

Snively Creek Soil contamination cleanup work update

Location: Grand Ave. near Snively Creek — This is an update about cleanup construction activities planned for the contaminated soil found near Snively Creek, which you were informed of last fall. The contamination of concern is called polychlorinated biphenyls, or [PCBs](#), and was found in soil near the surface in the wooded area just south of the Grand Avenue Estates Apartments.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and voluntary private partners are working in partnership on plans to remove contaminated soil from this area. Site preparation work in the construction area will begin toward the end of March, and will continue over the next several months. The contaminated soil removal work is planned to begin the late fall of 2022. The map below shows the approximate area that will be affected by construction activities.

Tree Removal — The first major construction activity, planned to begin the last week of March, will be removing trees from the construction area. This will include all larger trees in the construction area. After tree removal, the fencing that is at the site now will be re-set and temporary erosion controls will be installed if needed. The tree removal is necessary to allow for complete excavation of contaminated soil, and to allow equipment access in and out of the work area. Trees will be replanted throughout this area after this work is complete.

The major cleanup work involving digging out contaminated soil and truck loading and hauling is expected to begin late this fall. Other construction activities occurring over the next several months include:

- Drilling an additional soil boring using a large drilling rig near the southwest corner of the apartment building during the spring of 2022. This work will help determine the depth of soil removal needed and the stability of soil in this area.
- Relocating the fiber optic communication line buried in the ground below this area before soil removal work begins to minimize any service disruption to residents.
- Constructing staging areas and truck entrance/exit routes for soil removal and dewatering activities.

More detailed information on the actual soil removal work will be provided in future updates. Final site restoration will include re-grading the area to provide stable slopes to allow proper stormwater drainage, and restoring the area to include erosion controls, re-establishing ground vegetation and planting trees. Contact Brad Leick, MPCA, 218-302-6602, for more information.

