



Boston Mills Historic District Sanitary Sewer and Treatment System

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why am I receiving this letter?

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is proposing to undertake a project to provide a centralized sanitary system for **park-owned buildings** within and around the Boston Mills Historic District. The intent of this letter is to provide information regarding the proposed system to you, a park neighbor, because you reside in close proximity to the project area.

What is CVNP proposing?

CVNP is proposing construction of approximately 7000 lineal feet of gravity and pressurized sewer within public right-of-ways and on National Park Service (NPS) lands to collect the wastewater flows from 11 NPS owned structures and then pump it to a treatment system which would be constructed on NPS lands between the I-271 and the Ohio Turnpike bridges. The preferred treatment system (Alternative 2) would consist of a subsurface and a surface wetland. The existing individual septic tanks currently located at each property would remain in use by the new system.

Who would pay for this project?

The entire project would be paid for by the NPS and is currently being considered as a candidate for funding with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("stimulus") funds.

When would construction occur?

Depending on the available funding construction may begin as soon as Spring of 2010.

How is the wastewater treated now?

All CVNP buildings are currently serviced by individual septic systems which vary in condition. Several of the systems are near the end of their useful life and will be in need of replacement soon. While replacement of individual systems is an option we are considering, our preferred option is a centralized wetlands treatment system due to physical and archeological constraints of the properties.

Would the new system generate odors?

No more odors than a well-maintained residential septic system would be expected to generate. The design of the system provides the vast majority of treatment within the septic tanks or subsurface wetlands, which drastically reduces the likelihood of odors. By the time the wastewater reaches the open wetlands it would have undergone the majority of the treatment where odors would be typically generated.

What would the new system look like?

The most visible component of the new system would be a surface wetland located on NPS lands east of Riverview Road between I-271 and the Ohio Turnpike. The wetland would consist of 3 "cells" constructed of vegetated earthen berms running parallel to the land contours. Other components of the system would be similar to a typical septic system and include manholes, septic tank lids and pump stations with small control panels.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) continued:

Who would own and maintain the system?

The NPS would exclusively own and maintain the system.

Will non-NPS properties ever be able to tie-in or be forced to tie-in?

This would be an NPS sanitary system and so there would be no option for private property tie-in to the system. In order for private properties to tie-in the collection and treatment system would have to be transferred by NPS to Summit County Department of Environmental Services (DOES) or another public utility provider. Although such a transfer in the future is a remote possibility, it is not part of the plan for this system, and it would be a lengthy and complicated process, requiring years of negotiations for land and infrastructure transfer and possibly another Environmental Assessment document.

What immediate impacts would the new system have on me and my property?

There would be minor traffic delays and closures during construction but no other impacts to private property owners are expected.

What public involvement is required for this project?

This proposed action requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment to determine the effect on our environment. This is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) which provides direction for the planning, analysis, and public involvement in federally-funded projects which may affect our environment. Public involvement is important to this process and is accomplished through a variety of tools including public meetings and public review of draft environmental documents.

How can I obtain more information or comment on the project?

There are two opportunities for you to comment on the project. The first is during public scoping period with comments due by close of business on **August 20, 2009**, a copy of the request for public input is enclosed with this letter. There is also a **public open house** regarding the project on **August 11, 2009** from 7pm to 9pm at Boston Store to discuss the project with park staff and the project engineers. The second public review opportunity will be during the public review of the Environmental Assessment which will likely be sometime in October of this year.

Detailed information regarding the project and the Environmental Assessment, including a summary of the project, schematics, and an aerial photo of the construction area is posted on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, which is:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuva>

Written comments, general park inquiries or requests for a copy of the scoping materials or Environmental Assessment, when available, should be directed to:

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