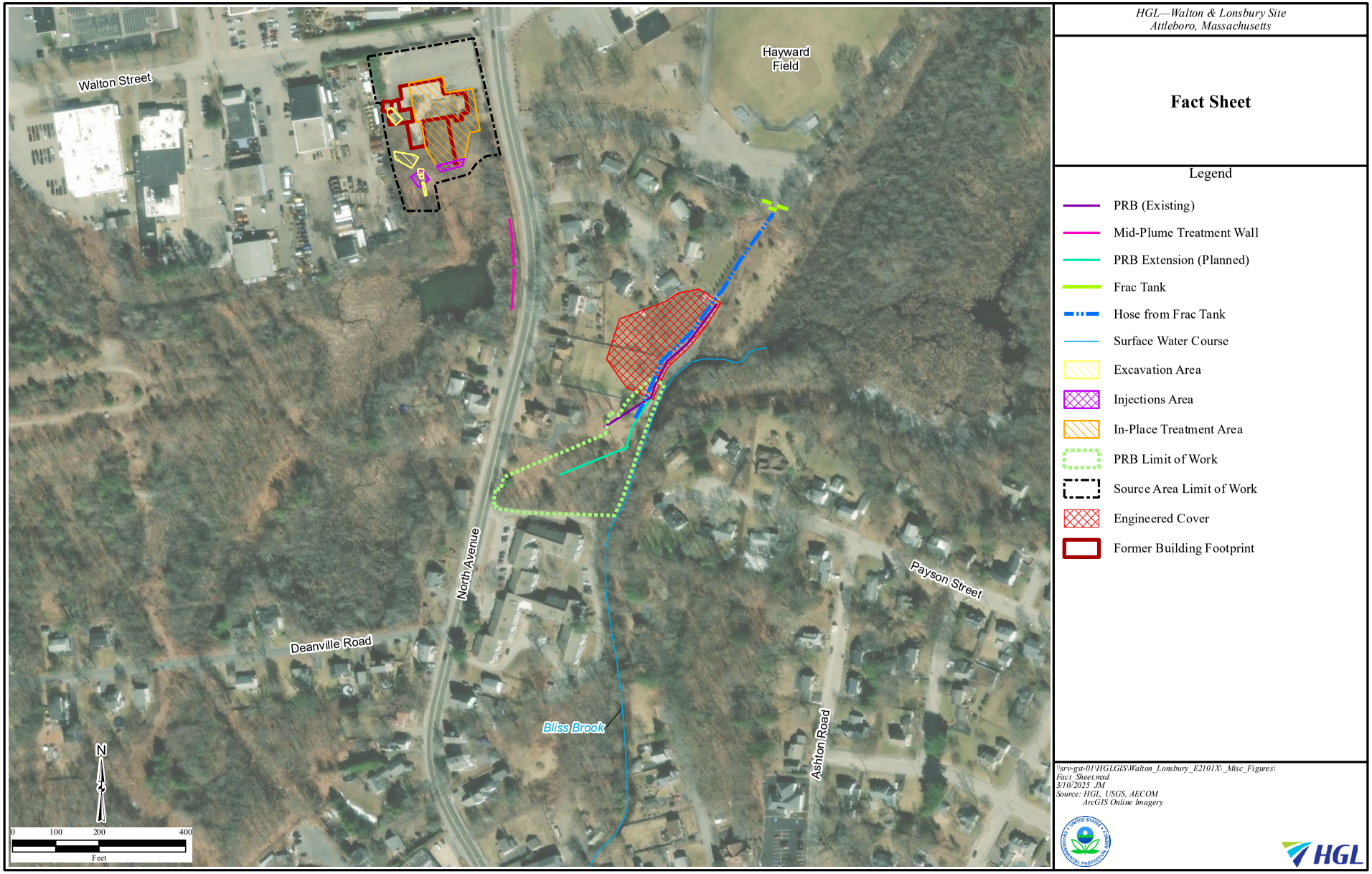


Figure 1. Key work areas as part of the cleanup at the Site.

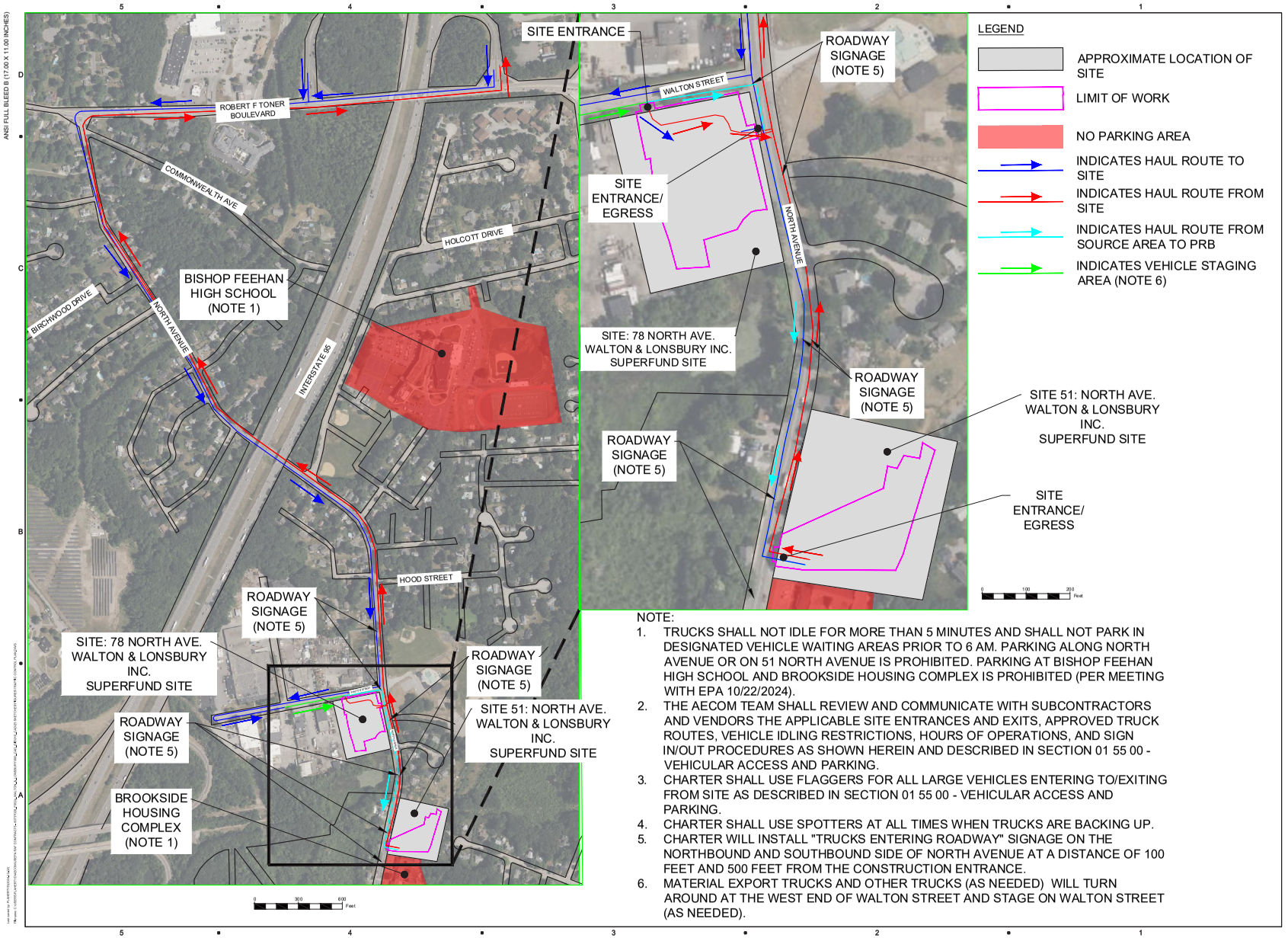


Figure 2. Upcoming construction work and trucking haul routes at the Site