



Public Meeting

April 21, 2026

Lower Neponset River Superfund Site



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Agenda

- Lower Neponset River Background
- EPA Removal Site Updates
- Overview of Phase 1 Reach Non-Time-Critical Removal Action
- EPA Investigation Updates – Phase 2 Data
- Next Steps
- Q&A

Lower Neponset River Background



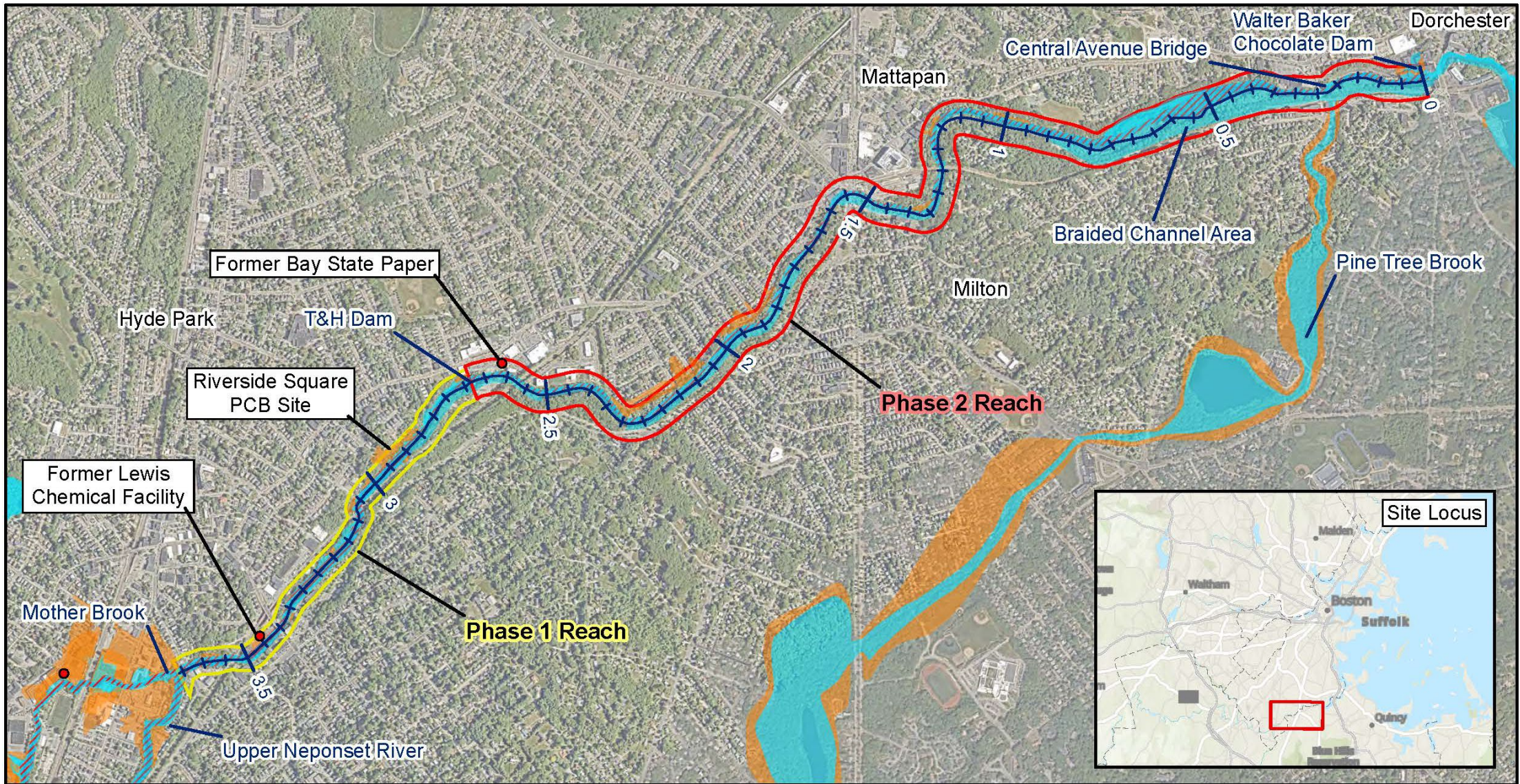
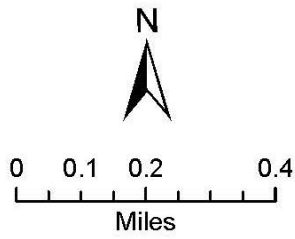
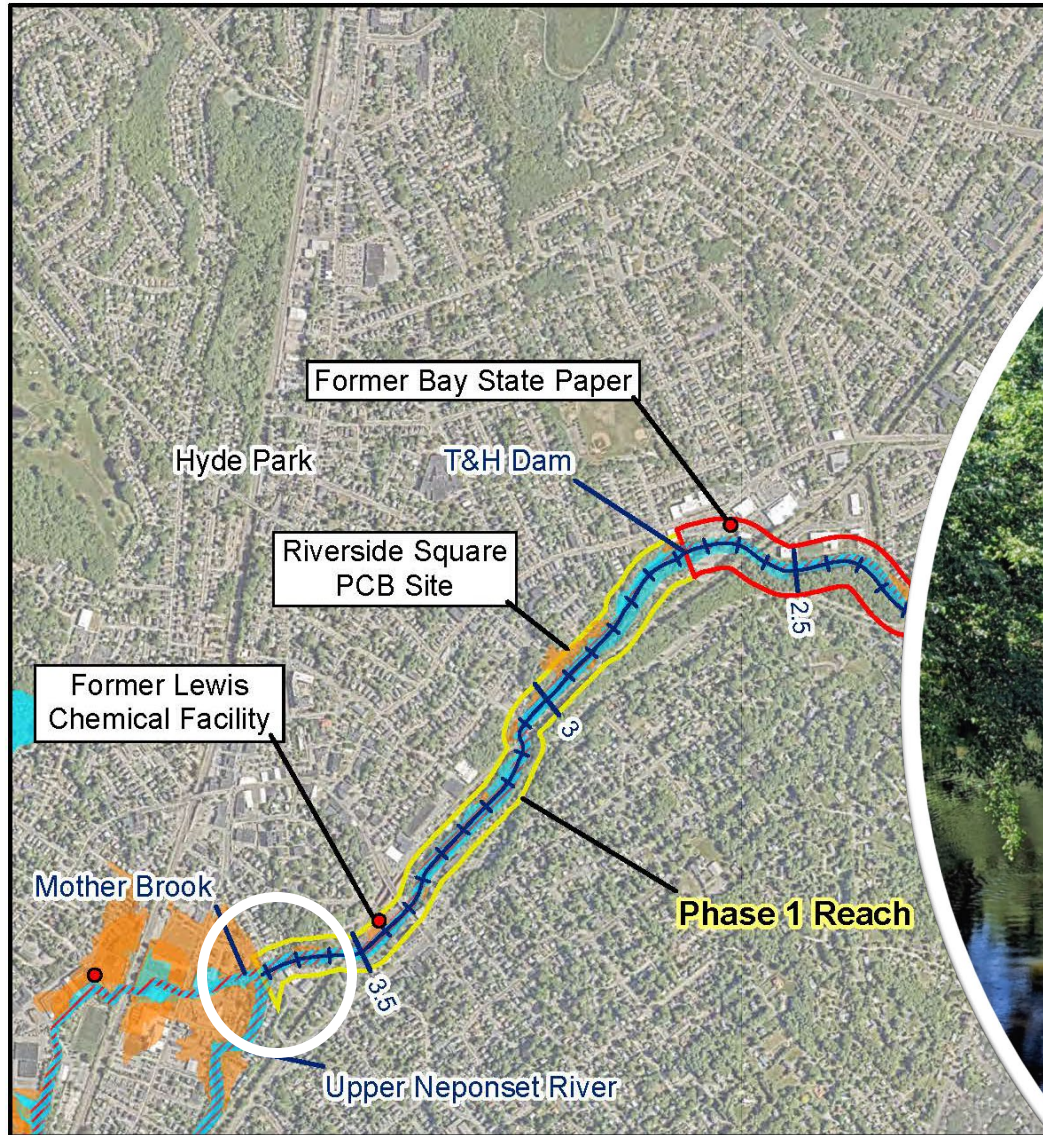


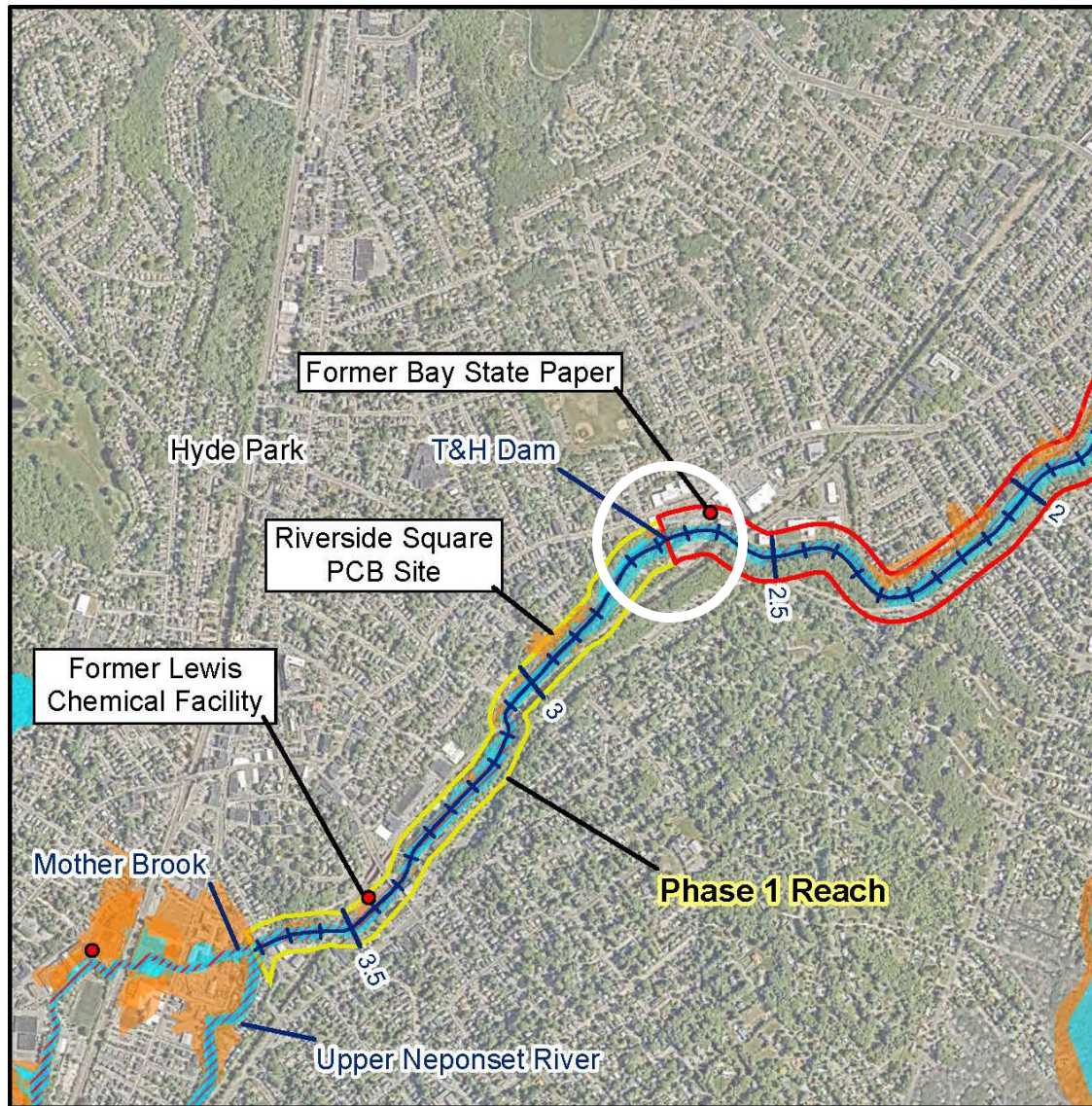
Figure 1
Lower Neponset River Superfund
Site Overview

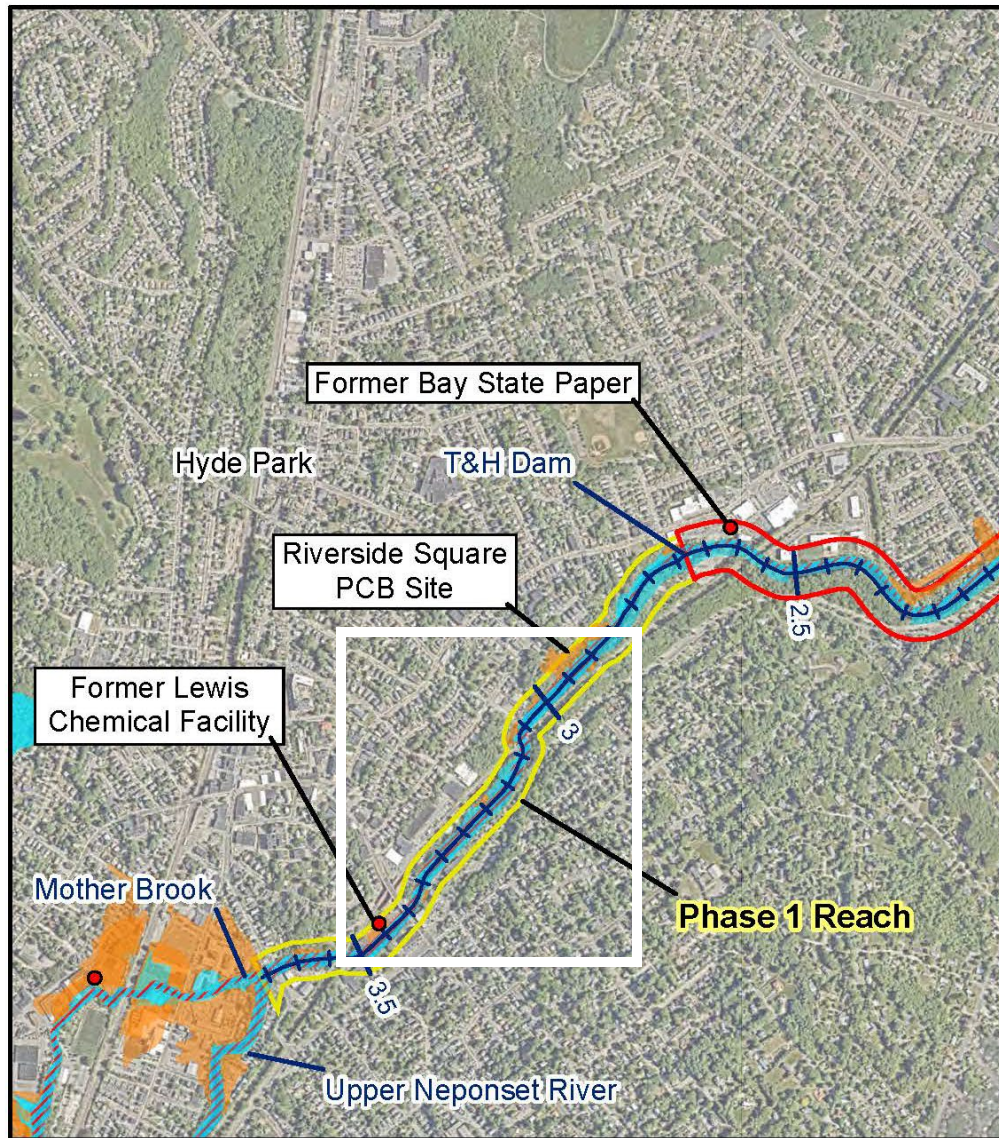


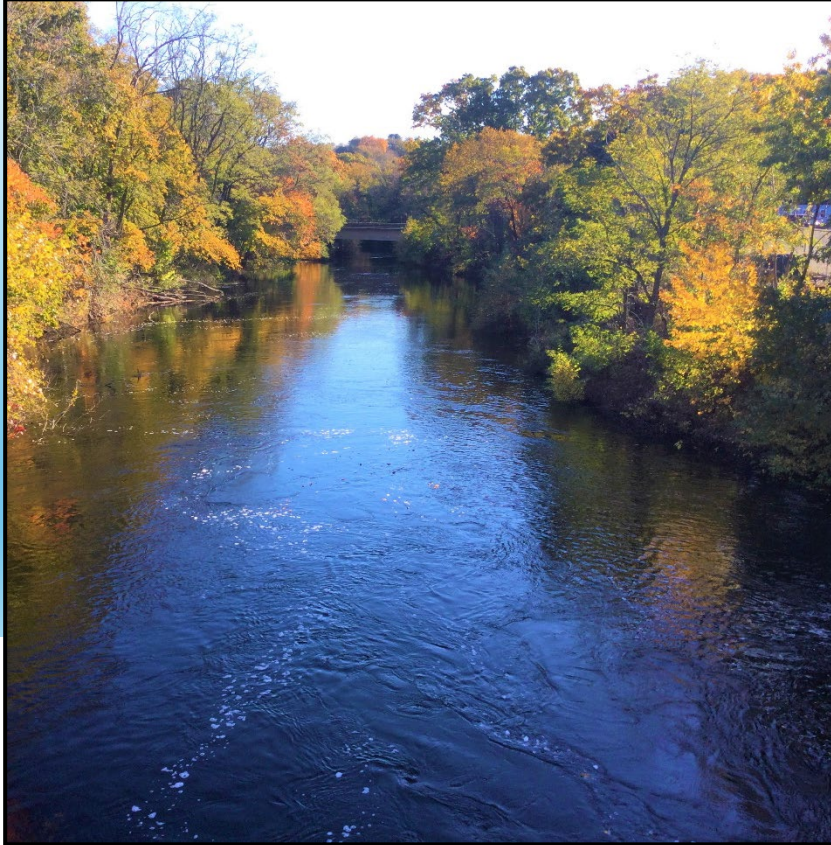
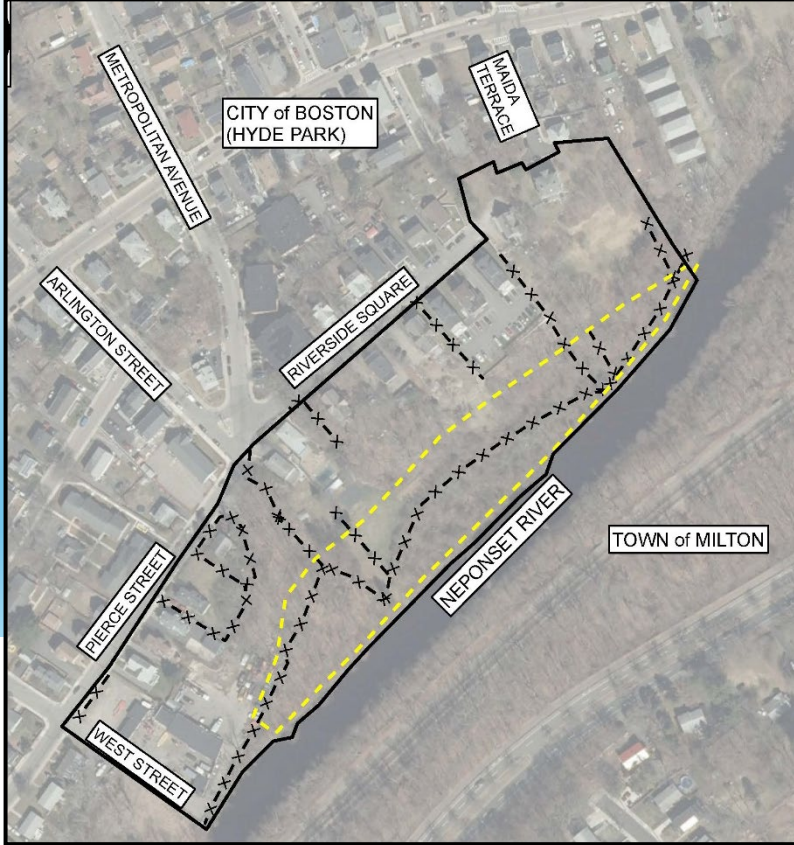
Legend

- LNR River Miles
- Suspected Source of PCB Contamination to the Site
- Phase 1 Reach
- Phase 2 Reach
- FEMA 100 Year Flood Zone
- FEMA 500 Year Flood Zone
- Regulatory Floodway









Three Distinct EPA Cleanup Sites

1. Lewis Chemical Site
2. Riverside Square PCB Site
3. Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

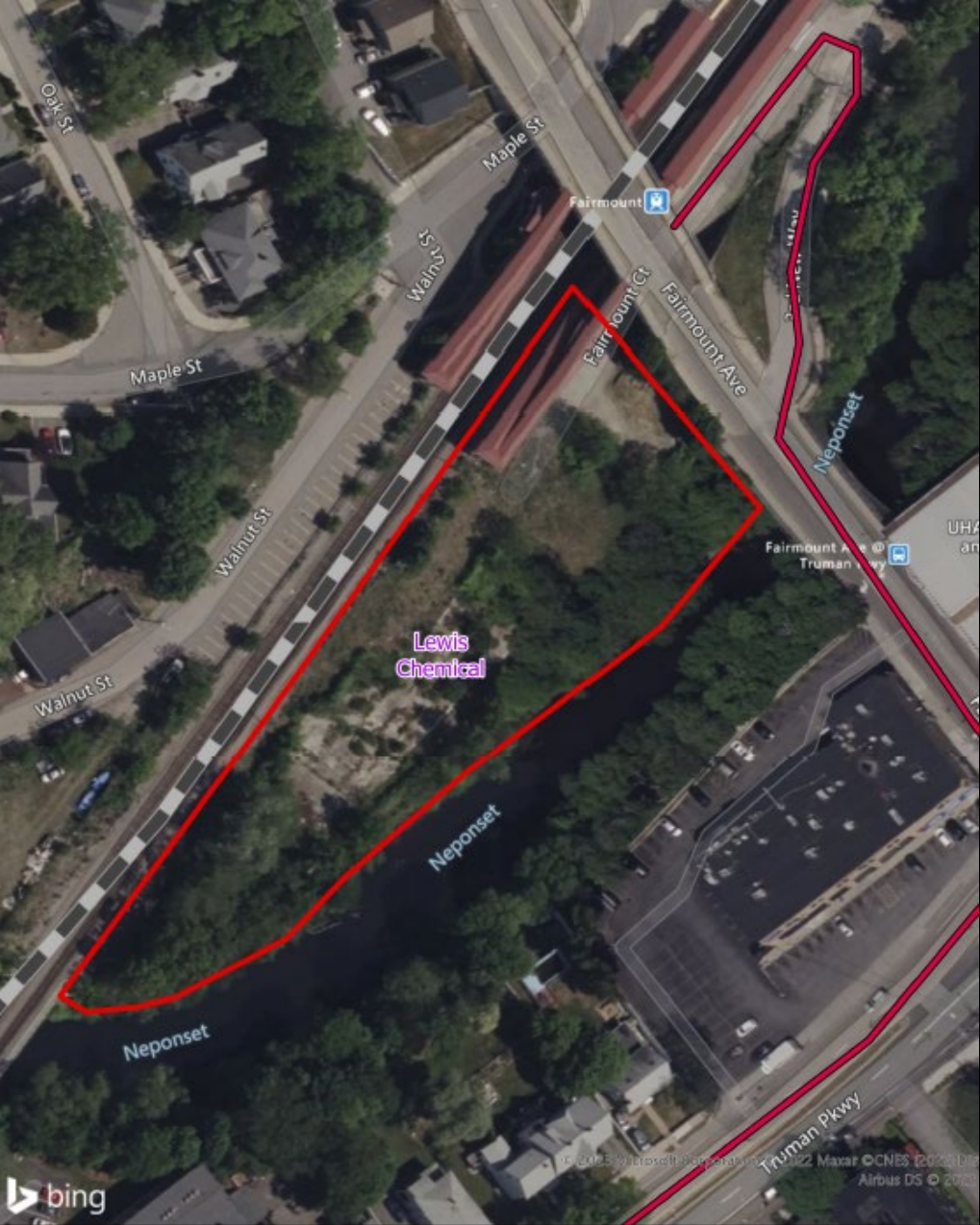


**Three Distinct EPA
Cleanup Sites**

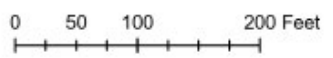
- 1. **Lewis Chemical Site**
- 2. Riverside Square PCB Site
- 3. Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

Lewis Chemical Site

- Approximately \$5.75 million cleanup began in April 2023 and was **completed October 2024**
- 5,704 tons of soils containing hazardous substances including PCBs, metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were excavated and shipped to EPA approved landfills
- Geotextile fabric laid over all excavated areas, backfilled and brought up to grade with clean soil



Lewis Chemical (Removal Action) — Travel Route





**Lewis Chemical
Removal Site**

Lower Neponset River
and Superfund Site

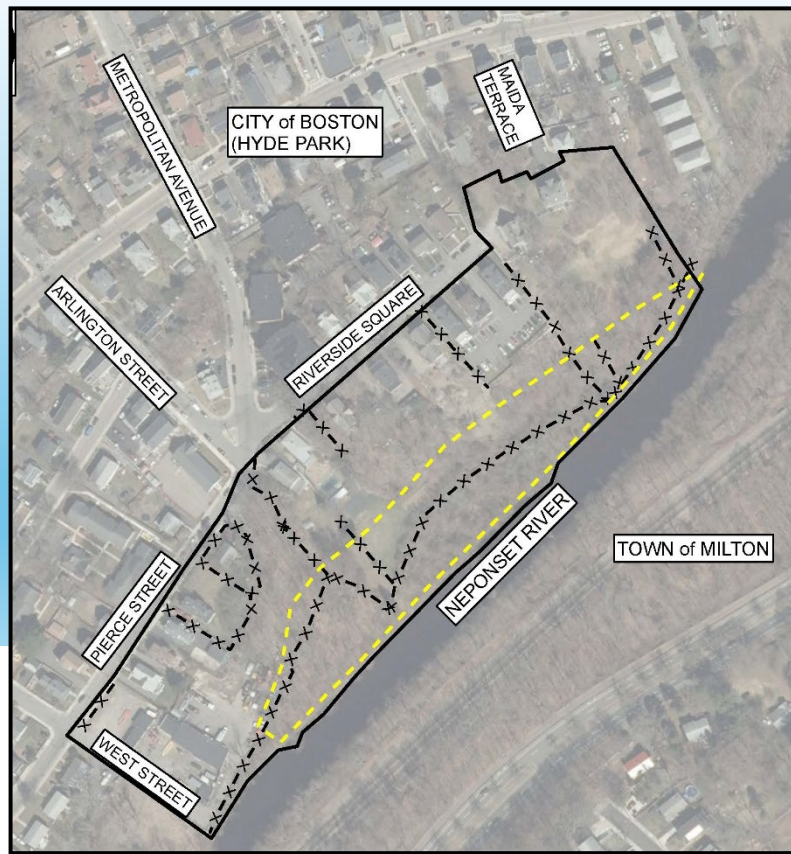
Lewis Chemical Site
After Action Report (link)



Lower Neponset River
and Superfund Site

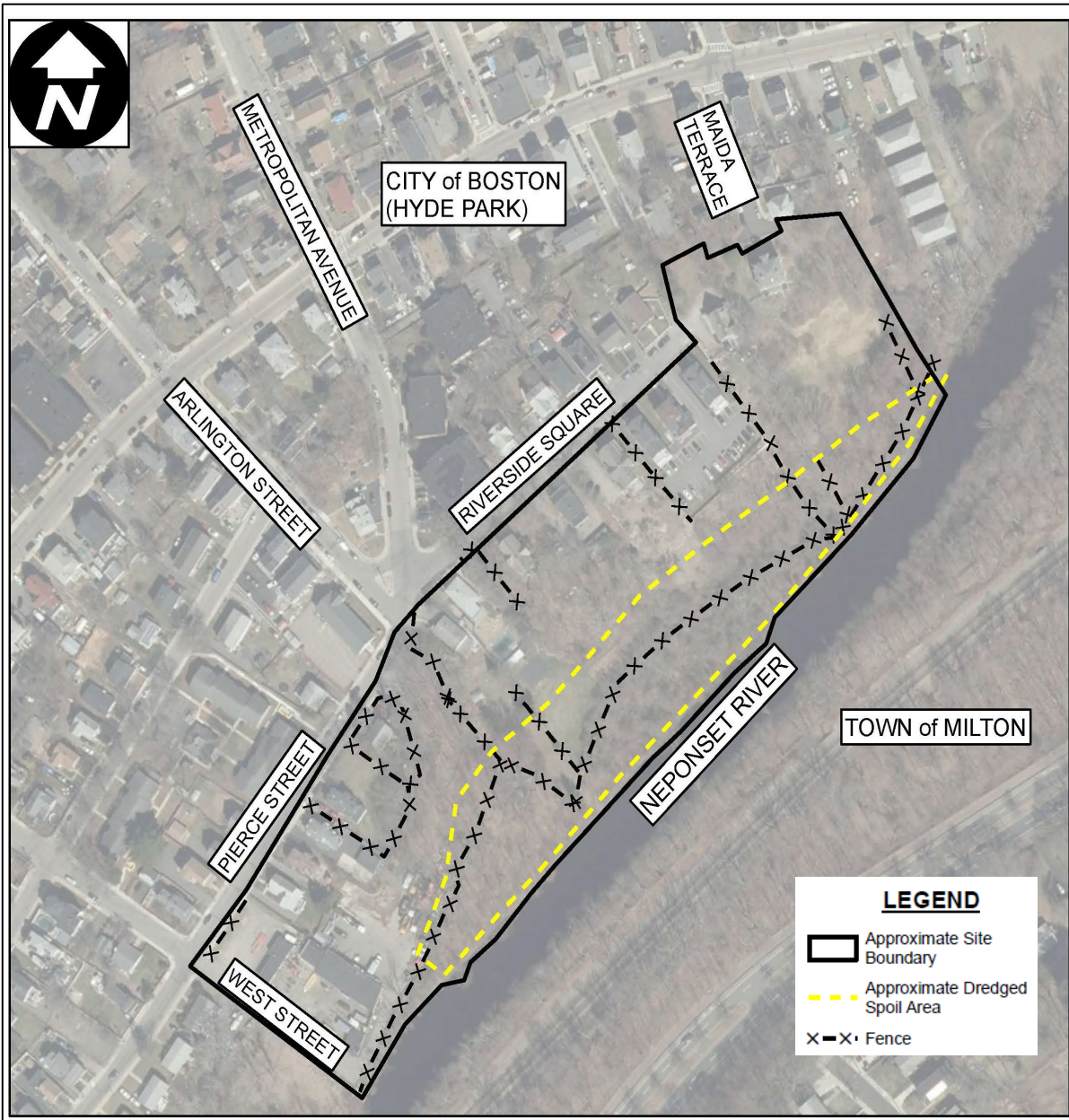
Lewis Chemical
Removal Site





Three Distinct EPA Cleanup Sites

1. Lewis Chemical Site
2. Riverside Square PCB Site
3. Lower Neponset River Superfund Site



Riverside Square PCB Site

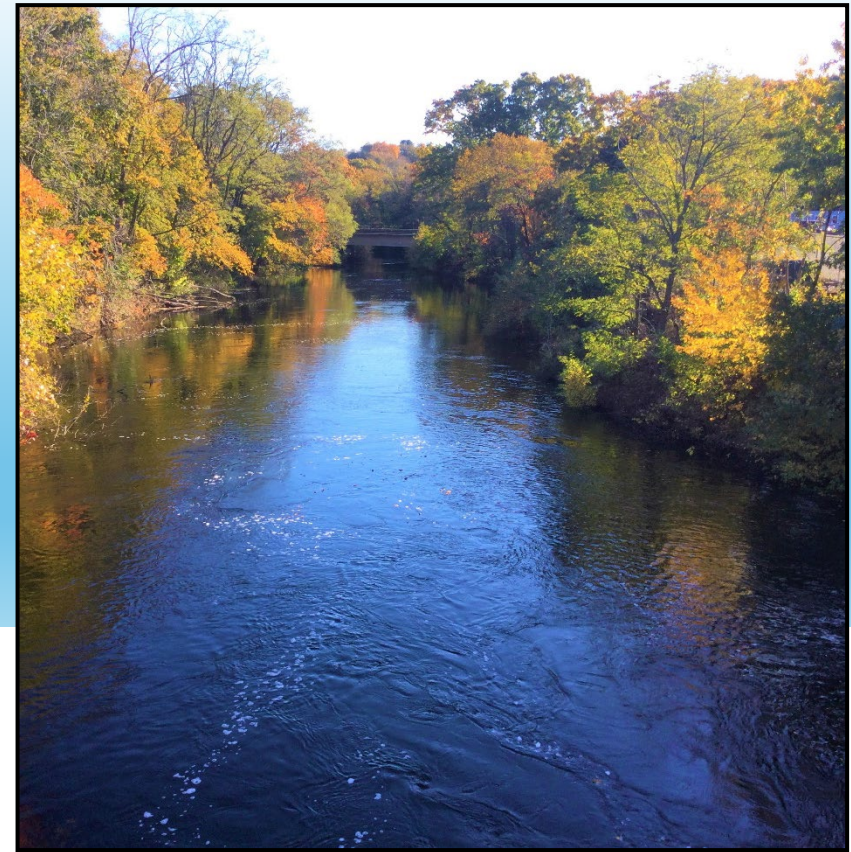
- 8-acre Site: primarily residential area
- In 1962 and 1964, the river was dredged to deepen the channel and some of the dredged spoils were placed in the Riverside Square area
- Sampling has found PCBs and metal contamination in soil within this area
- Field work began in October 2024; cleanup began in October 2025
- Estimated duration of about 2 years
- Currently excavating and transporting soils contaminated with PCBs and other hazardous substances to EPA-approved disposal facilities



For questions about the Lewis Chemical or Riverside Square PCB site, please contact:

- Emma Dixon; dixon.emma@epa.gov; 617-918-1105
- Tom
Hazopolous; Hatzopoulos.Athanasios@epa.gov ;
(617) 918-1284

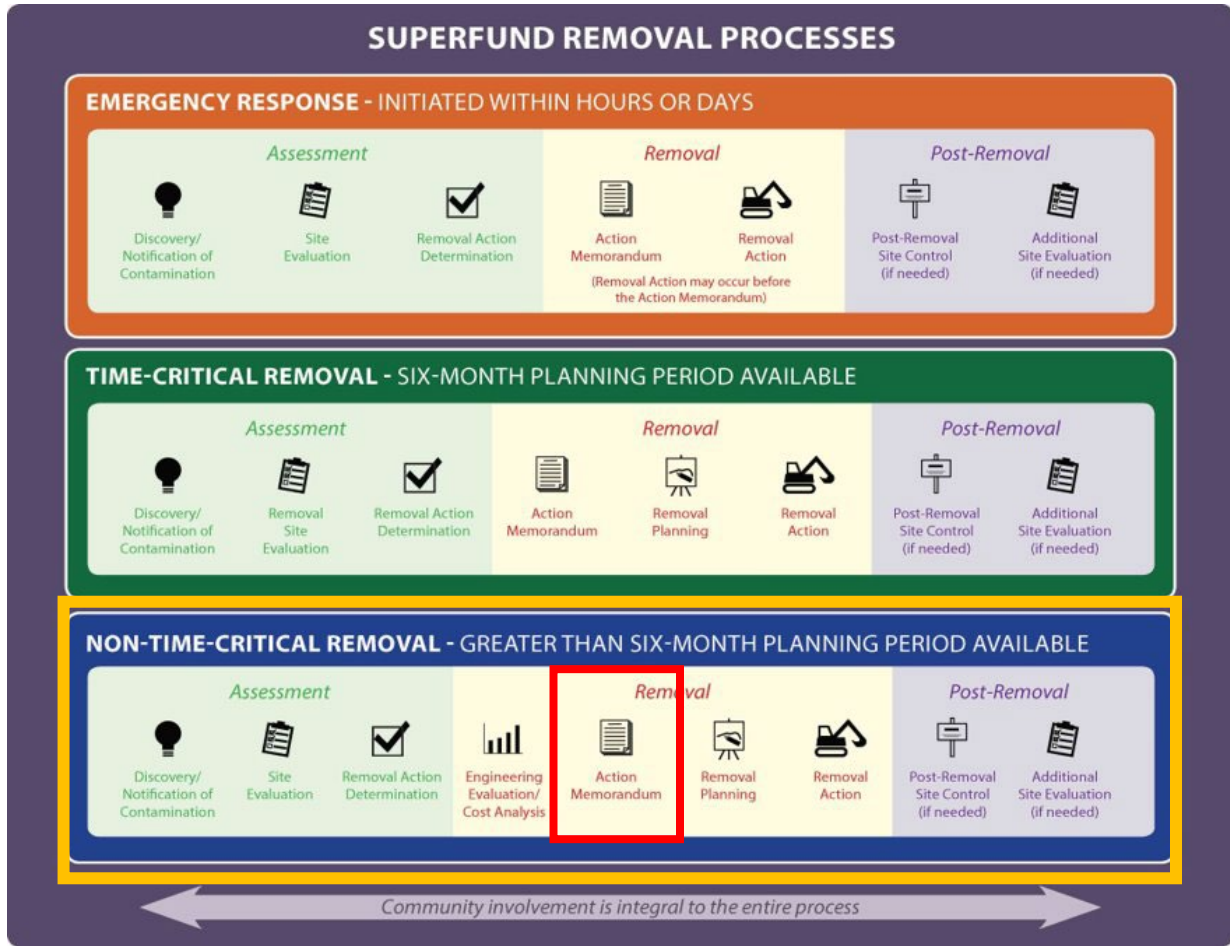
More information can be found
at response.epa.gov/LewisChemical or response.epa.gov/riversidesquarepcb.



Three Distinct EPA Cleanup Sites

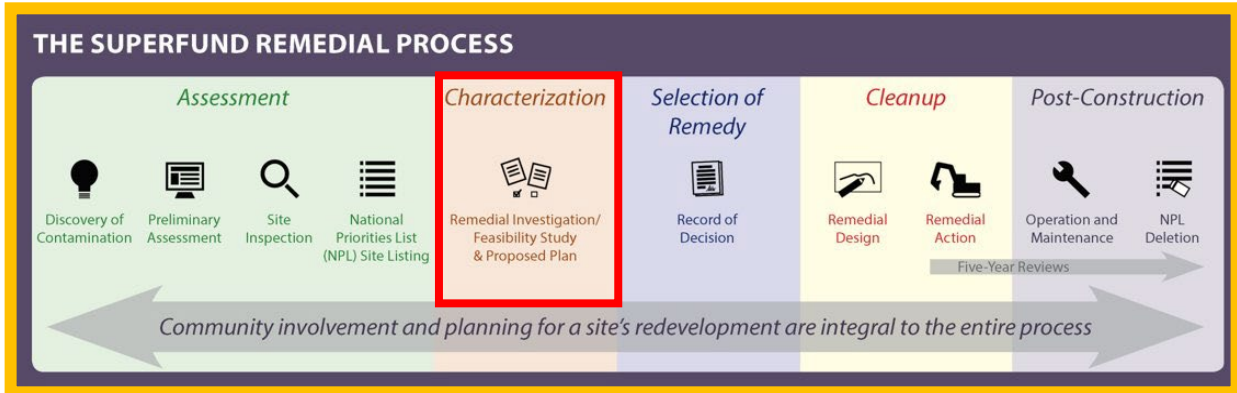
1. Lewis Chemical Site
2. Riverside Sq PCB Site
3. Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

The Lower Neponset River Superfund Site is utilizing a **Non-Time-Critical Removal Action** and the Superfund Remedial Process



Lower Neponset River - Phase 1 Reach

Lower Neponset River (full 3.7 miles)



Overview of Phase 1 Reach Non-Time-Critical Removal Action



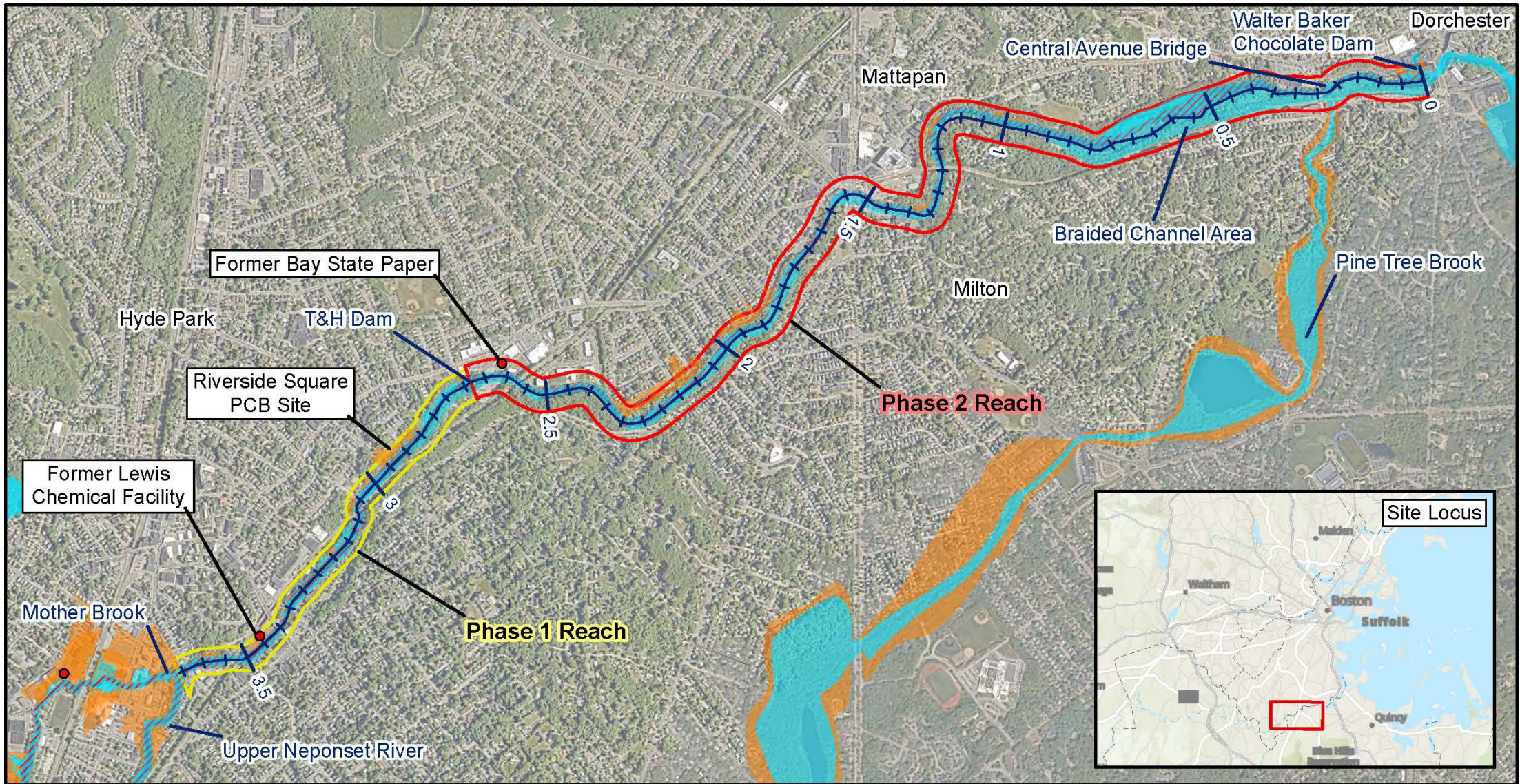
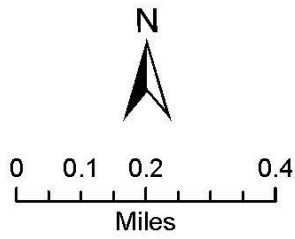


Figure 1
Lower Neponset River Superfund
Site Overview



Legend

- LNR River Miles
- Suspected Source of PCB Contamination to the Site
- Phase 1 Reach
- Phase 2 Reach
- FEMA 100 Year Flood Zone
- FEMA 500 Year Flood Zone
- Regulatory Floodway

Phase 1 Reach NTCRA Overview

- [Action Memorandum](#) finalized on November 5, 2025
 - Signed by Assistant Administrator of U.S. EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management
 - Responsiveness Summary attached to Action Memorandum
- Estimated cost: \$78.6 million
- Cleanup level: 1 mg/kg total PCBs in sediments and floodplain soils
- Addressing PCBs in the Phase 1 Reach will abate any additional risk presented by co-located "Contaminants of Potential Concern"

NTCRA Components



Sediment and floodplain soil removal



Sediment and soil processing and off-site disposal



Capping within the river channel



T&H Dam removal



Restoration, long-term management (monitoring and maintenance, institutional controls)

NTCRA Components



Sediment and floodplain soil removal



Sediment and soil processing and off-site disposal



Capping within the river channel



T&H Dam removal



Restoration, long-term management (monitoring and maintenance, institutional controls)

NTCRA Sediment and Soil Removal

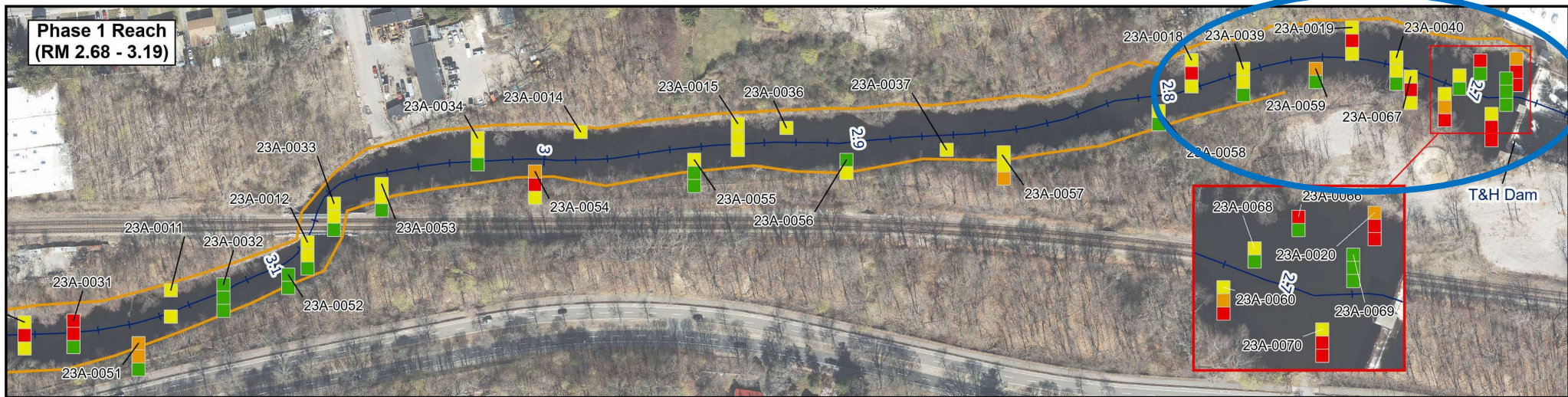
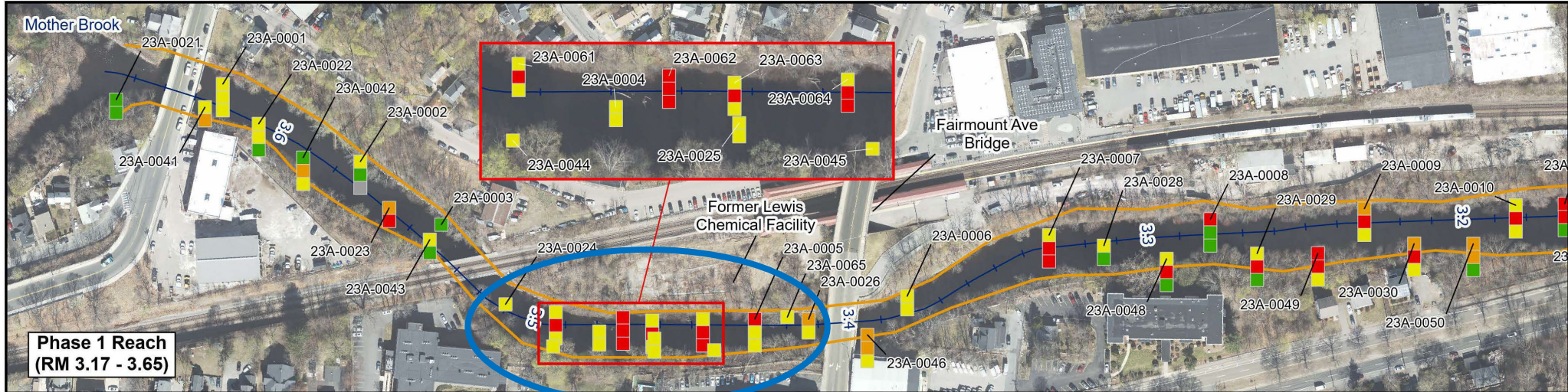
- Floodplain soils will be excavated throughout the Phase 1 Reach to 1 mg/kg total PCBs
- Highly contaminated sediment in source areas will be removed to 1 mg/kg total PCBs
- At least the top 3 feet of sediment will be removed, where practicable
 - Greater than 3 feet of sediments may be removed where any remaining total PCBs are greater than 1 mg/kg
 - A decision matrix will be developed to determine whether additional dredging will occur



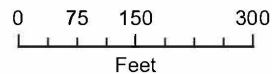
Dredging in the Hudson River ([image source](#))

Total PCBs in Phase 1 Reach Sediment Source Areas

Updated Figure 3 of the
EE/CA, Attachment 6 of
[Action Memorandum](#)



Updated Figure 3
Total PCBs in Phase
1 Reach Sediment



Legend

- LNR River Miles
- Ordinary High Water
- Mark (2023 Wetland Survey)

Total PCBs Concentration (mg/kg)

- Not Detected
- < 1.00 mg/kg
- < 25.0 mg/kg
- < 100.0 mg/kg
- ≥ 100.0 mg/kg

Nominal Depth Interval*

- 0 ft - 0.5 ft below surface
- 0.5 ft - 3.0 ft. below surface
- 3.0 ft - 6.0 ft below surface

*Actual sample depth intervals vary at each sample location. If fewer than 3 depths are shown, deeper samples were not obtained.

NTCRA Capping

- Construct a permanent cap throughout the Phase 1 Reach
- Final cap design will be determined during design and will vary in different areas depending on site conditions
- The permanent cap will:
 - Stabilize the riverbed, adjacent floodplain soils, and impacted abutting structures
 - Minimize surface water elevation changes to conform to regulatory floodway designation
 - Provide ecological habitat
- A decision matrix will be developed to outline how the design of the capping will be determined

NTCRA Capping Continued

- Where 1 mg/kg total PCBs cannot be met through removal, capping will isolate contaminated sediment remaining at depth (i.e., a multi-layer cap with an in-situ amendment)
- Due to extent of removal, EPA anticipates that a multi-layer cap with an in-situ amendment will only be necessary in limited areas



Conceptual Design of Multi-Layer Cap – Excerpt of Figure 16 from [EE/CA Report](#)

T&H Dam Removal

- Potential failure of the T&H Dam threatens a catastrophic and uncontrolled release of the highly contaminated sediment and floodplain soil downstream
- Removing the T&H Dam prevents the foreseeable dam failure



NTCRA Public Involvement



- EPA published the EE/CA Report in June 2025 and solicited public comments on the proposed removal action for the Phase 1 Reach
- EPA hosted a public hearing in July 2025 to received oral comments
- **EPA received 126 individual comment submissions**
- EPA responded to all public comments in the **Responsiveness Summary** which attached to the Action Memorandum.
- **Highlights from Responsiveness Summary**
 - EPA received over 100 comment submissions voicing support for the proposed removal action
 - EPA received significant technical comments

EPA Responses to Frequently Asked Questions and Common Comments

- **EPA made minor changes to NTCRA approach based on public comments received (Comment #4)**
 - Comments requested more sediment removal and less reliance on capping
- **Air monitoring (Comment #2)**
 - Real time air monitoring will be conducted during the removal action
- **Community outreach (Comment #3)**
 - EPA will keep the community updated throughout the removal design and removal action
- **Beneficial reuse along the river (Comment #6)**
 - The removal action will prioritize abating risk, ensuring slope stability, and preventing increases in surface water elevation
 - EPA cannot spend EPA cleanup funds directly on redevelopment or improvements not necessary to the response action.
 - EPA encourages the reuse of superfund sites, and will work with interested parties in redevelopment as appropriate

EPA Enforcement Overview

- EPA is continuing to identify Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)
- EPA is utilizing its enforcement resources to ensure parties responsible for the contamination perform the NTCRA
- Negotiations between EPA and PRPs are confidential
- EPA will update the public on our enforcement efforts when possible and as appropriate
- Additional Enforcement Resource
 - [The Superfund Enforcement Process: How it Works Fact Sheet](#)

EPA Investigation Activities



Overview of EPA Investigations



- Phase 1 Data Collection Effort

- Began in 2023
- Sediment, soil, porewater, surface water sampling within the Phase 1 Reach
- [Phase 1 Data Memo published November 2024](#)
- [Meeting materials for Phase 1 Data Memo](#)
- Data used to prepare EE/CA for Phase 1 Reach NTCRA



- Phase 2 Data Collection Effort

- Began in 2024 immediately following Phase 1 effort
- Sediment, soil, porewater, surface water sampling primarily in the Phase 2 Reach
- Fish and shellfish sampling throughout the entire site

Phase 2 Data

- [Phase 2 Data Memo published February 2026](#)
 - [Phase 2 Pore Water Data Evaluation Memorandum](#)
 - [Phase 2 Data Tables](#)
 - [Phase 2 Data Validation Report](#)
- Key findings
 - Contaminants, including PCBs, were found above Project Action Limits (PALs) in all site media
 - Sediment and soil contamination in Phase 2 Reach is significantly lower than contamination in Phase 1 Reach, particularly for PCBs
 - Highest levels of contaminants were found in sediment and soils in the braided channel
 - Elevated levels of contamination present in fish throughout the Site (both Phase 1 and Phase 2)
 - Fish tissue concentrations were higher in Phase 2 than Phase 1

Validated Stats

Sediment				
Analyte	Units	Max Detected Value	Avg. Detected Values	Location of Max. Detection
Total PCB Congeners	mg/kg	121	12	24A-0042

Soil				
Analyte	Units	Max Detected Value	Avg. Detected Values	Location of Max. Detection
Total PCB Congeners	mg/kg	104	9	24D-0075

Fish Tissue (Fillet)				
Analyte	Units	Max Detected Value	Avg. Detected Values	Location of Max. Detection
Total PCB Congeners	mg/kg	4.16	1.35	24F-0002-WS34S



Figure 14
Total PCBs in Phase 2 Sediment
Panel 1 of 3
Lower Neponset River Project



Legend

— LNR River Miles

Note:
Values presented in the legend
represent the 25th, 50th, and 75th
percentiles of the results for Phase 2
reach locations

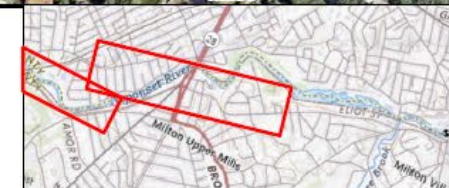
Total PCB Conc. (mg/kg)

- Below 25th Percentile (< 1.06 mg/kg)
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- 50th - 75th Percentile (≥ 3.13 mg/kg to < 12.21 mg/kg)
- Above 75th Percentile (≥ 12.22 mg/kg)

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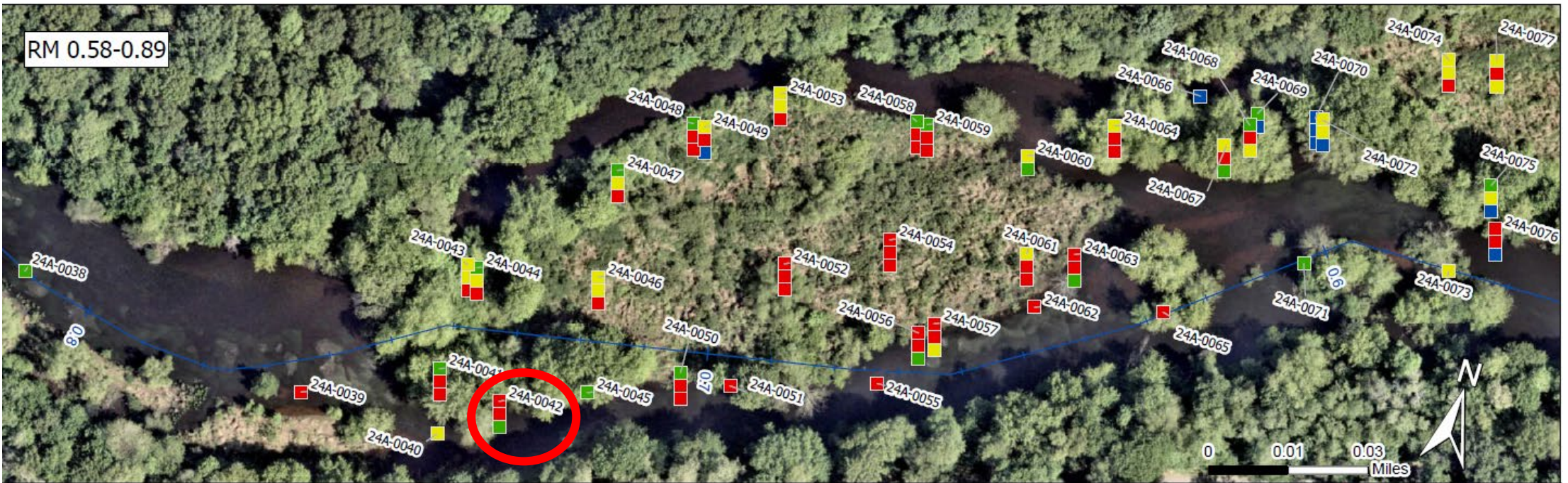


Figure 14
Total PCBs in Phase 2 Sediment
Panel 2 of 3
Lower Neponset River Project



Legend

— LNR River Miles

Note:
Values presented in the legend represent the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles of the results for Phase 2 reach locations

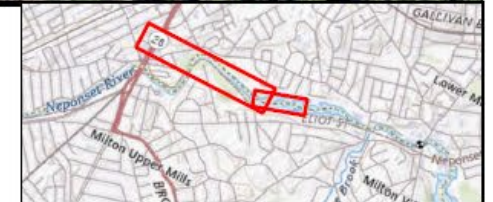
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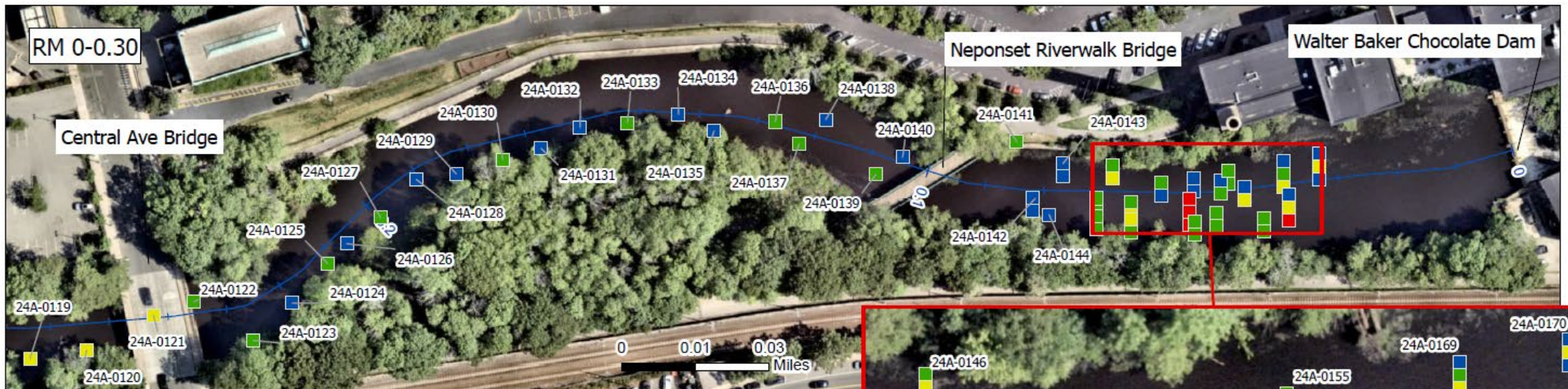
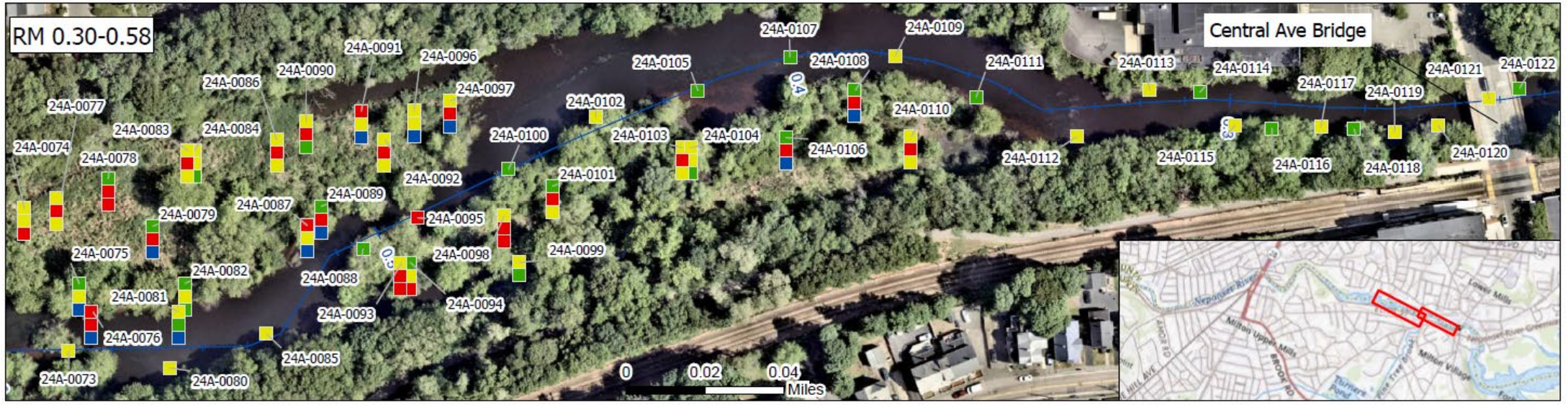


Figure 14
Total PCBs in Phase 2 Sediment
Panel 3 of 3
Lower Neponset River Project



Legend

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— LNR River Miles

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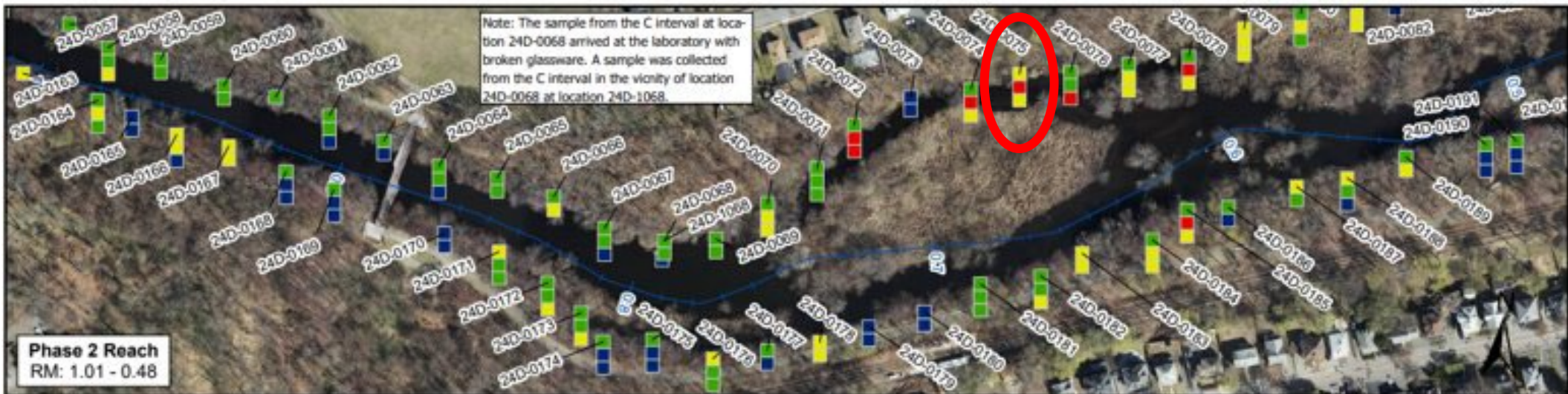
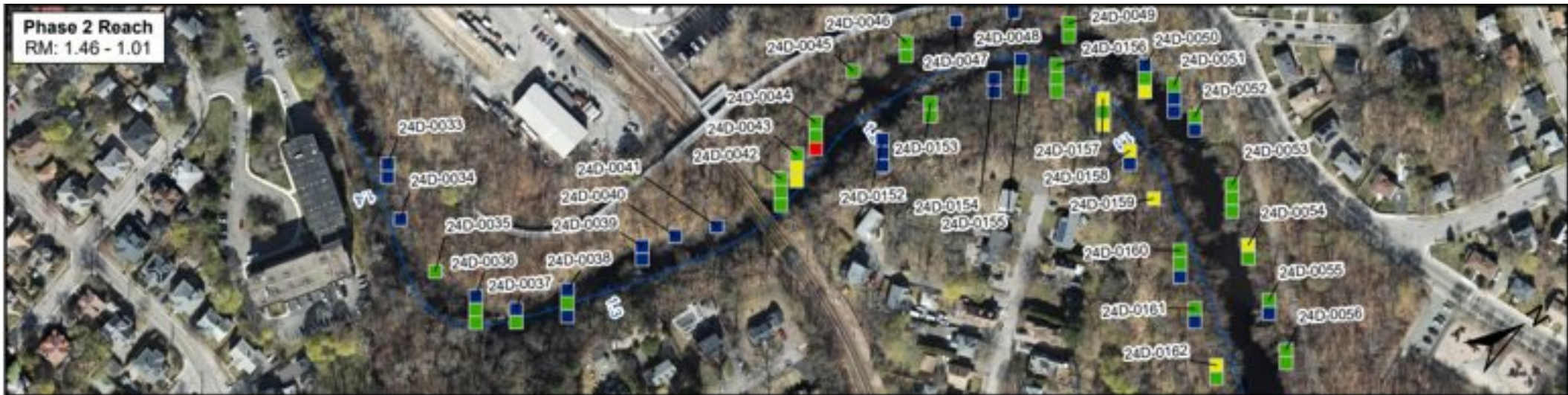
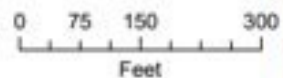


Figure 8
Total PCBs in Phase 2 Floodplain Soil
Panel 2 of 3
Lower Neponset River Project

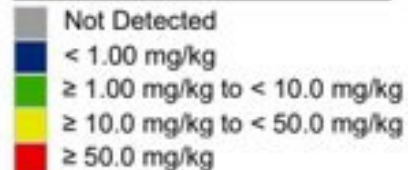
AECOM

Legend

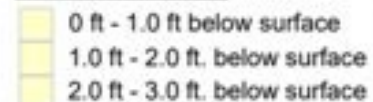
— LNR River Miles



Total PCBs Conc. (mg/kg)



Depth Interval*



*Actual sample depth intervals vary at each sample location. If only one depth is shown, a deeper sample was not obtained.





1969 Aerial

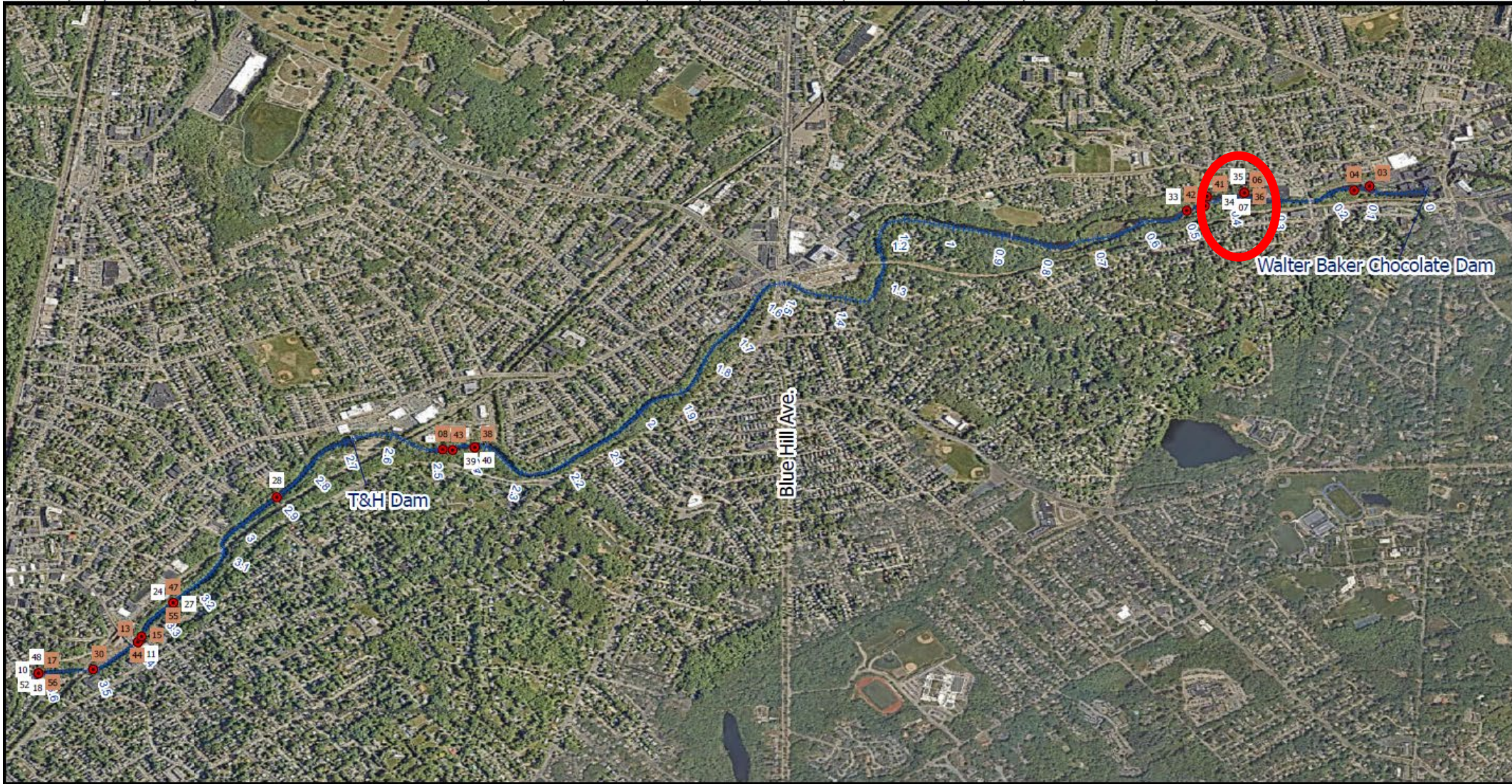
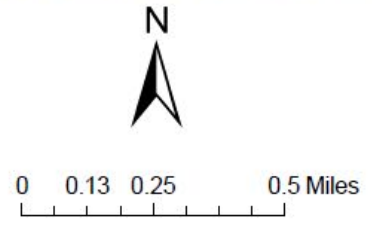


Figure 7
Fish Sampling Locations
Lower Neponset River Project



Legend

- LNR River Miles
- Trot Line Locations
- # White Sucker
- # Brown Bullhead

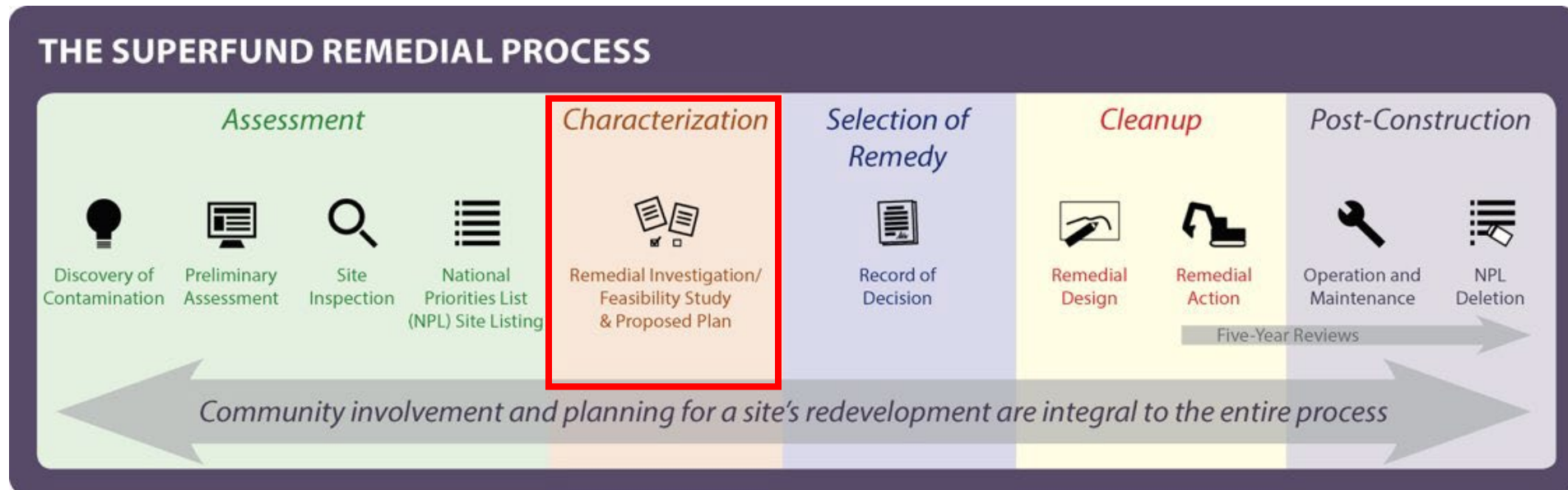
Fish and Shellfish Data

- PCBs were found at a maximum value of **4.16 mg/kg** in fish tissue
- Average concentration of PCBs in fish tissue was **1.35mg/kg**
- EPA is continuing to evaluate this data as part of the Site's Remedial Investigation
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) establishes fish consumption advisories for waterbodies throughout Massachusetts, including for the Neponset River
- DPH is currently evaluating this fish tissue data for the purpose of determining whether the existing fish consumption advisory for the Neponset River should be updated.
- DPH contact information
 - Mara Seeley: Mara.Seeley@mass.gov

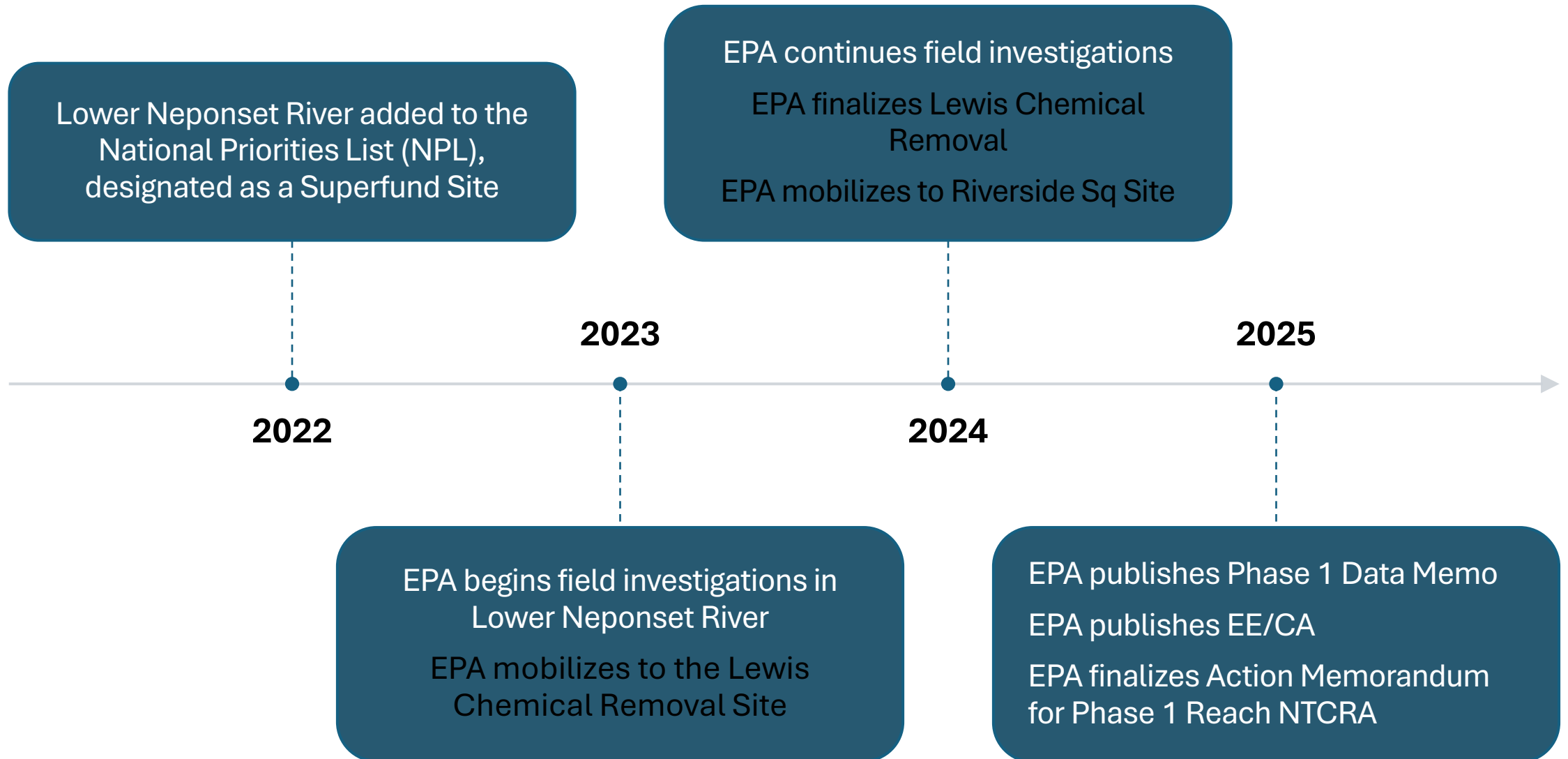


Next Steps for EPA's Remedial Investigation

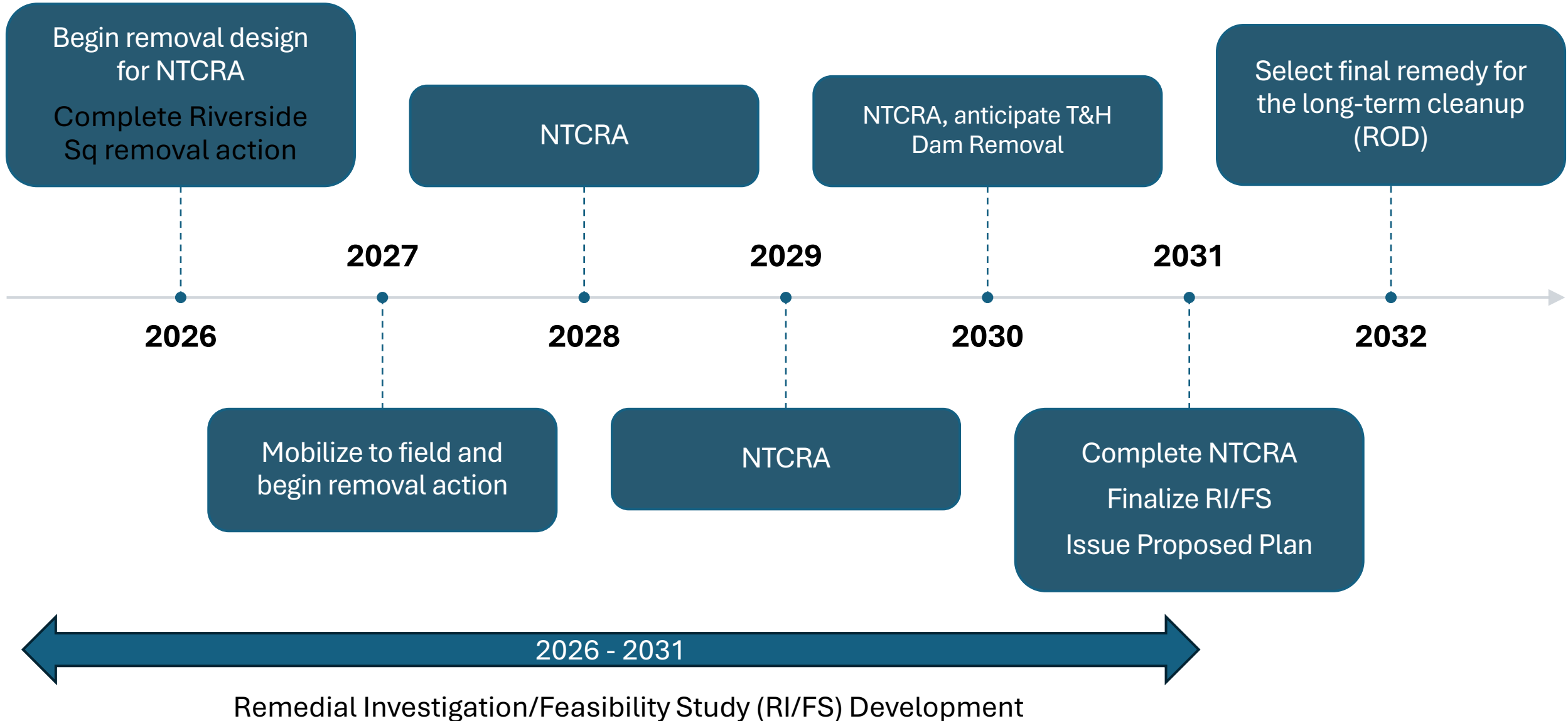
- Identify data gaps
- Collect additional data needed to fill data gaps
- Evaluate data to determine human health and ecological risk



Lower Neponset River Site Timeline



Anticipated Schedule (subject to change)



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R1Neponset@epa.gov



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Urban Waters - Neponset River

Announcements

[Data Evaluation Summary Memorandum - Phase 2 Investigation \(pdf\)](#) (34.1 MB)
Learn more about the Phase 2 investigation activities at the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site from May 2024 through May 2025.

[JOIN: CAG Meeting #25 February 17, 2026](#)

1 2 3 4

Lower Neponset River Remedial Work

- [Why clean up the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site?](#)
- [What progress has been made in the remedial investigation?](#)

Understanding Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

- [What are PCBs?](#)
- [Health Effects of PCBs](#)
- [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)](#)

Community Corner

- [Community Advisory Group](#)

Site Map

Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

Stay Updated!

- [Events, Meetings, and Updates](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Join Mailing List](#)
- [Reuse Assessment](#)

Popular Documents and Resources

- NEW** [Data Evaluation Summary Memorandum - Phase 2 Investigation \(pdf\)](#) (34.1 MB)
- [Action Memorandum - Approval for a Non Time Critical Removal Action \(NTRCA\) \(pdf\)](#) (28.7 MB)

Thank you!

- **EPA Community Involvement Coordinators**

- Aaron Shaheen (shaheen.aaron@epa.gov)
- Liz McCarthy (mccarthy.elizabeth@epa.gov)

- **EPA Remedial Project Managers (Lower Neponset River)**

- Emma Minker (minker.emma@epa.gov)
- Tristan Pluta (pluta.alexander@epa.gov)

- **EPA On Scene Coordinators (Riverside Square)**

- Emma Dixon (dixon.emma@epa.gov)
- Tom Hatzopolous (hatzopoulos.athanasios@epa.gov)

Lower Neponset River Superfund Community Advisory Group



CAG Meeting in Riverwood Community Room, 2024.



EPA Press Event at Lewis Chemical Removal Site, aka Meadow Landing, 2024.

A blue speech bubble with a dark blue outline and a light blue gradient fill. Inside the bubble, the text "Q&A" is written in a dark blue, bold, sans-serif font. The bubble has a tail pointing towards the bottom-left corner.

Q&A