



Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN**



2026
February

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE COMMUNITY

This section provides a brief introduction to the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site and identifies issues and concerns raised during interactions with the community.

3

THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

This section provides EPA's plan for communicating and engaging with the community. It also describes how EPA will address the issues and concerns identified during informal interactions. The Community Involvement Plan relies on tools and techniques that EPA has developed over the years at hundreds of Superfund sites.

8

APPENDICES

- Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Technical Overview
- Overview of the Superfund Cleanup Process
- History of Community Involvement Activities
- Community Involvement Plan
- Glossary of Terms
- Acronyms and Abbreviations

11

INTRODUCTION

The goal of this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is to encourage and facilitate community engagement throughout the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site (the Site) time-critical removal action (TCRA) cleanup. The CIP describes how EPA will involve the community and address local needs during the Superfund removal process. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the community will work together by using the tools described in this plan. Active public involvement is crucial to the success of any project. EPA's community involvement activities at the Site are designed to inform the public of all cleanup activities and include the community in the decision-making process when applicable.

EPA defines the "community" as those people and entities who have an interest in or are affected by the Site. EPA also recognizes that other stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies, may have an interest in the Site. This CIP is based on a series of community interactions with the affected community and stakeholders in accordance with EPA's Superfund community involvement and cleanup guidance. The CIP is a "living document," meaning that it can be updated or revised over the course of site cleanup to reflect long-term changes in the community.

Community Involvement at the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site

Active and participatory community involvement is an important part of the cleanup process. It is also regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as "Superfund." This CIP follows community involvement requirements in the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) §117 and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) §300.430. EPA's Community Involvement Program is designed to facilitate participation of community members throughout the removal process, including the investigation and response phases, and EPA works closely with state and local agencies to provide community involvement throughout the cleanup process.

THE COMMUNITY

Site Overview

In summer 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Town of Dartmouth Board of Health discovered waste material, including buried drums containing unknown materials, at a residential property located at 85 McCabe Street in Dartmouth, MA. MassDEP issued a field Notice of Responsibility (NOR) to the property developer. The developer hired a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) and began conducting response actions. During this process, MassDEP learned of potential dumping activities in the Bliss Corner neighborhood dating back to the 1930s.

During follow up inspections and sampling activities in 2018, MassDEP and the Town of Dartmouth discovered waste material containing lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at three additional properties located on Kraseman and McCabe Streets. The PCB concentration in some samples was measured in excess of the MassDEP Imminent Hazard (IH) Level set forth in the [Massachusetts Contingency Plan \(MCP\) \(see 310 C.M.R. §40.0321\(2\)\)](#).

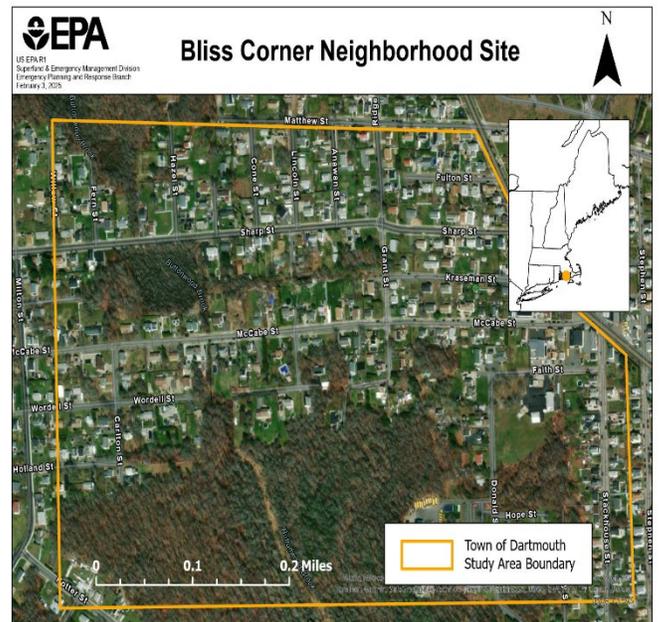


Fig 1. Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site study area

In May and June 2019, MassDEP discovered waste material containing lead and PCBs in subsurface soil samples collected from Town of Dartmouth rights-of-way. In several of these samples, both lead and PCBs exceeded the MassDEP Residential Standard for lead (an environmental threshold set forth in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) (see 310 CMR 40.0975(6))). In July 2019, MassDEP began collecting soil samples from residential properties within the neighborhood. Many samples collected during this sampling initiative contained concentrations of lead and PCBs that exceeded the MassDEP Residential Standard for lead and MassDEP PCB IH Level.

In October 2020, EPA received a request from MassDEP to support additional soil sampling activities in the Bliss Corner neighborhood. In July and September 2020, MassDEP and EPA sampled 37 residential properties in the Bliss Corner neighborhood. In June 2021, EPA and MassDEP sampled an additional nine properties.

In August 2021, EPA received a request from MassDEP to conduct a time-critical removal action in the Bliss Corner neighborhood to address residential properties where sampling results indicated that lead and PCBs exceeded one or more of the MassDEP and EPA threshold criteria (MassDEP Residential Standard, MassDEP IH Level, and EPA Removal Management Levels).

Since receipt of the request to perform a time-critical removal action in the Bliss Corner neighborhood, EPA has conducted removal actions at 19 residential and one commercial property. EPA continues to conduct removal actions and provide sampling and analytical support to MassDEP in the Bliss Corner neighborhood. From the date of the initial discovery of waste material in 2018 through early 2025, MassDEP and EPA sampled over 100 properties. Additional removal actions are expected to occur in 2026 and 2027.

About the Community

The community is home to tens of thousands of people living in several thousand households. The population is diverse, with a majority identifying as White. Smaller groups include Hispanic, Black, Asian, and American Indian residents, along with individuals of mixed racial backgrounds. Part of the community identifies as Portuguese. Many residents are middle-aged adults and the median income is above the average compared to Bristol County. Homeownership is common, with most people living in owner-occupied units.

Past Community Involvement Activities

EPA and MassDEP have engaged with the community throughout the removal process. These activities include:

- Hosting public meetings
- Responding to press interviews
- Creating fact sheets
- Flyer-dropping
- Door-knocking

EPA has provided communication materials in Portuguese upon request. For more information about the site, please visit:

- response.epa.gov/BlissCorner
- response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponsell
- response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponselll

Our Partners

Federal

EPA partners with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to respond to questions about health concerns regarding potential exposure to site contaminants.

EPA partners with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to relocate residents when necessary, during time-critical removal actions.

State

EPA provides MassDEP with sampling and analytical support to sample residential properties and supports MassDEP by conducting time-critical removal actions to address contaminated soil at residential properties with the greatest health risk.

Local

EPA collaborates with the Town of Dartmouth to respond to resident inquiries regarding exposure to site contaminants, address logistical concerns, and provide the Town with updates on overall site activity.

Key Contacts

<p><i>EPA Contacts</i></p> <p>Cayla Jimenez On-Scene Coordinator Mail Code: 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109 W: 617-918-1121 M: 857-208-3791 jimenez.cayla@epa.gov</p>	<p>John McKeown On-Scene Coordinator Mail Code: 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109 W: 617-918-1793 M: 617-918-1793 mckeown.john@epa.gov</p>	<p>Aaron Shaheen Community Involvement Coordinator Mail Code: 1-MI 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109 W: 617-918-1071 M: 617-913-9181 shaheen.aaron@epa.gov</p>
<p><i>Site Partner Contacts</i></p> <p>Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Lori Williamson Environmental Analyst 20 Riverside Drive Lakeville, MA 02347 617-874-7164 lori.williamson@mass.gov</p>	<p>Town of Dartmouth Christopher Michaud Director of Public Health 400 Slocum Road, Room 119 Dartmouth, MA 02747 508-910-1804 cmichaud@town.dartmouth.ma.us</p>	<p>Town of Dartmouth Arielle Enos Health & Sanitary Inspector 400 Slocum Road, Room 119 Dartmouth, MA 02747 508-910-1804 aenos@town.dartmouth.ma.us</p>

Elected Officials

For more information on elected officials, please visit <https://elections.mytimetovote.com>.

- U.S. House of Representatives. Visit www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative for contact information for your current congressional representative. The Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site is in the 9th congressional district.
- U.S. Senate. Visit www.senate.gov/senators for contact information for your current U.S. senators for Massachusetts.
- State House/Assembly. Visit www.malegislature.gov/Legislators/Members/House for contact information for your current Massachusetts representative. The Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site is in the 9th Bristol district.
- State Senate. Visit www.malegislature.gov/Legislators/Members/Senate for contact information for your current senator. The Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site is in the second Bristol and Plymouth district.

Overview of the CIP Process

This CIP was created using feedback received from MassDEP, Town of Dartmouth staff and community members throughout the cleanup process. These interactions took place during public meetings and in-person visits to residents. Many residents have been directly impacted and/or their residences have been subject to removal actions. EPA encourages additional information from residents and the Town to better serve the community and update the CIP throughout the Site's cleanup.

Community Issues and Concerns

The community prefers fact sheets and door-to-door interactions as modes of communication for residential removal actions. Each residential cleanup includes an initial site walk and consultation to discuss specific details of the cleanup process.

Community members have expressed concerns with the cleanup process, including concerns related to increased road dust during the dry summer months and landscaping during the restoration phase of removal actions. EPA works closely with the community to address these concerns as soon as they are made aware of them. Concerns have been received by EPA through informal discussions, in-person interactions with residents, and, in one instance related to road dust, through formal letters developed by a small constituency of residents.

Community members have also expressed concerns about potential health impacts due to exposure to lead and PCBs from contaminated soil, especially about how the contaminants may impact children. EPA provides recommendations to reduce exposure to lead and coordinates with the Dartmouth Board of Health and ATSDR to address health-related concerns.

One resident expressed concern about contamination of their private well. MassDEP conducted sampling at their well and did not identify any contaminants of concern (COCs) above acceptable standards.

EPA and MassDEP are consistently in communication with the Town of Dartmouth and answer press requests as they arise. EPA staff have welcomed town officials and press to the Site staging area and active residential cleanup sites in the neighborhood.

EPA and MassDEP will continue to communicate with residents during the performance of removal actions and to request access to properties to conduct soil sampling.

Contaminants of Concern

Lead and PCBs are considered COCs at the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site. COCs are chemicals that are addressed by a cleanup action because they pose a potential threat to human health or the environment. Steps to reduce exposure to these contaminants include:

- Providing EPA and MassDEP with property access to conduct sampling and removal actions if necessary.
- Avoid exposing skin to contaminated soil.
- Ensuring objects in contact with contaminated soil do not enter living spaces (remove shoes before entering residences and store gardening tools outside).
- Gardening in raised beds as much as possible and thoroughly washing any food grown directly in contaminated soil.

ATSDR maintains a series of summaries about contaminants called ToxFAQs. You can find ToxFAQs on lead and PCBs at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs. For more information on contaminants at Superfund sites, please visit: www.epa.gov/superfund/contaminants-superfund-sites.

Lead

Lead contamination at Superfund sites presents a threat to human health and the environment. Lead is a naturally occurring element, but most lead found in the environment is due to human activity. A person may come into contact with lead through ingesting (eating or drinking) something that is contaminated by lead or by inhaling (breathing) dust that contains lead. Over time, lead has become a common contaminant at Superfund sites. For more information about lead, please visit www.epa.gov/lead or ATSDR's lead ToxFAQs at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

PCBs are considered a COC at the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site. PCBs were domestically manufactured from 1929 until 1979 and were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications due to their unique characteristics. PCBs are non-flammable, chemically stable, exhibit a high boiling point, and were often used in electrical equipment. More information regarding PCBs may be found in ATSDR's PCBs ToxFAQs (listed as "polychlorinated biphenyls") at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs.

THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Community Involvement Objectives

EPA and MassDEP meet and consult with residents to gain access to residential properties to conduct soil sampling and removal actions, as well as throughout the duration of any removal action conducted on the property. Removal actions usually include:

- Recording preexisting property conditions
- Excavating contaminated soil from the property
- Transporting and disposing of contaminated soil at an EPA-approved disposal facility
- Backfilling the excavated area with clean fill material (including pre-screened gravel, soil, and topsoil)
- Restoring the property to previous conditions to the extent practicable

Ongoing Communication

EPA will continue to work with MassDEP, Town of Dartmouth, and community members and organizations to ensure any important updates or Site information is shared directly with the public.

To sign up for the site email list, please contact shaheen.aaron@epa.gov.

Community Involvement Tools and Activities

EPA has identified and developed a variety of tools and activities to better engage with and involve the community.

Web Page

EPA will continue to maintain webpages specifically for removal actions conducted at the Bliss Corner neighborhood Site. For updates on past, current, and future work at the Site, please visit:

- response.epa.gov/BlissCorner
- response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponsell
- response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponselll

The webpage:

- Provides an overview of the Site's history and EPA's involvement.
- Provides updated information about the Superfund cleanup process to the public. New information will be featured under Current Site Status and Announcement/Key Topics.
- Shares site-related reports and documents with the public as they become available. Documents may be found in the "Documents" section by clicking the "Documents" tab.
- Shares site-related public notices. Public notices may be found in the "Notices" section by clicking the "Notices" tab.

EPA also provides information about the Superfund Program and Region 1 through the following webpages:

- National Emergency Response Program: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response>
- EPA Region 1: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england>
- Superfund Community Involvement: www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement

Other organizations also maintain webpages related to the Site:

- MassDEP: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/bliss-corner-neighborhood-dartmouth-ma>
- Town of Dartmouth: <https://www.town.dartmouth.ma.us/269/Bliss-Corner-DEP-Investigation>

Community Meetings

EPA staff may attend meetings held by community groups, local government, and other organizations upon request to share information about the Site and to address community questions, concerns, and comments. EPA will coordinate with the community to identify appropriate opportunities and venues to deliver information about the Site.

Virtual Meetings

EPA staff may coordinate with the community to:

- Host or participate in virtual meetings, or to participate in face-to-face meetings virtually.
- Provide opportunities for community members to participate in web-based meetings by phone in the case that web-based attendance of virtual meetings is not possible.
- Share meeting materials with prospective attendees prior to the meeting to ensure any attendees unable to view the presentation virtually may reference physical presentation materials.

Briefings with Local Officials

EPA staff may brief local, state, and federal government officials upon request, or through the course of necessary correspondence to convey relevant site information.

Educational Materials

To help address community concerns about the Site, EPA staff may collect, prepare, and distribute user-friendly documents to help community members better understand site conditions. These materials may be distributed to the property owner, tenants, and surrounding residents where new site activity occurs.

Periodic Updates

EPA staff will develop and distribute informative Site documents on an as-needed basis. These documents will:

- Provide updates about the progress of the removal action(s).
- Notify recipients about any public meetings, availability sessions, and public comment periods.
- Provide links to publicly available documents and resources.

EPA staff will maintain and continue to build a Site mailing list. The list will be developed based on meeting sign-in sheets, community interviews, and email and telephone inquiries. If you would like to be on EPA's mailing list to receive Site updates via regular mail or electronically, please contact EPA's community involvement coordinator. Updates will also be available at the Site's information repositories upon request.

Translations

EPA may provide written information about the Site in English, Portuguese, and other languages as appropriate. The Agency may also provide real-time translation at community meetings and during dialogues with community members, as appropriate.

Local Media Outlets

EPA may provide updates and information to local newspapers and radio and television stations and ask them to report on site-related issues. Agency staff will be available for interviews and will respond to media inquiries in a timely fashion. Inquiries from the news media should be directed to the Site's community involvement coordinator.

EPA may publish public notices about meetings and other events in local newspapers and send notices to other local news outlets. The Agency may include the following media outlets as part of outreach and information delivery efforts:

	<p>Newspapers Dartmouth Week: https://dartmouth.theweektoday.com/</p>
	<p>Television stations Dartmouth Community Television: https://town.dartmouth.ma.us/186/Community-Television-DCTV</p>

Social Media

EPA may share Site updates through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media:

- EPA Region 1 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EPANewEngland/>
- EPA Region 1 Twitter: <https://x.com/EPARegion1>
- EPA site web page:
 - response.epa.gov/BlissCorner
 - response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponsell
 - response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponselll
- EPA Region 1 Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/epa_newengland/



Information Repository

EPA maintains physical copies of site project information and reference materials for the public at local information repositories upon request. Copies of Site-related documents can be made available at the following location:

Southworth Library
732 Dartmouth Street
Dartmouth, MA 02748
508-999-0726

<https://www.town.dartmouth.ma.us/283/Library>

Information available electronically on the Site webpages that can be made available at the local repository upon request includes:

- Action Memoranda for Time-Critical Removal Actions
- Closure Memoranda for Time-Critical Removal Actions
- Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation Reports
- After Action Reports
- Site Fact Sheets
- Public Notices

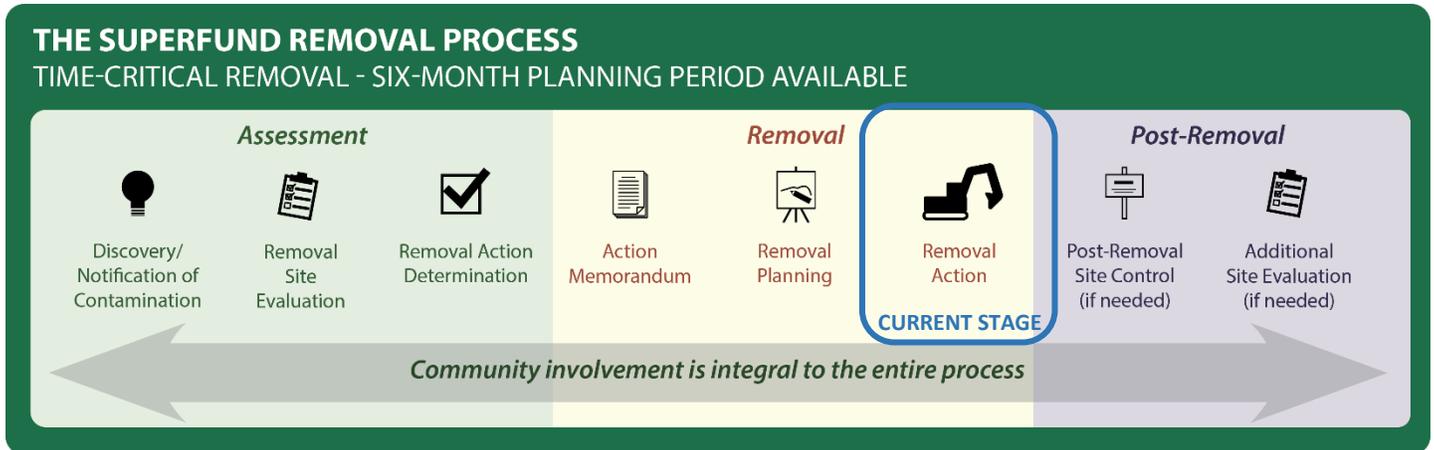
APPENDICES

Site Technical Overview

To receive more information about the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site, contact the Site’s Community Involvement Coordinator. To view the administrative records for the Site, click [here](#).

Superfund Removal Process – Time-Critical Removal

Time-critical removals are situations where EPA determines that a removal is appropriate and on-site removal activities must begin within six months. Examples include removal of drums or small volumes of contaminated soil and stabilization of lagoons. The following section describes the general steps in a time-critical removal.



Assessment

After the contamination is discovered, EPA evaluates if the site poses a threat to human health and the environment, whether hazards need to be addressed immediately, and if additional site information will be collected.

Removal

The Action Memorandum describes the cleanup method chosen for the site and the reasons for the selection. Removal planning is the phase during which the plans for removal are designed, and then removal action begins.

Post-Removal

After the removal action, site controls are implemented to protect human health and the environment if needed. Additional site evaluation may take place to determine whether further action is needed.

Glossary

Contamination	Introduction into water, air, and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes, or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use.
Time-Critical Removal Action	Short-term cleanup action not exceeding 12 months in duration and that costs less than \$2 million.
Information Repository	An information repository is a record storage area at or near a Superfund site that contains reports, documents, and factsheets pertaining to the site.

Preliminary Assessment	Involves gathering historical and other available information about site conditions to evaluate whether the site poses a threat to human health and the environment and/or whether further investigation is needed. The preliminary assessment also helps identify sites that may need immediate or short-term response actions.
Site Investigation	Tests air, water, and soil at the site to determine what hazardous substances are present and whether they are being released to the environment and are a threat to human health.
Action Memorandum	An Action Memorandum (AM) is a written record of the decision to select a removal action. It's a primary decision document that demonstrates the need for a removal action, identifies the proposed response, and explains the rationale for the action.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AM	Action Memorandum	IH	Imminent Hazard
USACE	United States Army Core of Engineers	LSP	Licensed Site Professional
ATSDR	Agency for Toxics Substances and Disease Registry	MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator	NOR	Notice of Responsibility
CIP	Community Involvement Plan	OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
COC	Contaminants of Concern	PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency	PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
		TCRA	Time-Critical Removal Action

Bliss Corner Neighborhood COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

2026

February

response.epa.gov/BlissCorner

response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponsell

response.epa.gov/blisscornerneighborhoodsiteremovalresponsell

