

Eighteen Mile Creek proposed clean up plan, community comments welcome

The plan will address contaminated soil that threaten people and wildlife.

<https://www.wgrz.com/article/tech/science/environment/cleanup-plan-niagara-county/71-2ef89384-a6f2-48bb-9c69-52171c048d25>



<p>Eighteen Mile Creek</p>

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NEW YORK — The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) proposed a new cleanup plan on Friday for a portion of the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site in Niagara County.

The [EPA](#) is asking the public to comment on the plan starting Friday, July 19 until August 19. [EPA will host a public meeting](#) at Newfane Townhall located at 2737 Main Street, Newfane, on August 1 at 6 p.m.

“EPA’s proposed cleanup for this portion of the creek is to remove and dispose the contaminated sediment and floodplain soil that threaten human health as well as fish and wildlife,” Regional Administrator Lisa F. Garcia said in a statement. “We encourage the public to join our meeting, ask questions and share their views on the proposed plan.”

The EPA began planning work on the Eighteen Mile Creek in 2012 in several phases. The current phase will focus on contaminated sediment and creek floodplain soil for about 5.3 miles downstream from Harwood Street.

The new plan recommends that contractors remove and dispose of floodplain soil contaminated with lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) within the specific 11-acre area. By targeting those areas, the EPA can speed up the cleanup by removing some known sources of contamination while evaluating the downstream part of the creek. EPA will propose further cleanup for the areas of the creek not covered by this new proposed plan.

Written comments on the proposed plan can be sent to Christopher O’Leary, Remedial Project Manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007 or sent via email: OLEary.Christopher@epa.gov.

For additional background and to see the proposed cleanup plan, visit the [Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site profile page](#).

EPA gearing up for next phases of Eighteenmile Creek Corridor cleanup

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- https://www.lockportjournal.com/news/epa-gearing-up-for-next-phases-of-eighteenmile-creek-corridor-cleanup/article_612a7896-4930-11ef-aefb-1bd20b38eb9b.html

A new cleanup effort on a portion of the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor Superfund site in the city of Lockport is slated to get underway next month.

Mike Basile, community involvement coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said removal of contaminated soil at 33 residential lots in lowertown will begin in mid to late August. The affected properties are on Mill, Porter, Chapel, North Adam, Butler, Dayton and Frost streets. Between 1-1/2 feet and 2 feet of contaminated soil will be removed and replaced with clean soil, Basile said. Ultimately, 60 residential lots in the area will be remediated.

“The residents in the city of Lockport have been very patient and anxious for that work to begin,” Basile said.

Remediation of the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor Superfund site, which extends from lowertown to Olcott where the creek flows into Lake Ontario, is a four-phase, long-term job that started in 2015. In addition to remediating contaminated industrial and residential properties along or near the creek in the city, the plan calls for addressing contaminated creek sediment throughout the roughly 15-mile corridor.

Phase 3 of the cleanup project, remediation of an approximately five-mile stretch of the creek from Harwood Street north into Newfane, is the subject of 6 p.m. Aug. 1 public hearing at Newfane Town Hall, 2737 Main St. The gist is removal of contaminated sediment and floodplain soil.

“We’re going to remove and dispose of contaminated sediment, replace it with clean fill and monitor the sediment, surface water and fish tissue for a long-term clean up,” Basile said. “We’ve identified a lot of hot spot areas along the creek on properties along the embankment and that’s where this work will be undertaken.”

Based on early estimates, Basile added, the tab for phase 3 could approach \$100 million.

The required 30-day public comment period on the proposed cleanup plan opened July 19 and closes on Aug. 19. The plan can be viewed online at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f22k5>.

Written comments on the plan can be submitted to Christopher O’Leary, remedial project manager, at OLeary.Christopher@epa.gov or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007.

The Eighteenmile Creek Corridor site was added to the EPA’s National Priorities List in March 2012.

In 2015, a building on the old Flintkote industrial property off Mill Street, and five houses on nearby Water Street, were demolished; that was phase one. The Flintkote property is believed to be a main source of PCBs polluting the creek.

Phase 2 involves the cleanup of residential lots on or near the creek in the city, as well as remediation of the creek channel and soil in Upson Park and on the White Transportation and United Paperboard properties. The industrial properties were already remediated by Severson Environmental Services Inc.

The estimated tab for phase 2 is \$41 million, according to Basile. The funding came from the U.S. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

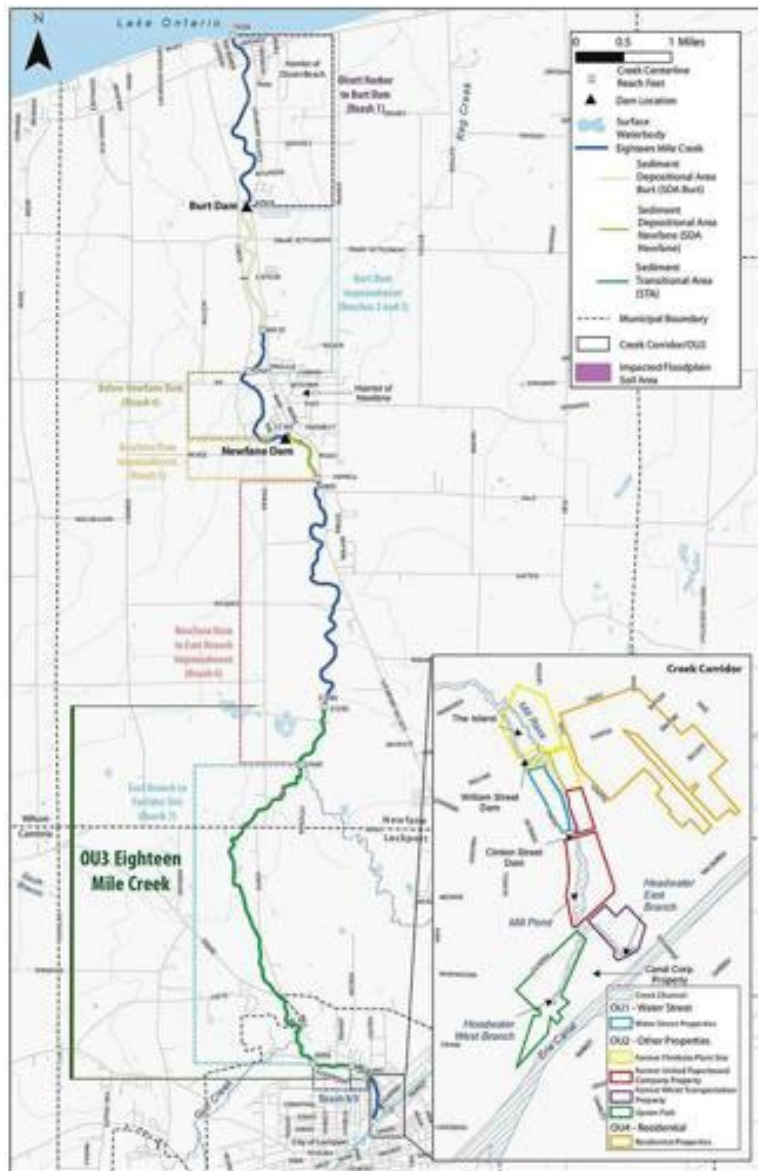


Figure 1 Overview map, Eighteen Mile Creek Corridor Superfund Site, OU3 work area

EPA plans to expand 18-Mile Creek cleanup as next phases plotted

Public comment being solicited for partial creek remediation through Aug. 19

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will soon be looking to expand its cleanup efforts along the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor Superfund site.

Remediation of the site, which extends from lowertown in Lockport to Olcott where the creek flows into Lake Ontario, is a four-phase, long-term project that began in 2015. The EPA is currently soliciting community input for

phase three, which includes remediation of an approximately five-mile stretch of the creek from Harwood Street north into Newfane

Mike Basile, community involvement coordinator, acknowledged that the EPA also plans to do additional soil, water and fish tissue testing on the remaining 10-mile stretch that is north of where the current remedial site ends in the current project.

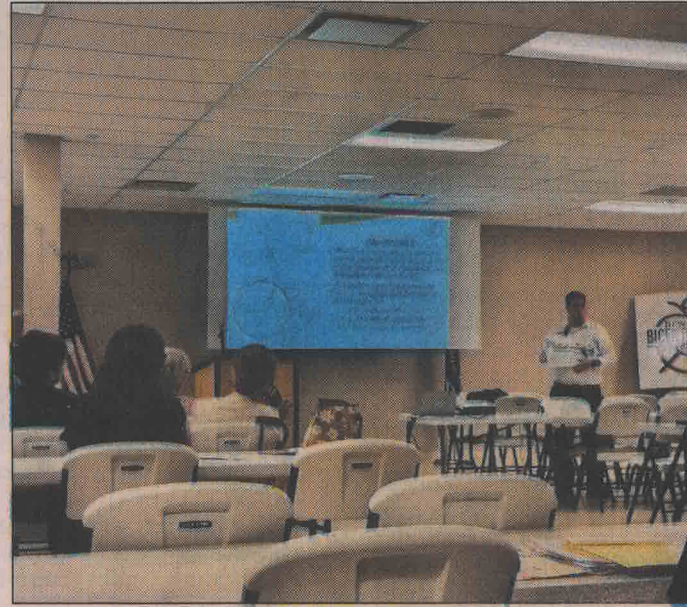
"When we started working on it, we had hoped that this operable unit would take us the entire route of Eigh-

teenmile Creek, up to Lake Ontario. Once we started doing the testing that we did during the remedial investigation and feasibility study, to get to this proposed plan, we decided to only go five miles of the 15-mile juncture," Basile said.

The timeline of that project will be solidified as the current phase moves into the planning stages. Basile estimates those next steps could take anywhere between 12 to 15 months to complete.

"We could start looking at the other areas that we want to go beyond this operable unit, the other 10 miles, we can

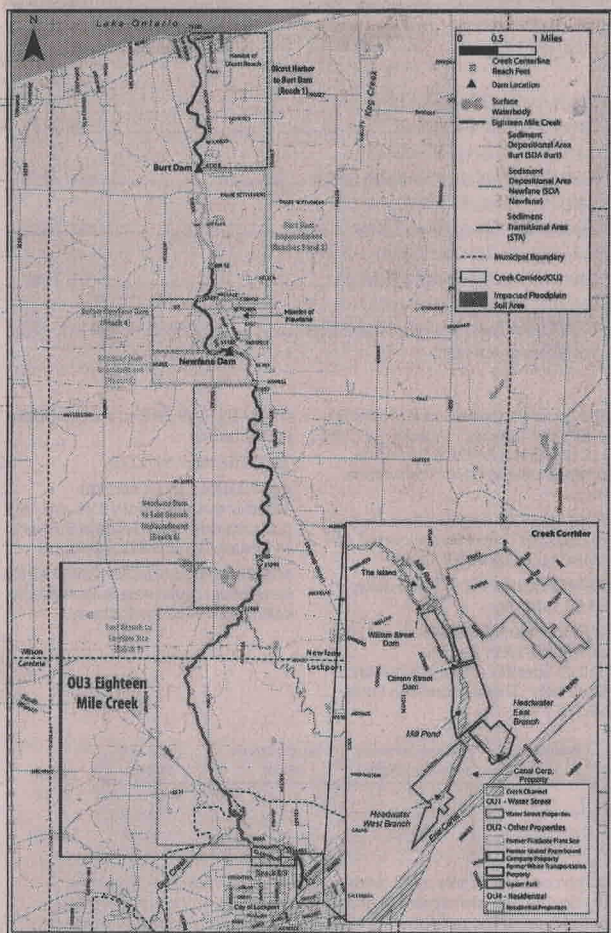
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Christopher O'Leary, remedial project manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency discusses a series of options on the removal of contaminated sediment and floodplain soil from the five-mile stretch that runs from lowertown to Newfane at Thursday's meeting in front of local residents.

Thomas Tedesco

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Overview map, Eighteen Mile Creek Corridor Superfund Site, OU3 work area

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start doing more sampling and testing as we develop the work plan for this one right here. It could happen simultaneously," Basile said.

At a public hearing held Thursday on the third phase of the project, personnel from the EPA, state Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health discussed a series of options regarding the removal of contaminated sediment and floodplain soil from the five-mile stretch that runs from Lowertown to Newfane.

In total, five different options to remove contaminated sediment and three different options to remove floodplain soil were proposed to residents at the meeting, all with varying amounts of how much sediment and floodplain soil would be removed from the area.

The EPA's preferred alternative for the removal of sediment is to excavate approximately 54,000 cubic yards of sediment, 39,000 cubic yards of floodplain soil

of the area with estimated tabs of \$60.7 million and \$131.3 million respectively.

The EPA could change or modify its proposed alternatives based on the public input they receive.

However, 10 of the approximately two dozen residents in attendance at Thursday's meeting were overall receptive to the agency's recommendations.

Meanwhile, work will soon commence on the portion of the project which will see removal of contaminated soil at 33 residential lots in Lockport.

"The staging area has been set up and the goal is in two weeks that the shovel should be in the ground," Christopher O'Leary, remedial project manager said.

The required 30-day public comment period on the proposed cleanup plan opened July 19 and closes on Aug. 19. The plan can be viewed online at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f22k5>.

Written comments on the plan can be submitted to O'Leary at OLEary.Christopher@epa.gov or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007.