

WHAT TO EXPECT | Zephyr Cleanup

Muskegon Lake Area of Concern: Muskegon, MI

INTRODUCTION

The property where the former Zephyr Refinery stood on M120 is currently undergoing a cleanup by the Michigan DEQ. This handout describes additional work MDEQ is performing with the EPA under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's Legacy Act to clean up contaminated sediment in the property's wetlands below on the river. Decades of refining and storing gasoline led to extensive oil contamination on the site. The tanks on site are part of a benign fertilizer business unaffiliated with the former refinery and will remain in operation during and after the cleanup. Along with habitat restoration, a cleanup will lead to a cleaner and healthier watershed for fish, wildlife, and the community.



Typical truck wash station for a sediment cleanup



TIMELINE

Estimated Start: **Summer 2017**
Estimated Duration: **1.5 years**



CONTAMINANTS

- Heavy metals (lead)
- Petroleum products (TPHs)



CLEANUP

Sediment will be removed via relatively *dry excavation*, dried out, then hauled to a certified disposal facility.



GOALS

Remove: **Up to 45,000 yds³**
Restore: **~15 acres of wetland**



BENEFITS

- Improved habitat for fish and wildlife
- Removal of contamination from the watershed

CONSTRUCTION NOISE & TRUCK TRAFFIC

Construction equipment may cause noise in the neighborhood near the Zephyr site. Trucks, cranes, and excavators will be used during remediation. Daily work schedules have not yet been determined, but we anticipate 10 or 12-hour workdays. A tree line will remain in place along Wood Street to act as a noise and visual buffer to the sediment drying pad.

Sediment will be trucked from the wetland to the upland for drying. The truck route includes a brief, southern portion of Wood Street (see map). Sediment will then be hauled from the sediment drying pad to a landfill using the gate on the north end of the property on M120/Holton Road. Project managers are working with MDOT to coordinate routes with upcoming road construction projects on M120.



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ODORS AND AIR MONITORING

The wetland sediment contains petroleum, and the cleanup process will expose an odor. The odor may be strong depending on the site conditions and wind direction, **but odors don't always indicate negative health impacts**. In fact, some chemical pollutants may produce odors long before they reach harmful concentrations.

Community safety is a priority. The project partners are working with local, state, and federal health agencies to monitor for unsafe air quality conditions. They will install a comprehensive system of real-time air monitors around the site to ensure that air quality is maintained. If the project activities create a health risk, contractors are required to implement an immediate remedy or halt work at the site.

Contractors will be required to cover the sediment piles every evening to suppress odors. Best practices for controlling odors, such as the application of odor suppressing foam, will be used if the need arises.

Sediment excavation may also create dust. The project team will measure and control dust levels to prevent downwind movement using similar techniques for protecting air quality.



Air quality monitoring equipment



Odor suppressing foam

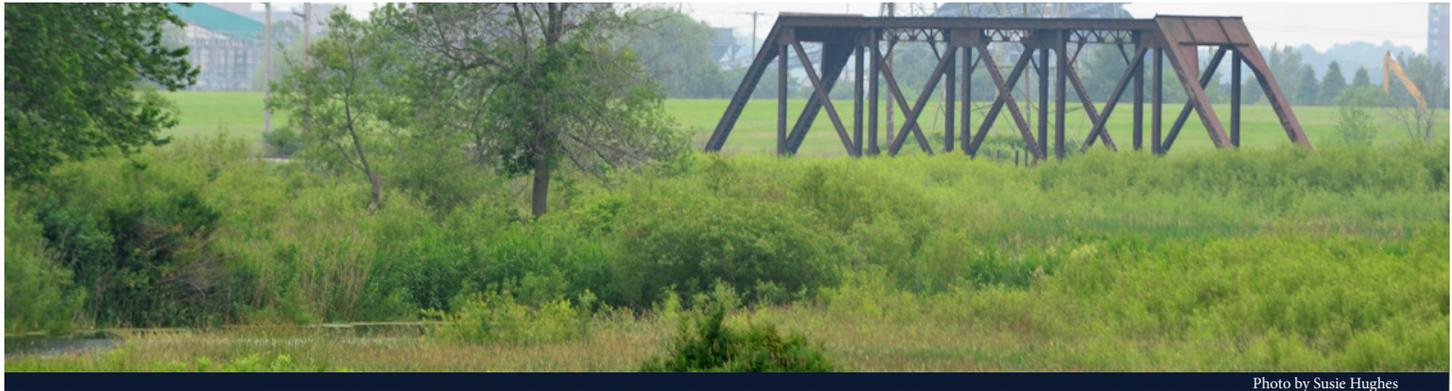


Photo by Susie Hughes

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ZEPHYR OUTREACH TEAM

Some of the Partners...

