

July 2012 Conversations with North Providence Floodplain Residents

One-pager & neighborhood maps were used as the basis for conversations, each summarized below. [] indicates which EPA & ATSDR staff participated.

ALLENDALE POND

Steere Avenue

- #41: [Stacy Greendlinger & Ted Bazenas]
Has gotten 3 ft of water in garage. Moving fence would prevent use of garage and parking area – most of yard. Would like a white fence and would like to consider paving portions of yard. Town refuses to maintain utilities that end at race-way side of fence because of possible contamination. Pressure backs up in pipe and causes drainage problems at end of her driveway. Wants poison ivy cleared away that is on other side of fence on Centredale Manor property but encroaching on her property. Long-term resident.
- #36: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
“Do whatever is needed.” Long time resident. Well aware of river’s contamination.

Grover Street

- #45: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Grew up in house. Now lives there with mother, wife and two boys (11, 4 yrs old). Will work with us to determine appropriate interim measure. Used to play in area and is concerned about children’s welfare. Went over actions he can take to help prevent exposure.
- #40: [Stacy Greendlinger]
Spoke with her at 7/31 3pm meeting. She confirmed her property doesn’t abut the river. Lot between river and her home is owned by #39 Redfern St. No children live in her home or in her renter’s (2 family property).

Redfern Street

- #39: [Stacy Greendlinger & Ted Bazenas]
Purchased home in 2008 and this is first time they are hearing about the Superfund site. Have a high wooden fence that encloses their full property. Have a 3.5 year old daughter and are expecting a baby this September. Provided some background on site, explained short-term cleanups that occurred, explained that Proposed Plan was issued last year –did not discuss cleanup alternatives—and cleanup plan selection expected this fall. Went over the one-pager explaining the dioxin reassessment and proposed modifications to Proposed Plan and highlighted ways to provide comment. Interested in more information – were told about



information repository at N. Providence library and on-line. Thoroughly discussed protective measures they can take now – washing hands, clothing, taking off shoes, etc. Discussed potentially moving the EPA chain link fence to match 100-year floodplan and after cleanup plan is selected that EPA would be back in touch to continue that discussion. Asked if they could deny EPA access. Explained that EPA could get court access but wasn't our desired way of interacting with property owners. Agency tries to resolve issues that concern property owners so that access will be granted. Asked about operation-type questions, e.g. hours of operation, monitoring, work lights on at night. Explained those would be figured out as part of design work but discussed what is typically done at other sites and that it would be years until work got underway.

#42: [Stacy Greendlinger]
92 years old and residing there since 1944. Not worried about river. Water backs up onto her property. Yells at any children who try to access riverbank at end of street or her property (was told by Laplumes that Ms. Rotella keeps an eagle eye on street). Concerns are focused on day-to-day.

George Street

#43: Left offer to meet letter at both units. No phone number on record.

#46: [Stacy Greendlinger]
Spoke on phone. Orally went through one-pager information. 46 years she has lived along the river. Well aware of health risks posed by river. Does not allow kids to go along riverbank. Suffers from back injury. Phone best way to reach her.

Stevens Street

#41: [Stacy Greendlinger & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Suffers from MS and depends on electric scooter for mobility. Went through one-pager information. Has regularly attended past public meetings and is informed about site. Was concerned that our intent was to take her house (seemingly partly in the floodplain). Provided clarification that that would not happen. Last summer's hurricane knocked large tree down on fence so the fence is leaning on top of the water with gate swung open providing access to river. Supportive of cleaning up river and will work with us to determine if need to move fence. Clearly fence needs to be fixed. Expressed concerns about the Johnston Asphalt Plant. Understands that issue is outside scope of Superfund cleanup.

#44 Stevens Street

Left offer letter. House is clearly empty and looks abandoned.

Aldrich Street

#21: Six unit apartment building.

[Stacy Greendlinger, Doug Gutro, Anna Krasko]

2nd Floor rear. Two children. Didn't know about site. Went over site history and one pager stressing measures she & children should take to prevent exposure.

3rd Rear. Heard at least one child. Went over 1 pager and actions she can take to prevent exposure.

2 other units provided one-pager and gave quick overview – residents did not want or were able to engage in longer conversation.

#22: [Stacy Greendlinger & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]

Resident grew up considering and using the chemical facility as a playground. Complained that property (driveway) received damage during the removal action and that he took multiple days off from work to provide access, only to have environmental contractors not show up. Have strong concerns that cleanup will do more damage to ecosystem and ruin aesthetics and their enjoyment of the pond. Believe money could be better spent elsewhere. Pointed out that their lot along the river has a high fence surrounding the entire lot (filled with vehicles) that is locked “no one can get in or out” thereby negating the need for EPA to move the EPA fence further inland. Pointed out that they pay taxes on their property and that EPA is proposing to do something that would prevent the use of property for which they pay taxes. Talked about measures (washing hands, clothing, produce, taking off shoes) they can take. Susan has a garden that floods every 5-10 years or so. She grows a lot of herbs and said for infusion she cannot wash the herbs. There are strict guidelines she must follow –for instance collecting before the sun hits the morning dew on plant- which do not call for washing. Her end products are teas, salves, and tinctures. Wants to know what dioxin exposure is presented in her process and wants to better understand the reproductive/hormone impact of dioxin exposure. ATSDR to follow-up.

#16:

Incorrect phone number on record. Left one-pager & offer to meet letter.

#18: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, Doug Gutro]

Discussed one-pager. No questions posed.

Centredale Avenue

#15:

No answering machine. Left offer to meet letter & one-pager. Clear that children either visit or live. Trampoline & playset visible.

#34:

Let messages. May be rental property. Left offer to meet letter & one-pager.

Woonasquatucket Avenue

- #562: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, Doug Gutro]
Grew up in house and now has daughter and grandchildren living in home (2-family property). Well aware of river's contamination. Grandkids 16, 14, 8, 2 years old. Kids do not go down to river. Have a pool and that is where the children recreate. Went through one-pager information. People fish through church's property abutting his.
- #545: Allendale Baptist Church
Church across street from river but across street owns undeveloped property along pond. Left 3 messages. Left offer to meet letter & one-pager.
- #542: [Stacy Greendlinger & Anna Krasko]
Leave the river alone. Doesn't experience flooding but seemed to be willing to work with us. 12 years in residence. 2-family home, one unit currently unrented. Won't rent it to someone with children. When cleanup complete, doesn't want fence to come down for liability reasons. Sees people fishing & boating. Never sees anyone keep the fish.
- #530: [Stacy Greendlinger & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Went through one-pager information. Reaction: "This is why I came down here?" Wanted to talk about cleanup. Explained why we couldn't. Engaged with ATSDR to discuss health risks of dioxin exposure, e.g. is there more risk because the cleanup level is lower?, if you start cleanup, will people be exposed more than what they currently are? Since cleanup plan hasn't been selected discussed experiences at others sites for illustrative purposes. One such example: New Bedford Harbor site -excavation in the Acushnet River.
- #524: [Stacy Greendlinger & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Adult son resides with her in 2-family home. Stated lost property because after the dam was reconstructed water levels were higher. Concerned about loss of mature tree with any river bank work. Questioning about whether the modified cleanup level was more protective
- #518: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Long-standing concerns about the asphalt plant. Understand that it is outside of scope of Superfund authority, but continue to be concerned that cleanup would be impacted by continuing negative impacts to river from plant. Boat and garden. Grew up in area. Well aware of contamination and already wash and remove shoes. Have an 8 year old grandson. Will work with us regarding interim measures.
- #512: [Stacy Greendlinger & Anna Krasko]
No longer have a view of the pond because the brush is out of control on other side of the fence and doesn't have, but wants, a gate. Didn't know at the time

fence was going up that could get a gate. Adult child resides there as well. Have a dog. Will work with us regarding interim measures.

#566 ½: [Stacy Greendlinger & Ted Bzenas]

No children currently reside or visit. Went through one-pager. Discussed characteristics of dioxin particularly that it does not volatilize. Wants a gate in fence—was not the owner when the fence was installed—currently has to use neighbor's. With extreme rain, water levels come way up. Backyard has filled in over time. Concerned about losing mature trees, EPA indicated will work with homeowner and not always necessary to remove. Will work with us re: interim measures.

#578: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, Tarah Somers-ATSDR]

Two children, 9 and 5, and grandparents reside there as well and participated in discussion. Resident of 573 Woon. Ave, across the street, joined conversation—was concerned about asphalt plant and whether dioxin volatilizes and handed out a list of questions. Went through site history and one-pager and measures they can take. Clarified that couldn't discuss alternatives in Proposed Plan and why. Discussed characteristics of dioxin. Do experience flooding up to tree on left looking at river close to river bank. House is on hill with sloping grass going down to river. Kids have sand box and play space close to house. Screened gazebo with table is close to house as opposed to river bank. Will work with us re: interim measures.

#572:

Phone number temporarily disconnected. Left offer to meet letter & one-pager.

LYMAN MILL POND

Maple Avenue

- #23 [Stacy Greendlinger & Anna Krasko]
Left materials (one-pager, map, letter) with son and briefly explained.
- #17: [Stacy Greendlinger & Anna Krasko]
Currently rental property. Spoke with young adult son of renter. Kids, 23, 20 and 11 yrs old. Left materials.

Zambarano Avenue

- #36:
Left phone message and left offer to meet letter.
- #37: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Permission to access property. Would like to keep decorative fence. Concerned about aesthetics. Likely to move in 2 years. Has followed the river investigations and cleanup over the years. Went through one-page information. Will work with us re: interim measures.
- #35: Group Home, Greater Providence Chapter RIA
Left 2 messages and left offer to meet letter.

Falco Avenue

- #18: [Stacy Greendlinger, Anna Krasko, Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Doesn't believe there is an issue but will abide by the law. Long-term residents. Have allowed access in past.
- #16: [Kelsey O'Neil & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]
Will do whatever neighbors think. Long-term resident – is well aware of river contamination.
- #14:
Left 2 messages and left offer to meet letter.
- #12: Unsure of resident
Left offer to meet letter.
- #10:
Left message & offer to meet letter. EPA Call Center received call. Stacy Greendlinger called resident back and left message.

Woonasquatucket Avenue

#318: [Stacy Greendlinger & Anna Krasko]

No number on record. Door-to-door talked with tenant of #318, who has kids, 4, newborn, 4 & 5. Didn't know about site. Wants to move b/c of mosquitoes.

Talked about best practices.

#320, 2nd half of 2-family, left offer to meet letter

#316:

No number on record. 2-family residences: Left offer to meet letter at #316 and #314

#306: No number on record.

Left offer to meet letter

#296: [Kelsey O'Neil & Tarah Somers-ATSDR]

Knew about river's contamination. Glad cleanup will be cleaned up. Expressed concern about trash and how people should cleanup junk. Told EPA he owned property and has a tenant (2 family). Has 2 little girls—approximately 5 & 6 yrs old—and is aware kids shouldn't be by river. Noted an increase in wildlife. Has outdoor cats. Long time ago thought something would happen, happy it will now. Seemed cooperative regarding working with agency for interim measures.

Oak Street

#28:

Left 2 messages and offer to meet letter.

#33:

Wrong number on record. Left offer to meet letter. Swing set/ play structure visible.

Testa Drive

#5: [Anna Krasko, Kelsey O'Neil, Tarah Somers-ATSDR]

Has resided along the river for a long time and is well aware of contamination. Counseled him to keep his visiting grandchildren away from the riverbank and best practices to prevent potential exposure.

Eric Place

#1: River's Edge Condos (12 units)

[Stacy Greendlinger]

Vista Property Managers distributed offer to meet letter & one-pager to each unit.

Evidence of children. Spoke with 1 family with 2 young children.

#2: Owner just passed away. Ownership unclear.
12 units. Flyered doors with one-pager. Evidence of children.

Heavy brush at end of Eric Place. Pond is not visible.

Water Street

#18: [Stacy Greendlinger & Ted Bzenas]
Has lived at this house for 50 plus years. Well aware of river's contamination. Spoke about how river used to change colors all the time. Will work with us for interim measures—discussed perhaps installing fence on Lyman Mill Pond to restrict access and prevent exposures. Homeowner confirmed her belief that dioxin is not an air-borne risk. Asked if she decided to sell, would she need to reveal about river contamination. Suggested she consult with RI real estate expert as to what are state disclosure requirements.

SUPERFUND

Centredale Manor

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.

OVERVIEW:

The Centredale Manor Restoration Project was listed on EPA's National Priorities List in February 2000. The National Priorities List (NPL) is the list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation. EPA has been coordinating with Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management and Department of Health on a comprehensive environmental cleanup for the Site. In October 2011, EPA issued a proposed cleanup plan for 1.5 miles of contamination in and along the Woonasquatucket River. This plan included the cleanup of multiple contaminants including dioxins.

Dioxins are toxic chemicals that naturally exist in the environment and can be released into the environment through forest fires, backyard burning of trash, certain industrial activities, and residue from past commercial burning of waste. EPA has identified many known sources of dioxins. Working with other federal partners, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, EPA has taken steps to address dioxin. This includes supporting research on dioxin exposure and effects; assessing dioxin human health risks; measuring dioxin levels in the environment, our diet and in our bodies; and reducing exposure to dioxin.

THE NEW SCIENCE:

EPA recently finalized a non-cancer science assessment for dioxins, which was last reviewed in the 1980s. The assessment is the latest effort in a successful, coordinated strategy by the Federal government that has reduced known and measurable air emissions of dioxins 90 percent since 1987. In order to use the best and most current science available, EPA is proposing to use the new dioxin toxicity value to revise the Centredale Manor Site human health risk assessment and cleanup levels.

EPA'S PROPOSAL:

In using the lower cleanup levels, EPA proposes to evaluate properties within the 100 year floodplain as part of the long term cleanup of the Woonasquatucket River. This process is laid out in the Proposed Plan Amendment, which will be open for public comment from July 19-August 17, 2012. There will be public meetings followed by formal public hearings held at the end of July to discuss the Amendment to the Proposed Plan. There will be a meeting and hearing on July 30th at 7pm in the Pocasset Bay Retirement Living Facility in Johnston, RI. There will be meetings and hearings on July 31st in the Centredale Manor Apartments at 3pm, and in the North Providence Town Hall at 7pm.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RESIDENTS:

EPA will take precautionary measures at properties within the 100 year floodplain along the eastern side of the site to prevent people from being exposed to the contaminants in soil. An example of a precautionary measure is to fence off the 100 year floodplain, or to spread a ground cover such as mulch.

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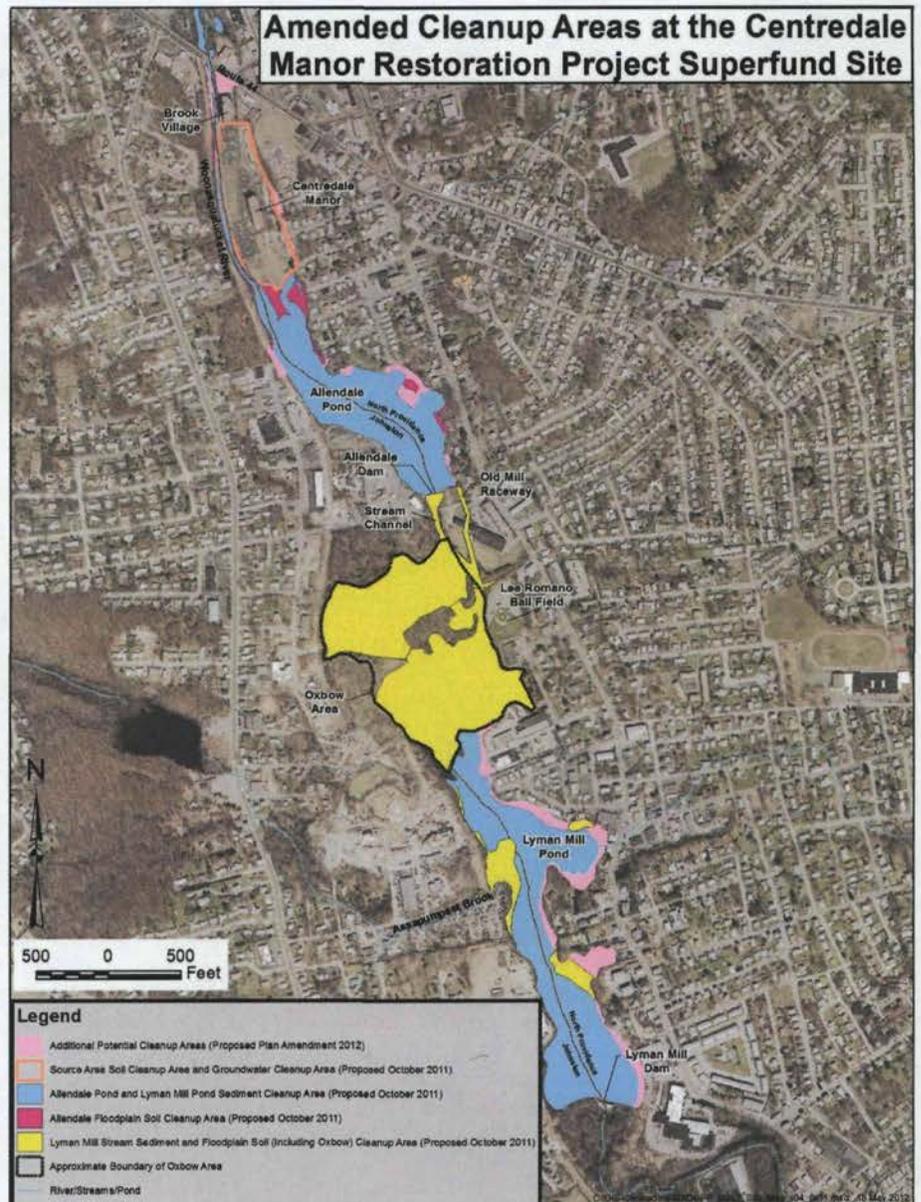
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EPA will work with property owners to select any needed precautionary measures. This will happen shortly after the long term cleanup plan is selected. We expect to select a cleanup plan in the fall 2012.

WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO:

The primary means of human exposure to dioxin from the site occurs by eating contaminated fish from the Woonasquatucket River, and ingesting, or swallowing, contaminated soil. There are specific precautionary measures residents can take to reduce the chances for potential exposure including:

- Do not eat fish from the Woonasquatucket River
- Keep your house clean of dirt and soil from outside by:
 - o Taking off shoes before entering the house
 - o Washing clothing used when doing yard work
- Keep yourself clean, and avoid ingesting soil by:
 - o Helping children to avoid placing soiled hands or objects into their mouths
 - o Washing hands with soap and water before cooking, eating, drinking or smoking
 - o Washing hands with soap and water after playing or working outside



Allendale Pond North



FILE: C:\GIS\Chattanooga\Outlook_745_509_162_North.mxd

Legend

- Approximate Fence Line
- 100 Year Flood Plain
- Parcel Boundary
- Plat-Lot Number
- Additional Potential Cleanup Areas (2012 Proposed Plan Amendment)

Allendale Pond South



Legend

-  Approximate Fence Line
-  100 Year Flood Plain
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Plat-Lot Number
-  Additional Potential Cleanup Areas (2012 Proposed Plan Amendment)

Lyman Mill Pond North



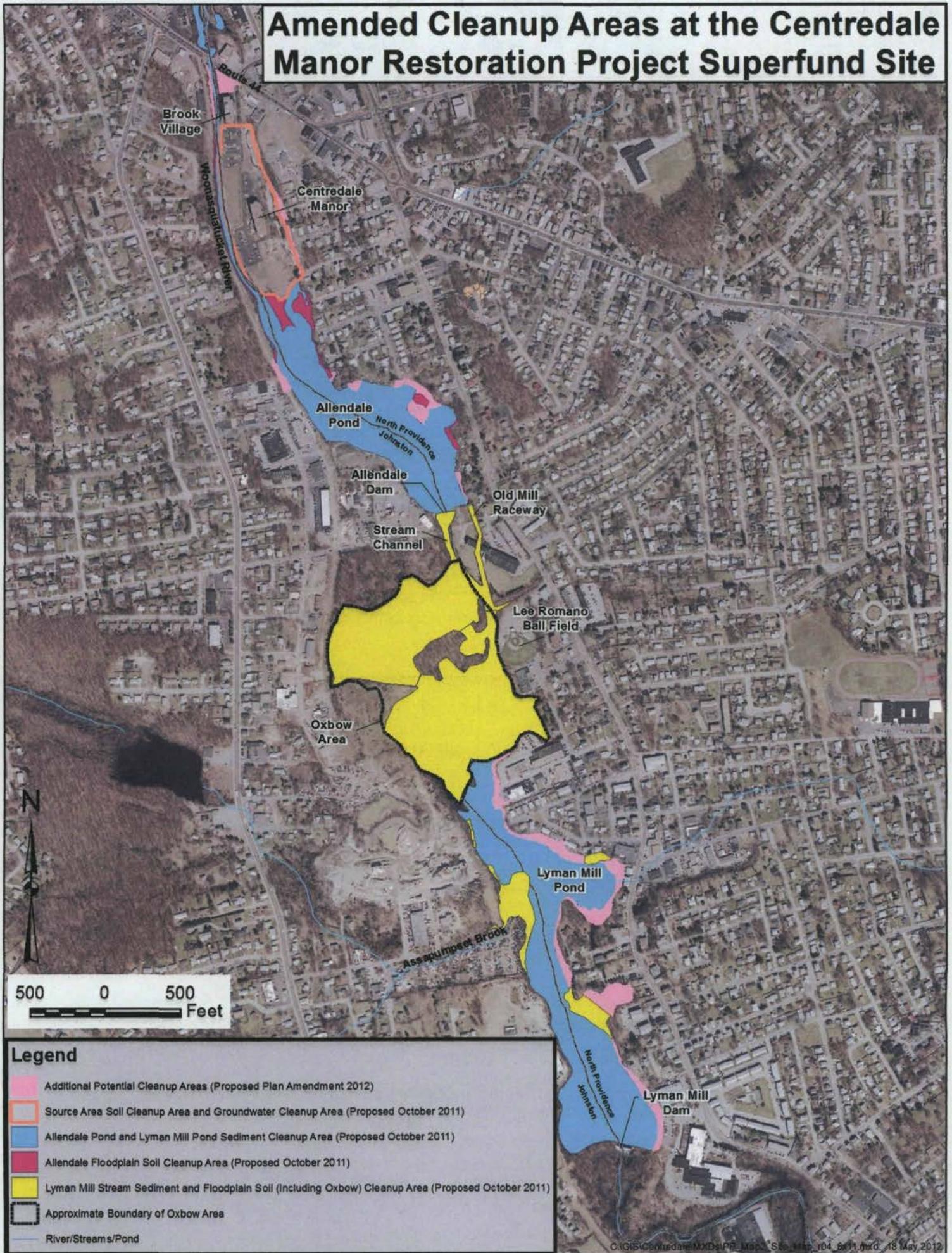
Lyman Mill Pond South



Legend

- Approximate Fence Line
- 100 Year Flood Plain
- Parcel Boundary
- Plat-Lot Number
- Additional Potential Cleanup Areas (2012 Proposed Plan Amendment)

Amended Cleanup Areas at the Centredale Manor Restoration Project Superfund Site



Legend

- Additional Potential Cleanup Areas (Proposed Plan Amendment 2012)
- Source Area Soil Cleanup Area and Groundwater Cleanup Area (Proposed October 2011)
- Allendale Pond and Lyman Mill Pond Sediment Cleanup Area (Proposed October 2011)
- Allendale Floodplain Soil Cleanup Area (Proposed October 2011)
- Lyman Mill Stream Sediment and Floodplain Soil (Including Oxbow) Cleanup Area (Proposed October 2011)
- Approximate Boundary of Oxbow Area
- River/Streams/Pond

From Resident
Nancy Bolduc

Questions for EPA regarding Woonasquatucket River Superfund Program

573 Woonasquatucket Ave.

- 7/16/12
1. Is the water currently acting as a barrier between the air & the toxins? We do not swim in or drink the water from the Woonasquatucket River (not a necessity). Wouldn't it be better to leave it alone instead of stirring all the toxins into the air we breathe {a necessity}?
 2. Where do you plan to have the entrance/exit to the river?
I heard it is going to be near the Roy residence because the Mayor of Johnston REFUSES to have the trucks bearing the toxic waste travel through HIS town. The Johnston side of the river has asphalt & concrete manufacturers already polluting along the river – so what is a little more going to hurt?! The entrance/exit should NOT be in a residential area – any group with a MORAL CONSCIENCE would not even consider it. Should this happen, what precautions will be taken when the trucks are on the move? Will they be washed down, removing all dust & particle matter from the exposed surfaces, including tires, BEFORE they leave the site? This would help with eliminating some toxic drop off along the road where children, pets & families walk or ride bikes. It's possible those toxins can make it into their homes.
 3. I heard that possibly 10% of land will be taken from the properties along the river (about 50 in all). Will the land be bought at a true market value to those WILLING to sell? If eminent domain is enforced, will the owners still have to pay taxes on land they no longer own? And what do you plan to do with that stretch of land along the river?
 4. There is a preschool & ball field on Woonasquatucket Ave., can you guarantee the children will not suffer any short term or long term effect?
 5. PCBs toxins intensify with heat (warm weather) unless it is heated to 1200 degrees (causing toxins to diminish). What precautions will be taken to protect the residence in the area from increasing PCBs toxins when the temperatures rise in the summer months? Especially since this clean-up is projected to take YEARS.
 6. Can you guarantee that NO ILL effects will be caused to the people, animals & environment after such a long exposure to the released toxins?
 7. When the project is in operation, what measures will be taken to manage the dust (carrying toxins), odors & noise?
 8. How will the toxins & particulate matter be monitored at the clean up site?
 9. Will the asphalt & concrete toxic emissions & particulate matter be part of the monitoring that your project will be self-administering?
 10. What action will be taken for the safety of residents, pets etc should the levels of toxins & particulate matter become dangerously high?
 11. Should an evacuation happen, will shelter & provisions be provided for us & our pets at no cost to us? I have a niece with severe multiple allergies, a hotel, motel or public shelter would not be medically admissible.
 12. What steps will be taken to protect us & our property from any disease & nuisance from the displaced river rats & mice when the river is drained & during the clean-up? Will the rodents be herded & exterminated first?
 13. Is it feasible to take the health risks, hardships, efforts & money when the asphalt & concrete manufactures will still be polluting along the river? All of it & the park-like setting your group plan to create will be wasted.