

# **Investigation of Waste Material in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Dartmouth, Massachusetts**

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
(MassDEP)

June 2020

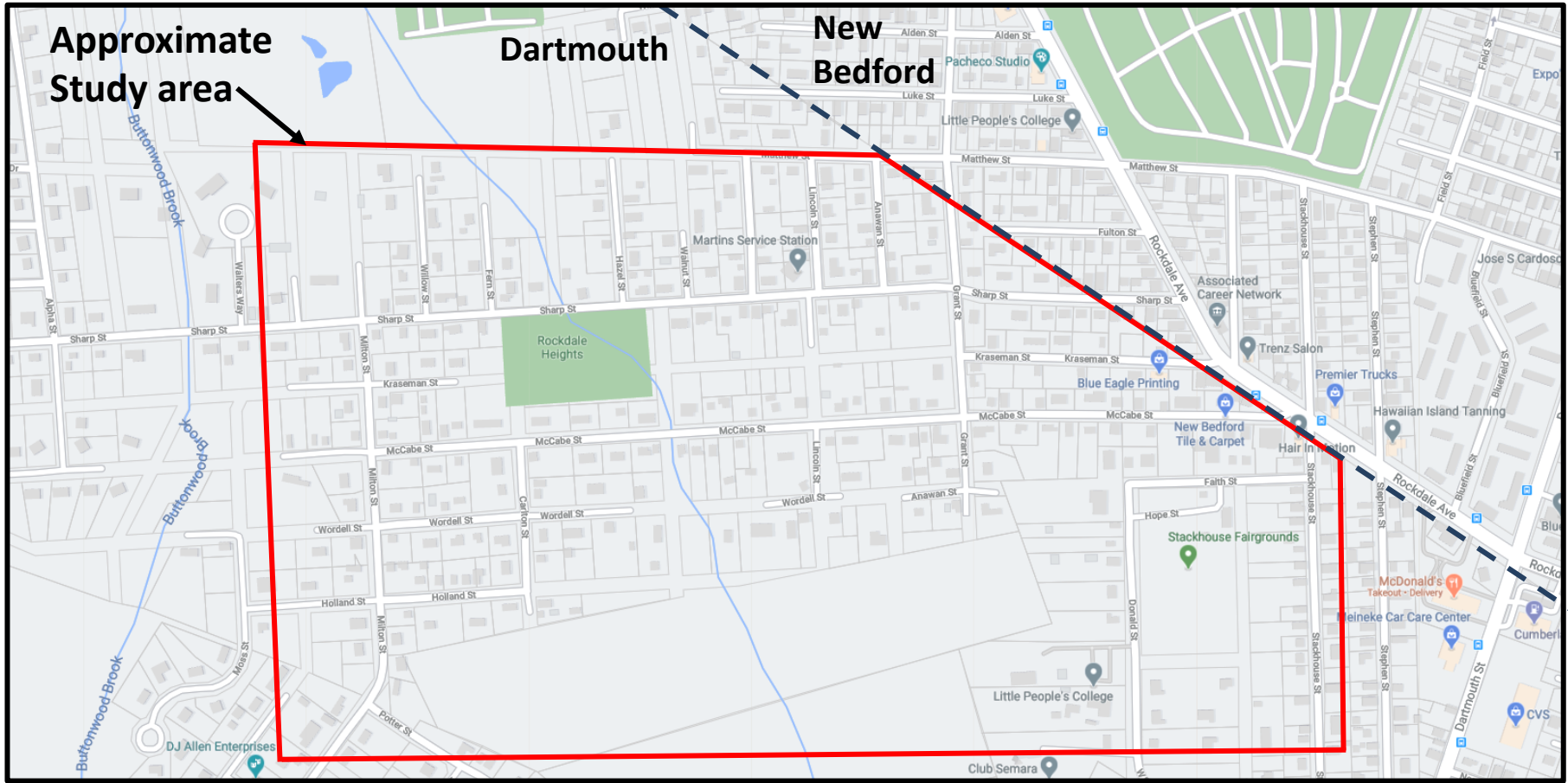


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# Bliss Corner Neighborhood Study Area



## 2. Summary of Past Meetings and Site Investigations



# Summary of 2019 Public Meetings

- **July 2018** - inspection at 85 McCabe Street identified waste material and buried drums containing unknown material
- **August 2018** - historic newspaper articles from the 1930s are provided to MassDEP that indicate dumping was occurring in the Bliss Corner neighborhood
- **October 2018** - inspection of 20 & 21 Kraseman Street and 31 McCabe Street identified similar waste material



# Summary of 2019 Public Meetings

- **December 2018** - PCBs detected at 20 Kraseman Street at levels that could pose an Imminent Hazard
- **January 2019** - MassDEP sampled private wells in the neighborhood and found no exceedance of Drinking Water Standards
- **January 2019**- MassDEP issued Requests for Information to the City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth for records related to historic dumping



# Summary of 2019 Public Meetings

- **May 2019** - MassDEP collected soil and groundwater samples from 18 soil borings/monitoring wells that were advanced in Town-owned rights-of-ways throughout the neighborhood
- **July 2019** - MassDEP began sampling residential properties
- **August 2019** - MassDEP issued a second Request for Information to the Dartmouth Board of Selectmen for information related to former junk yards
- **September 2019** - MassDEP requested US EPA's assistance with the investigation



# Status of 85 McCabe

- 85 McCabe Street property is in compliance with the MCP deadlines
  - A Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment Report, which determines the full extent of contamination and determines if there is risk associated with the contamination, is due 11/27/2022





# Status of 20 Kraseman St

- May 2019 – MassDEP installed a chain link fence around the property to limit access to PCB-contaminated soils
- July 2019 – MassDEP collected soil samples from 21 Kraseman and 31 McCabe Street
  - PCBs at 21 Kraseman Street at a concentration that could pose an Imminent Hazard
  - Impacted soil covered with polyethylene sheet to prevent contact
- Property developer currently has "financial inability status" and is unable to continue with work



# Soil Sampling Conducted by MassDEP

- Between July 2019 and December 2019, MassDEP sampled 30 residential properties
  - All properties were within the investigation area whose owners contacted MassDEP to request sampling
  - All samples were analyzed for PCBs, metals, and PAHs



# Soil Sampling Conducted by MassDEP

- PCBs were identified at 2 properties at potential Imminent Hazard levels
  - MassDEP is conducting further investigation at these locations to determine necessary remedial actions
- Lead was identified at many locations above the residential standards
  - MassDEP is conducting risk characterizations at these locations to determine if additional response actions are needed



**3. Sampling Planned U.S.  
Environmental  
Protection Agency (US EPA) -  
Region 1**



# Planned US EPA Work

- US EPA Region 1 has joined MassDEP in the sampling efforts to better define the geographic boundaries of the contamination
- Sampling is tentatively scheduled to begin in June 2020
- US EPA's contractor, Weston Solutions, will collect soil samples from private properties for analysis by the US EPA's New England Regional Laboratory (NERL) mobile lab or Regional Laboratory Facility in North Chelmsford



# Planned US EPA Work

- Residents who have contacted MassDEP to request sampling, and whose properties have NOT yet been sampled by MassDEP, will be mailed a packet from MassDEP/US EPA
  - Residents will need to sign both a MassDEP and an US EPA Access Agreement and return them to MassDEP
  - COVID-19 social distancing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements will be followed during all sampling activities



**4. Actions You Can Take to  
Minimize Potential Risks  
While the Investigation Continues**



# Actions You Can Take to Minimize Potential Risk

Until there is a better understanding of extent of the waste material, MassDEP recommends the following to minimize contact with contamination:

- Avoid direct contact with waste material
  - Refrain from digging whenever possible
  - If digging is necessary, wear protective clothing, footwear and gloves and wash your hands thoroughly when finished
  - If you plan to dig, MassDEP recommends you notify the Town of Dartmouth Board of Health by calling (508) 910-1804





# Actions You Can Take to Minimize Potential Risk

- Avoid growing fruits and vegetables directly in waste material
  - MassDEP recommends following “*Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Non-Commercial Gardening at Disposal Sites*” (WSC#14-910), which can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/om/14-910.pdf>



# 5. Learn About Elevated Levels of Lead in Soil



# Learn How to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Soil

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has information available about how lead can harm young children and what you can do to protect children from lead in soil.

- DPH has prepared a Fact Sheet entitled "*Protecting Children From High Levels of Lead in Soil*"
- This Fact Sheet is available at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-brochures-and-fact-sheets>
- For instructions on how to build a raised bed garden, visit [https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/soilshop/docs/A\\_AP\\_soilSHOP\\_508.pdf](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/soilshop/docs/A_AP_soilSHOP_508.pdf).
- Questions or concerns about lead exposure should be directed to Community Health Assessment in the Bureau of Environmental Health at 617-624-5757



# 6. Finding the Source of the Contaminated Material



# Search for the Source(s) of the Contamination

MassDEP is gathering information on how the contamination came to be located in the neighborhood and who may be responsible for placing the material.

- MassDEP sent Requests for Information (RFIs) to the City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth and has received responses from both municipalities.
- MassDEP is in the process of compiling all pertinent information provided in those responses.



# 7. Next Steps



# Next Steps

- May 2020 - MassDEP will conduct additional response actions at properties where PCBs pose a potential Imminent Hazard
- June 2020 - MassDEP and US EPA will begin collecting soil samples at private properties for analysis by US EPA's laboratory
- MassDEP remains responsive to private property owners who would like their soil sampled



# Next Steps

- MassDEP will continue to monitor the groundwater in the vicinity of the private water supply wells
- MassDEP is conducting an assessment to determine if human health risks are associated with the contamination, particularly elevated lead in soils
- MassDEP will schedule a public meeting once COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings are lifted





# 8. Questions



# Questions?

- If you have questions about the information presented  
*or*
- If you are a resident in the Bliss Corner neighborhood who would like your soil sampled, please contact:  
Lori Williamson, MassDEP  
[lori.williamson@mass.gov](mailto:lori.williamson@mass.gov)  
(508) 946-2803
- For questions about US EPA's sampling and mobile laboratory, please contact:  
John McKeown, US EPA  
[McKeown.John@epa.gov](mailto:McKeown.John@epa.gov)  
(617) 918-1793

