



**US EPA Region 1
Blackstone and Pawtuxet Rivers Site Survey Summary
April 24, 2018**

Site Survey Participants:

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Michael Cofsky, US EPA	Ray Meunier, RI DEM
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SITE: Warwick Mall (PX-01)- Showcase Cinemas, Warwick Mall

SURVEY TEAM
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, McKeown, Meunier , Popovich
SPILL RISKS
Oil spills from I-95, other landside and roadway sources, and upstream locations.
DISCUSSION
<p>The Pawtuxet River stretches west from this location to its origin (North and South Branches) at the Scituate and Flat River Reservoirs. This location was chosen as the first GRP site due to the limited number of access points and potential spill sources toward the head of the river and also because of the large number of dams that are present upriver. This location was also highly impacted during the flooding event of 2010, so there was also discussion about flooding considerations and impacts. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential clean-up capacity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The river can be accessed just North of the Showcase Cinemas in the corner of the parking lot through an opening in the bordering fence. - Jon Boats can be hand launched along shoreline in immediate vicinity of the fence opening. - There are residences directly across the river from the Warwick Mall access point, which may need to be utilized for boat access. - There are some sensitive areas up river of the Warwick Mall access point and it would be important to add a tactic to protect that area. - There are three culverts that drain from the parking lot into the river. This would be important to incorporate into the final GRP. <p>It was not clear during this site survey who the owner of the land adjacent to the mall is as well as the owners of the land on the other side of the river. This information would be important during a spill.</p>
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
Contain spills close to the source, protect the Pawtuxet River downstream from contaminants.
RECOMMENDED TACTICS
Diversion (DV) tactic with shoreside recovery (SR) at two locations north and south of the Showcase Cinema. Exclusion (EX) tactic at cove behind Showcase Cinema.



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SITE: Pontiac Boat Ramp (PX-02)- Pawtuxet River boat access point

SURVEY TEAM
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, McKeown, Meunier , Popovich
SPILL RISKS
Oil spills from I-95 bridges, roadways, and other landside sources adjacent to the Pawtuxet River.
DISCUSSION
<p>This location is directly down river from PR-01. This would be a good location for shoreside recovery, and it has a canoe launch that could be used to put in a small boat. The boat ramp is not suitable for boats that could not be carried as it is tiered and not a flat surface. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential clean-up capacity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The canoe/kayak put-in has a small parking lot, capable of fitting 5-8 cars. There is some parking on the street adjacent but it is limited. - There are two large culverts that drain from the landfill directly north of the boat ramp. - There is a natural collection point just up river from the culverts which may be helpful for shoreside recovery. - There is a small cemetery which would have to be protected during the process.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
Contain spills close to the source, protect the Pawtuxet River downstream from contaminants.
RECOMMENDED TACTICS
DV/SR at put-in location.



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SITE: Jefferson Blvd. (PX-03) RI-37 Crossing

SURVEY TEAM
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, McKeown, Meunier , Popovich
SPILL RISKS
Incident on the RI-37 Bridge or on the I-95 adjacent to the Pawtuxet River.
DISCUSSION
<p>The site survey team reviewed three potential locations to collect oil from this stretch of the river. The first site was on Kenney Drive behind the Howard Pump Station. There is adequate access to the river from this location, but the banks would likely be moderately to heavily foliated in summer and may need to be cut back. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential clean-up capacity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderate water flow was observed at this location at the time of the site survey but not enough to preclude tactic deployment. - There was a large culvert at this site that fed into the river just below the I-37 bridge over the river. <p>The second location that was surveyed for this GRP was the Worthington Pump Station at the end of Worthington Road in Cranston. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential clean-up capacity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This location is the last survey spot above an area of shallow rapids on the river. It would be important to collect any oil before it goes over the rapids and emulsifies. - Access to the river at this location is on fairly steep banks with lots of brush similar to the first site surveyed for this GRP. - There is limited parking at this site, as there are multiple businesses on the road that have road-side parking lots. <p>The third location surveyed was just Southwest of 3 Jefferson Blvd along Ford Lane. There is a small area along Ford Lane that allows for river access. This location has been used as a shoreside recovery location for previous spills. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential clean-up capacity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The stream at this point of the river is very narrow and would be an ideal collection point - There are some marshland/sensitive areas on the other side of the river from this point, which may need to be protected - During the survey, there was some evidence of mammals using the river (e.g. muskrats, beavers, etc.) It would be important to be mindful of the wildlife in this area. - There is a natural collection point at the canoe put in, which would facilitate shoreside recovery.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



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Contain spills close to the source, protect the Pawtuxet River downstream from contaminants, avoid letting oil go over the rapids.

RECOMMENDED TACTICS

DV/SR at all three locations.



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SITE: Warwick Ave. (PX-04) Belmont Park and DEP trailer yard

SURVEY TEAM
Ball, Carew, Cofsky, Duponte, Hall, McKeown, Meunier , Popovich
SPILL RISKS
Incident on the I-95 Bridge upriver, or incidents on the railroad bridge upriver.
DISCUSSION
<p>The group surveyed three locations for this GRP. The first was Belmont Park on the southeast corner. There is a walking/biking trail that provides good access to the river. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This location did not have sufficient areas for shoreside recovery as the path was fairly narrow. - The dam that is marked on the map is actually a culvert that drains a swampy area on the back side of the river. - The river creates an island that is not apparent on the map because of how thick the brush is on the island. - Although this portion of the river is narrow, it is flowing very quickly and is winding and therefore may not be good for recovery. <p>The second location for this GRP was at the Northwest side of Belmont Park. The site survey team agreed that this location was a much better location for recovery than the southeast side of the park. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The river is calmer at this location and would be better for recovery. - There is a large drain that is extending out into the river, but there wasn't any effluent coming from it when it was surveyed. The drain has a cap that could be closed if needed, although it is unclear how well it will move due to rust. - There is ample room for parking and vehicles next to the river access point. <p>The third location that was surveyed was at a DEP facility on Warwick Avenue, which is currently being rented by a private company. There is plenty of access to the river in this location as it's the beginning of a riverside walking trail. The team identified the following characteristics of the site and potential for response activity on the river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The river is fairly wide and calm at this location although the bottom of the river is rocky. - At the time of the surveying, there was a large gravel bank extending into the river, which the survey participants indicated is not usually visible. The river level seems to fluctuate at this location depending on the season and rainfall. - There was limited parking at this location as the lot is full of work trucks for the private company that leases the land. There is a small parking lot at the front of the lot for the river walkway/biking path.



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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Contain contaminants close to the source and stop oil from entering the bay.

RECOMMENDED TACTICS

DV/SR on northern bank downstream from Warwick Ave bridge.