



Superfund  
Redevelopment  
Initiative

# SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROFILE

31 Water Street Site

Amesbury, Massachusetts



**Site Location:** 31 Water Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913

**Size:** About 0.56 acres

**Existing Site Infrastructure:** Water, sewer and electricity are located on site.

**Current Site Uses:** Heritage Park, a local recreation area and educational resource, is located on site. A bandstand and river walk will be added to the park in the near future. The Amesbury Riverwalk, a 1.3-mile walking and biking trail, runs alongside the site. Future plans call for the conversion of a former carriage house on site into a community heritage center.

**Surrounding Population:** 16,283 people live in Amesbury (2010 Census).

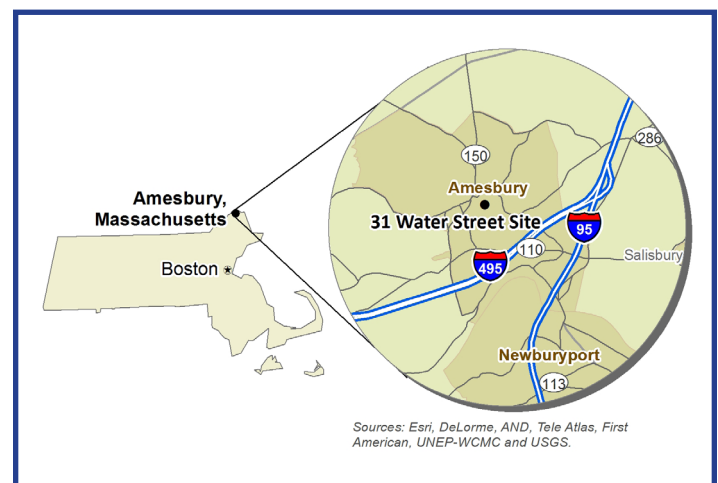
During the 19th century, the site and its surroundings were a hub of industrial activity. These operations resulted in soil contamination in an area known as the Lower Millyard. Industrial activity on site ceased after the Great Depression.

The site's redevelopment is part of a larger mixed-use planning initiative by the city of Amesbury. In November 2013, the Massachusetts Office of Housing and Economic Development awarded the locality \$1.6 million from its MassWorks Infrastructure Program to invest in the redevelopment of the Lower Millyard project. In 2014, the city of Amesbury received a \$200,000 Massachusetts Brownfields Program Assessment Grant to help community members learn about the cleanup of the Lower Millyard area and support planning efforts for Heritage Park. EPA's Superfund Program committed \$1.2 million to remove contaminated soil from the site and stabilize the riverbank. EPA dug up 1,400 tons of contaminated soil and disposed of it off site. EPA also stabilized the riverbank with 400 feet of sheet pile wall. EPA completed site cleanup actions in July 2015.

Today, Heritage Park is beginning to take shape. Park plantings and landscaping are well established. Plazas

and signs detailing the area's history are in place. A bandstand and river walk will be added in the near future. The Amesbury Carriage Museum and the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce plan to turn the Biddle & Smart building on site into a community heritage center.

The cleanup and redevelopment of the 31 Water Street site is a vital part of Amesbury's city-wide redevelopment efforts. The project illustrates how Superfund



Location of the site in Amesbury, Massachusetts.

## SITE HISTORY AND REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- 1800s** Amesbury's Lower Millyard uses the site and surrounding areas for industrial activities.
- 1930s** Industrial activities cease.
- 2000** Environmental site investigations begin in the area.
- November 2013** Amesbury receives \$1.6 million in state funding to invest in redevelopment.
- May 2014** EPA conducts preliminary assessment and site investigation.
- 2014** Amesbury receives \$200,000 community education grant.
- July 2015** EPA completes cleanup activities.
- February 2017** Redevelopment begins.

*"We have a vision for the Lower Millyard. To prosper, we need economic growth, just like every other city and town. [These projects and new growth] mean that we will have revenue to invest in our education system and provide tax relief to our residents."*

– Thatcher Kezer, Mayor of Amesbury

Redevelopment can provide opportunities to celebrate community history and heritage while also looking to the future. Economic growth relies on local amenities and community quality of life as well as business development. The Amesbury community is successfully writing a new chapter in its long and vibrant history.



The completed riverbank stabilization project. (Source: EPA)



A revegetated area of the site in September 2017. (Source: EPA)



Riverbank stabilization work at the site in 2015. (Source: EPA)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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