SUPERFUND

Lower Neponset River Site
Boston/Milton, MA

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.

DESCRIPTION:

The Lower Neponset River Superfund Site (the Site) is currently identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a 3.7-mile stretch of the Neponset River from the point where it merges with the Mother Brook (a tributary to the Neponset River located upstream of Dana Avenue in Hyde Park) downstream to the Walter Baker Chocolate Dam (located upstream of Adams Street in Dorchester/Milton). Based on EPA sampling conducted in 2023, the first mile of the Site contains contaminated sediment, floodplain soils, pore water, and surface water. The Site borders residential, commercial, industrial, and public land, including the Neponset River Greenway.

A 30-day public comment period will begin on June 13, 2025, and extend through July 13, 2025. A virtual public hearing will be held on the evening of July 9, 2025.

UPCOMING ACTIVITY:

The EPA is asking for your feedback on the recommended cleanup alternative for the Phase 1 Reach of the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site provided in the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The EE/CA generally contains the following information:

- A summary of contamination at the Site and past cleanups.
- Identification of areas and waste volumes that may require cleanup.
- Cleanup alternatives for the Phase 1 Reach of the Site.
- An evaluation and comparison of each cleanup alternative based upon effectiveness, implementability, and cost.
- The EPA-recommended cleanup alternative.
- Request for public comment.

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KEY CONTACTS:

ZANETTA PURNELL
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
617-918-1306
R1Neponset@epa.gov

ALEXANDER "TRISTAN" PLUTA
EPA Remedial Project Manager
617-918-1258
pluta.alexander@epa.gov

GENERAL INFO:

TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE
1-888-EPA-7341

LEARN MORE AT:

www.epa.gov/neponsetriver

A 30-day public comment period will begin on June 13, 2025, and extend through July 13, 2025. A virtual public hearing will be held on the evening of July 9, 2025. A pre-recorded informational presentation will be made available on the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site webpage in advance of the virtual public hearing.

Registration information for the virtual public hearing will be available on the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site website at www.epa.gov/neponsetriver.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

A "public comment period" for the EE/CA is a designated timeframe when the public can submit formal comments on EPA's recommended action. Commenting is an important way to make your voice heard in the decision-making process. Public comments can strengthen environmental decisions by providing facts or perspectives that may not have been considered during the drafting process. Tips for providing effective comments can be found here:

epa.gov/publicnotices/tips-providing-effective-comments-epa-actions

At the conclusion of the public comment period, EPA will prepare a written summary of significant comments, criticisms, and new relevant information submitted during the public comment period. This responsiveness summary shall be made available with the Action Memorandum, which documents EPA's cleanup decision.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION:

A virtual public hearing will be conducted on the evening on July 9, 2025. Public hearings provide an opportunity for the public to provide oral public comments on proposed EPA actions. All oral public comments received becomes part of the public record. During the hearing, EPA representatives can acknowledge, but not respond directly to, comments voiced by community members. Agency responses to oral public comments will be included in the responsiveness summary.

METHODS TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal (EPA preferred method): https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-R01-SFUND-2025-0083
  Docket ID No. EPA-R01-SFUND-2025-0083
- E-mail: R1Neponset@epa.gov
  Include in subject line: Docket ID No. EPA-R01-SFUND-2025-0083
- Oral: A virtual public hearing will be held on July 9, 2025
- U.S. Postal Service:
  Address to:
  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1 – Alexander Pluta, SEMD Remedial Project Manager
  5 Post Office Square - Suite 100 (Mail Code 07-MI), Boston, MA 02109-3912
- Hand Delivery or Courier (by scheduled appointment only):
  U.S. EPA New England, Region 1, Records and Information Center
  5 Post Office Square - Suite 100
  Boston, MA 02109-3912

The Records Center's hours of operations are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (except Federal Holidays).
For appointment scheduling, please call Christopher Ferry at (617) 918-1440.

All public comments must be received or post-marked by **11:59 p.m. on July 13, 2025**.

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Community Advisory Group (CAG):

Community members who live near and/or are impacted by the Site have formed a Community Advisory Group. CAGs provide a way for community members to gather and exchange information, discuss their needs and concerns related to a Superfund Site, and be a part of the decision-making process.

The members of the CAG represent a range of community interests. If you are interested in learning more about or possibly joining the CAG, please reach out directly to ripley@neponset.org.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC):

An independent technical advisor is available to explain technical findings, assist the community in better understanding complex environmental issues, answer community questions, craft public comments for the EE/CA, and support the community's active role in protecting public health and the environment.

TASC services are available to present technical information, discuss community concerns, and craft community comments. Specific logistical details will be available during the public comment period.

HELPFUL LINKS

About the Superfund Cleanup Process:

epa.gov/superfund/about-superfund-cleanup-process

Conducting Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions Under CERCLA – Quick Reference Fact Sheet:

semspub.epa.gov/work/11/175656.pdf

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Tox FAQs:

atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts17.pdf

Data Evaluation Summary Memorandum – Phase 1 Report:

semspub.epa.gov/work/01/100032178.pdf

Community Advisory Group (CAG):
epa.gov/neponsetriver/stay-updated-get-involved-lower-neponset-river-bostonmilton-ma#CAG

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC):
www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program

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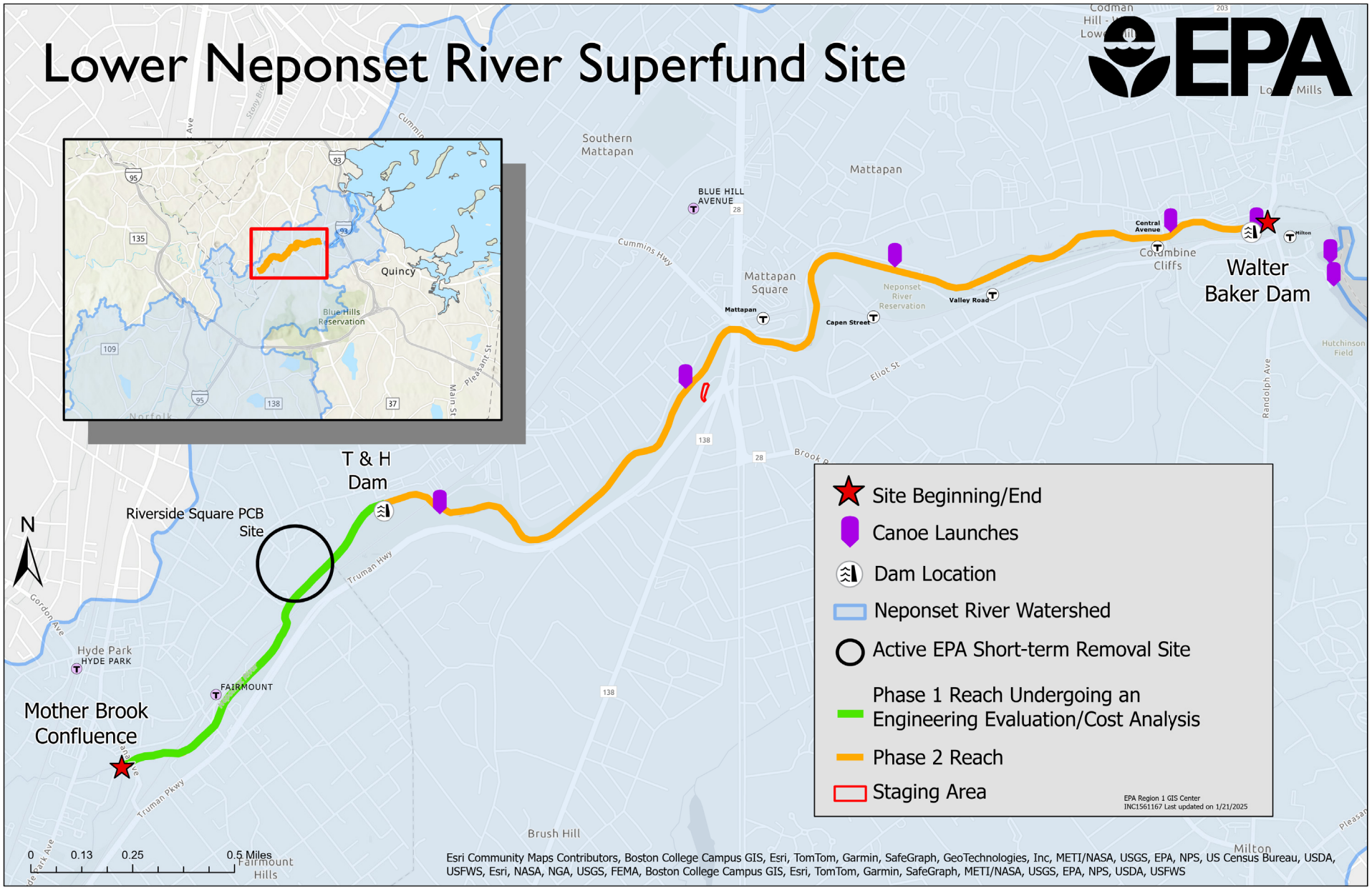
Lower Neponset River Superfund Site