



**US EPA Region 1  
Blackstone and Pawtuxet Rivers Site Survey Summary  
April 23, 2018**

**Site Survey Participants:**

Jim Ball, RI DEM	Alyssa Hall, Nuka Research
James Carew, US EPA	Ray Meunier, RI DEM
Dennis Chamberland, North Smithfield	Mike Popovich, Nuka Research
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**SITE: Woonsocket West (BR-01A)- Walking Trail behind High Rocks Condominiums**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Chamberland, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich, Soares
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Incidents from bridges, railroads, roadways, or pipelines North of the Rhode Island/Massachusetts state line.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>The Blackstone River flows from Massachusetts into Rhode Island just west of the High Rocks Condominiums in Woonsocket. To the southwest of the High Rocks condos is a small recreational area with a tennis court and play structure and a small gate that closes off a road that leads down to a walking trail and some undeveloped land at the edge of the river. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential clean-up capacity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most of the walking trail can serve as access to the river, and there is plenty of room for staging within this relatively open area.</li> <li>- At the eastern-most point of the walking trail, there is a particularly good collection point for oil recovery which is adjacent to the open field where staging can occur.</li> <li>- There are no Small boat/skiff launching facilities or ramps in this area but response contractors may be able to launch small, light jon boats along this shoreline. Line throwing guns can also be used since the river is narrow enough at this location.</li> </ul> <p>While a posted sign indicated that all or part of this area was private property and managed by the High Rocks Condominium Association, the site survey team was unable to determine the extent of this private property area or whether this recreational land was under the purview of the North Smithfield Conservation Commission.</p> <p>Another site behind the Blackstone Valley Boy’s and Girl’s Club was also surveyed though this site is across the MA border and is located in Blackstone, MA. The Boy’s and Girl’s Club location has good access to the river and plenty of room for staging but is technically within the state of Massachusetts and so may not be included in this project.</p>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Intercept, contain, and collect oil flowing downstream from sources in Massachusetts and protecting downstream reaches in the Blackstone River.



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**RECOMMENDED TACTICS**

Diversion (DV) booming with shoreside recovery (SR) tactics at several locations within High Rocks conservation land. Exclusion (EX) and/or deflection (DF) tactics at confluence of the Branch and Blackstone Rivers south of High Rocks. DV/SR at Boy's & Girls Club location (if tactics development at MA site authorized by EPA).



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**SITE: Woonsocket West (BR-01B)- Blackstone River at Cold Spring Park**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Chamberland, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich, Soares
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Incidents from bridges, railroads, roadways or pipelines north of the Rhode Island/Massachusetts state line. Discharge from Petro Oil Tank.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This location is still within Woonsocket but is further down the river from BR-01A. There is a small gravel canoe launch at the most southerly part of Cold Spring Park from which a small boat could be put in*. This location has seen multiple spills before. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The banks of this part of the river consist of rip rap</li> <li>- There are two adjacent streams that enter into the river at this location. One is immediately adjacent to the canoe launch and the other is between the ball field and the mill.</li> <li>- There are two culverts on the eastern side of the bank (across from the ball field), which will need to be incorporated into the GRP.</li> </ul> <p>* Response contractors may be able to launch small, trailered jon boats from this ramp.</p>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Stop contaminants from going over the Woonsocket Dam downriver and emulsifying. Stop contaminants from entering the Blackstone through culverts and streams along the rivers.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV/SR Cold Spring Park boat ramp. EX and/or culvert blocking (CB) tactics at culverts and small streams.



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**SITE: Woonsocket East (BR-02A) River Island Park and Thunder Mist Falls.**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Chamberland, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich, Soares
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Upstream incidents from adjacent roadways, rail line.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
This park is just below Woonsocket Falls Dam and features a boat launch and recreational area. The river in this area features small rapids and high velocity water movement. Due to its close proximity to the Thunder Mist Falls and the prevailing river flow rate and conditions, it is unlikely that recovery tactics would be effective at this location. However, the Ocean State Power water intake, along with Glenark Mills (or Glenark Landing Apartments) are located just above Thunder Mist Falls and may warrant EX tactcis to protect these resources from oil spill impacts. Gleanrk Mills is on the national Register of Historical Places. If EX tactics are not warranted at this site then This location (BR-02A) may be eliminated as a GRP development area (leaving BR-02B as the sole development area for Woonsocket East).
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Remove any oil not emulsified after Woonsocket Falls Dam.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
EX tactics at Ocean State Power intake facility and Glenark Mills.



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**SITE: Woonsocket East (BR-02B) River’s Edge parking area/Veterans Memorial Park**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Chamberland, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich, Soares
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Vehicle incidents on the bridges upriver, or rail line (adjacent to the river) incidents.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>The Rivers Edge Recreation Complex just south of Veterans Memorial Park was the location of this site survey . This location has a boat ramp that features pavers that is wide enough for trailered watercraft to be put in. This area looks like it is heavily used for recreational purposes like fishing and canoeing. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is plenty of area for staging and shore side recovery at the parking lot.</li> <li>- The river is wide and relatively calm in this area and would be a good collection point.</li> <li>- There is an active railroad (Providence &amp; Worcester or P&amp;W) running parallel to the river on the west side. Rail incidents could pose a significant threat to the river.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Contain contaminants close to the source and stop oil from going over the Manville Dam downriver.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV/SR at Rivers Edge Recreational Complex boat ramp.



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**SITE: Manville Dam (BR-03) Manville Landing Park**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Chamberland, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich, Soares
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Rail line incidents and incidents on Route 99 bridge upriver of Manville Dam.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>There is a newly constructed canoe/kayak put-in and floating dock located at Manville Landing Park. There are, however, two posts that are locked to the ground within the access path to the launch/dock area that prevent vehicles from entering the launch area. Post-site survey investigation revealed that the park appears to be managed (or co-managed) by the town of Cumberland and/or the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (BVTC). The BVTC also runs a river excursion boat from this location during summer months. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A key is needed get a vehicle or boat through the posts, but it is accessible by foot.</li> <li>- This area of the river is fast moving before the dam.</li> <li>- There are some sensitive ecological areas along the western shoreline, which may have been a wetland area. During the site survey, a swan was nesting on the side of the bank.</li> <li>- There appear to be some old sub-surface structures just above the dam, which may pose a navigation hazard at this location.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Contain oil close to the source, and stop oil from going over Manville Dam.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV/SR and EX at Manville Landing Park.



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**SITE: Upper Lonsdale Marsh (BR-04A) Blackstone State Park**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Vehicle incidents from Route 116 and/or I-295. Incidents from upriver pipeline.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This site has a large parking area for a bike path that runs along the river. The site is owned by RI DEM. The dam at this location is known as “The Chutes” based on the dam features, which are two outlets that release water through the dam. There is almost no boat access above this dam coming in to the marsh. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are no boat access points above this dam</li> <li>- Water flow rate/velocity is significant, and below the dam there would be little oil that could be recovered.</li> <li>- Below this Dam is an EPA long-term remediation site called the Lonsdale Bleachery.</li> </ul> <p>The team will review the current Exxon Mobil GRPs (in RI DEMs possession) as these GRPs may include tactics in this area to mitigate spills that emanate from the upriver pipeline. These existing tactics may be incorporated into this GRP map (if authorized) or this map (BR-04A) will be eliminated with references made to the existing industry GRPs in the remaining Lonsdale Marsh GRP. It is not recommended that this site continue to be a map on this GRP, as there is no access.</p>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Contain oil close to the source, and stop oil from impacting Lonsdale Marsh.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
TBD based on availability of existing industry GRP data.



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**SITE: Upper Lonsdale Marsh (BR-04B) Former Lonsdale Drive-In**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Incidents on the Route 122 bridge and upriver of the Marsh. Incidents from upriver pipeline.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This site is identified as a river access area but there was no clear evidence of a out-in location at the time of this survey. There was evidence that construction was either ongoing or had just taken place at this location which may account for the absence of a clear canoe/kayak put-in area. This area appears to be heavily foliated in the Spring/Summer months, which may make seasonal access to the river difficult. At the time of the site survey, however, much of the foliage was hibernating or dead. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The river is broad and flat underneath the Route 123 bridge and would be a good collection point. It may be possible to use the bridge to manually ferry lines across the river to facilitate boom deployment (in the absence of an obvious vessel put-in location or ramp).</li> <li>- Relatively slow flow at this location. Under these conditions, good site for oil recovery.</li> <li>- Ample space for shoreside recovery at the area that was surveyed, on the western bank of the river.</li> <li>- Some brush clearing will likely be necessary for spills occurring in late Spring, Summer, and early Fall.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Contain oil close to the source and prevent oil from entering the rest of the sensitive Lonsdale Marsh area downriver.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV/SR at Lonsdale Drive-In and John St./RT 123 bridge





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**SITE: Lower Lonsdale Marsh (BR-05) Central Falls Boat Ramp**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Oil spills from bridges, railroads, roadways, or upstream pipelines.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This site includes a new boat launch and dock located just above the the Broad Street bridge and Valley Falls Pond Dam. This is one of the only locations where a suitable boat ramp is available within Lonsdale Marsh for launching trailered small boats. The BVTC runs the river tour boat EXPLORER from this location during the summer months. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is adequate parking available at this location and it is suitable for equipment staging.</li> <li>- There are sensitive areas upstream (Lower Lonsdale Marsh) that can be accessed from this point.</li> <li>- This may be the best boat access within Lonsdale Marsh and could bring supplies to support GRPs up river.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Contain oil close to the source and prevent oil from going over the dam down river of Broad street.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
DV/SR at the dock ara just upstream of boat ramp.



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**SITE: Pawtuxet (BR-06) Central Falls Dam**

<b>SURVEY TEAM</b>
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, Meunier , Popovich
<b>SPILL RISKS</b>
Oil spills from bridges, railroads, roadways, or upstream pipelines.
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p>This site is behind a condominium building and features a small black plastic floating dock above the Central Falls Dam. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is adequate parking available at this location due to the large condominium complex/mixed used building that is next door.</li> <li>- The floating dock could be used to collect oil as it flows down river.</li> <li>- There is a large control room for the dam located next to the dam, which may be able to increase or decrease the amount of water flowing over the dam.</li> <li>- The water upstream of the dam is relatively flat but quick moving.</li> </ul> <p>The area at Upper and Lower Pawtucket Falls Dams and the Main St. bridge was also surveyed as a potential tactical deployment site but there is little river access at this location and it is not an ideal location for intercepting, containing, and collectiong oil. The Old Slater Mill historic site is at this location and there is an old intake structure for the mill in the river on the western shoreline. It may be possible to deploy EX tactics at this location if deemed appropriate by RI State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).</p>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</b>
Contain oil close to the source, stop oil from going over the Central Falls dam.
<b>RECOMMENDED TACTICS</b>
EX at Old Slater Mill if deemed appropriate by RI SHPO.