



EPA Conducts Cleanup Activities at the Old Mill Creek as part of the Lawrence Aviation Industries Superfund site

Port Jefferson, Suffolk County, New York

Community Update

April 2010

EPA encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the LAI site and activities being conducted, please contact:

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Information Repository

Port Jefferson Free Public Library
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Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting cleanup activities at the Lawrence Aviation Industries (LAI) site located in Port Jefferson Station, New York. In September 2006, the EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) detailing remedial actions for the site itself, along with ground water impacts to the Village of Port Jefferson. One such remedial activity is the construction of a ground water pump and treatment system. Currently, EPA and representatives of the Village of Port Jefferson are working together to determine the location of the treatment system. Options for the location have been focused around Old Mill Pond.

Current Situation

Much debris, trash, and sedimentation has built up in the Old Mill Creek, particularly near the Barnum Avenue Bridge. A culvert that is located under Barnum Avenue was designed to carry water from the west side of the Avenue to the east, where it eventually flows into the Port Jefferson Harbor. The culvert is currently clogged with sediment. This clog has limited the water flow capacity and may be a contribution to localized flooding in the area.

EPA has been requested by the Village of Port Jefferson to assist in the cleanup of Old Mill Creek. In the future, EPA will have an operating ground water pump and treatment system that will discharge uncontaminated treated water into the Creek. As such, EPA has agreed to fund and conduct the cleanup of Old Mill Creek in and around the Barnum Avenue Bridge.

Proposed Activity

EPA has generated the appropriate work plans necessary for personnel to perform tasks in a safe and efficient manner, while limiting impact and inconvenience to the residents and visitors of the Village. EPA has proposed to remove the top layer(s) of sediment in the Creek, up to 30 feet west of Barnum Avenue and 30 feet east of Barnum Avenue. Dead vegetation, trash, and waste debris will also be removed from this area.

As part of this proposal, the Creek will have to be temporarily re-routed, causing minor disruptions along Barnum Avenue. EPA will build a temporary dam on each side of the Creek, pump water overland through pipes, thus bypassing the culvert and allowing water to continue downstream. This process will affect traffic conditions on Barnum Avenue as well as the sidewalks.

Questions	Answers
What is the time frame for this project?	The Creek and culvert cleanup project will take a total of approximately 10 days to set up and complete. It is currently anticipated that commencement of activities will be May 3, 2010 with completion about May 13, 2010, weather permitting.
What will be the hours of operation?	Work will begin around 7:00am and end at 7:00pm every day until the project is completed. Heavy equipment and other noise making equipment will be in operation from 7:30 am till 6:00 pm everyday until the project is completed.
How much noise will this project make?	Although generators will be necessary to operate pumps for the temporary diversion of Old Mill Creek, they will be the quietest generators available on the market. During the working hours, noise will be generated from the use of heavy machinery, such as excavators and backhoes. Pumps will need to be operated 24 hours a day.
I drive down Barnum Avenue every day for work, how will the traffic pattern change?	Barnum Avenue will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of the Barnum Avenue Bridge (local traffic only). Detour signs and traffic control personnel will be posted on or around West Broadway, Barnum Avenue, Caroline Avenue, Roessner Lane, and Brook Road.
I use the foot path located along the Old Mill Creek. Will I be affected?	The sidewalks on Barnum Avenue located between West Broadway and Roessner Lane will be closed to pedestrians
What will EPA do with the sediment removed from the Creek?	Sediment removed from the Creek will be placed in temporary filtration boxes located to the east of Barnum Avenue. After water has been decanted, the sediment will be disposed of off-site.
Will businesses in the area remain open?	All businesses located in the area will not be closed by the activities conducted by EPA.
Will there be any impacts to the Old Mill Creek downstream from where EPA is operating?	There will be no negative impacts on habitats located downstream from where operations are taking place. Some cloudiness in the water may occur due to the movement of sediments.
Where do I get additional information on the LAI Site located in Port Jefferson Station, NY?	The webpage provided below.