



Reclaiming the River for the People – The Lower Passaic River Community Advisory Group

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Presentation today...

- Why the river is so important to our lives and livelihoods
- How it came to be polluted
- What's the status of the cleanup
- Two voices for the river
- Role of the Superfund Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Future for the river, and next steps

Lower Passaic River Geography



Headwater of the Passaic in Mendham Township



The tidal stretch in Newark, NJ

The Passaic River powered the region's industrialization...



Great Falls in Paterson, initially powered "Silk City" in the mid 19th century.

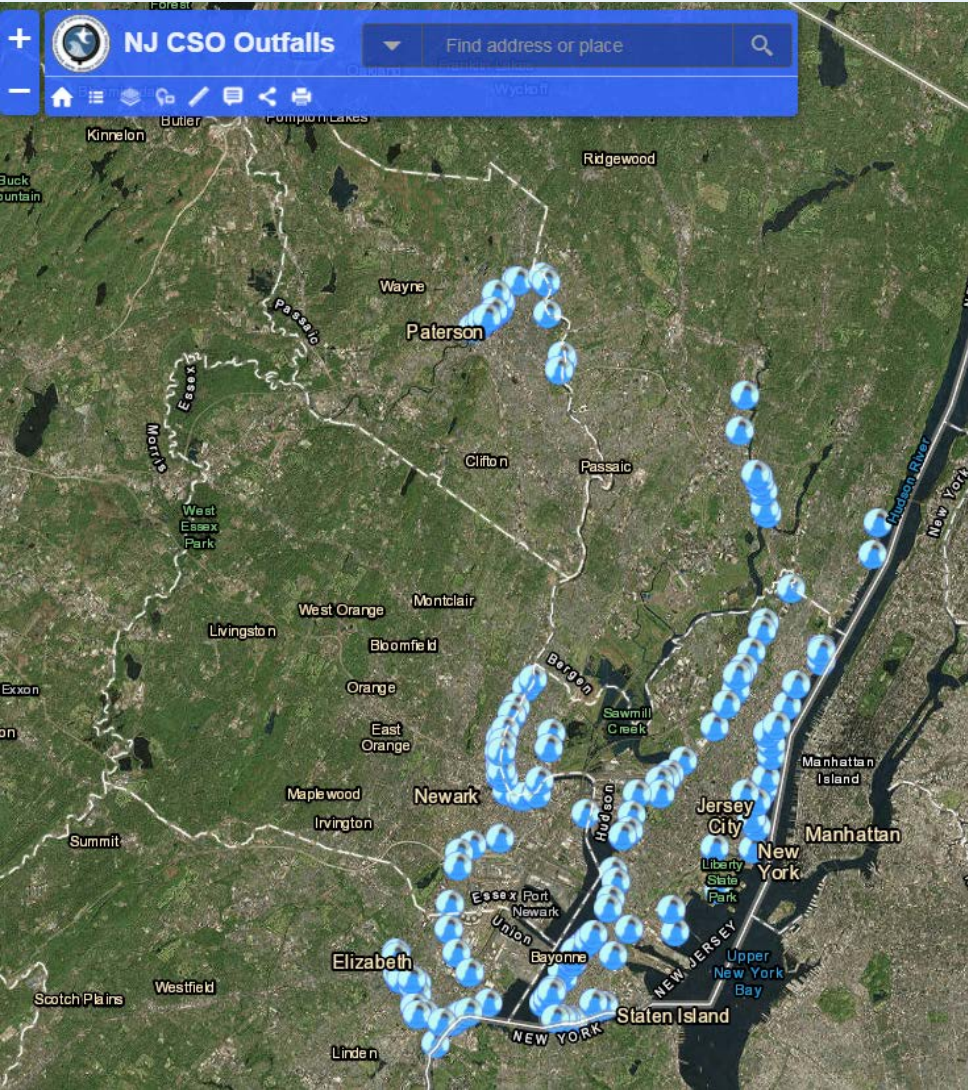


Dundee Dam and Canal, built in 1861. Powered textile factories, later rubber, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals

Port Newark, at the mouth of the Passaic



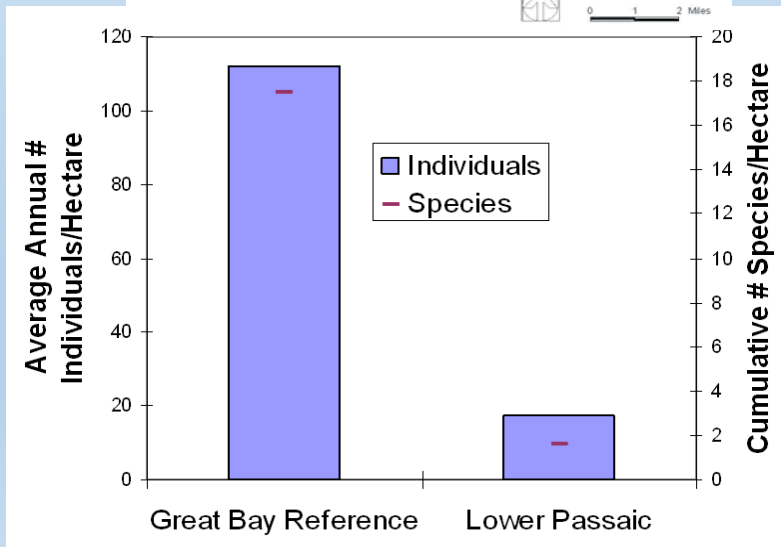
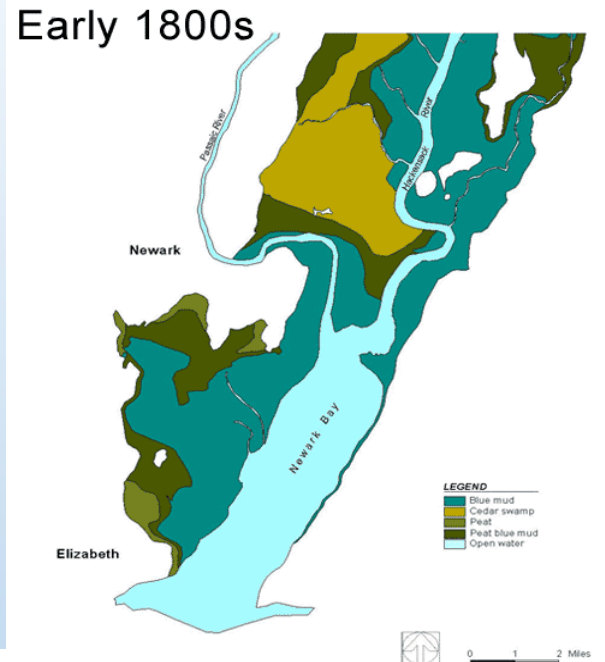
...flushed away its sewage...



...and became a casualty



The pollution impacts wildlife and human health



(Iannuzzi et al., 2004)



Becoming “The Diamond Alkali Superfund Site”

The Diamond Alkali factory site was added to the National Priorities List (Superfund Program) in 1984. The site was later expanded to include the Lower 17 miles of the Passaic River, as well as Newark Bay

Contaminants of Concern Include

- Dioxin
- PCBs
- DDT
- Dieldrin
- PAHs
- Mercury
- Copper
- Lead

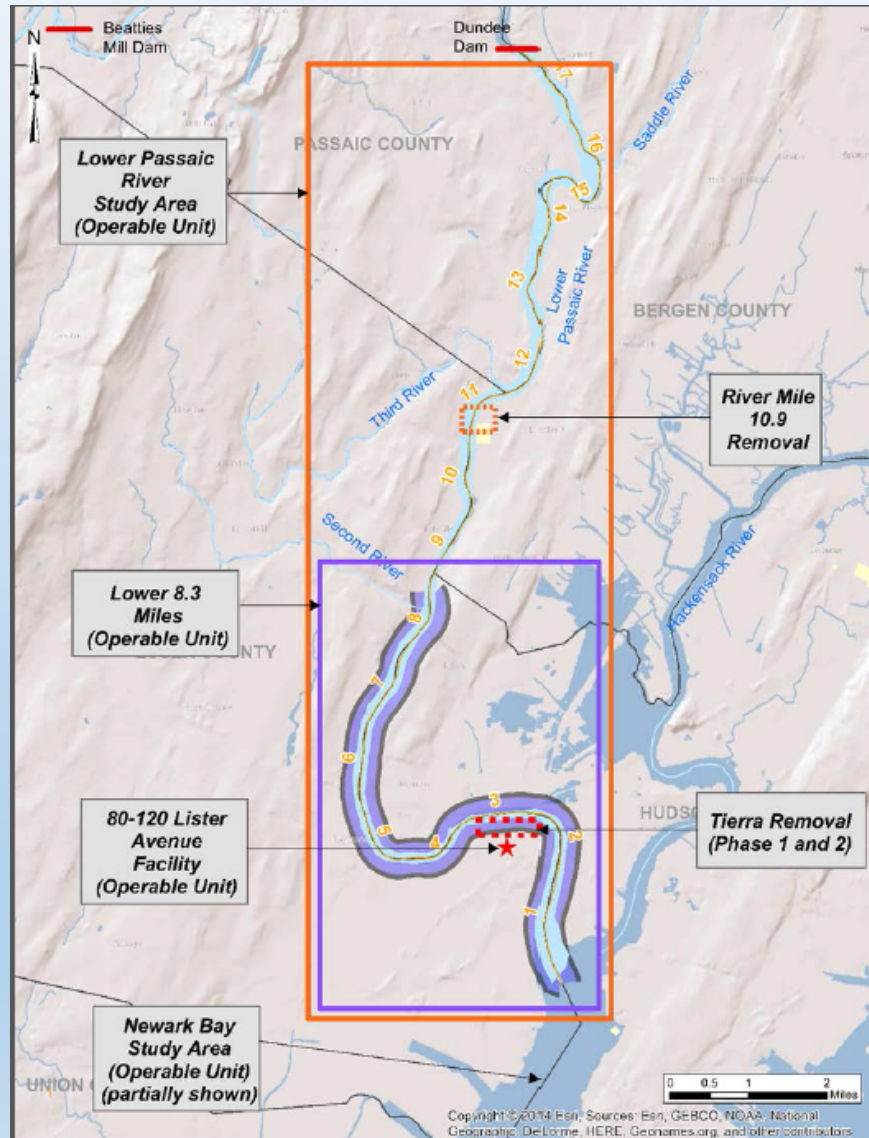
Potentially Responsible Parties

- Occidental Chemical Corporation
- Cooperating Parties Group includes over 60 companies
- Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission
- Newark, Kearny, East Newark, Harrison

Partner agencies



Status of the Cleanup Today



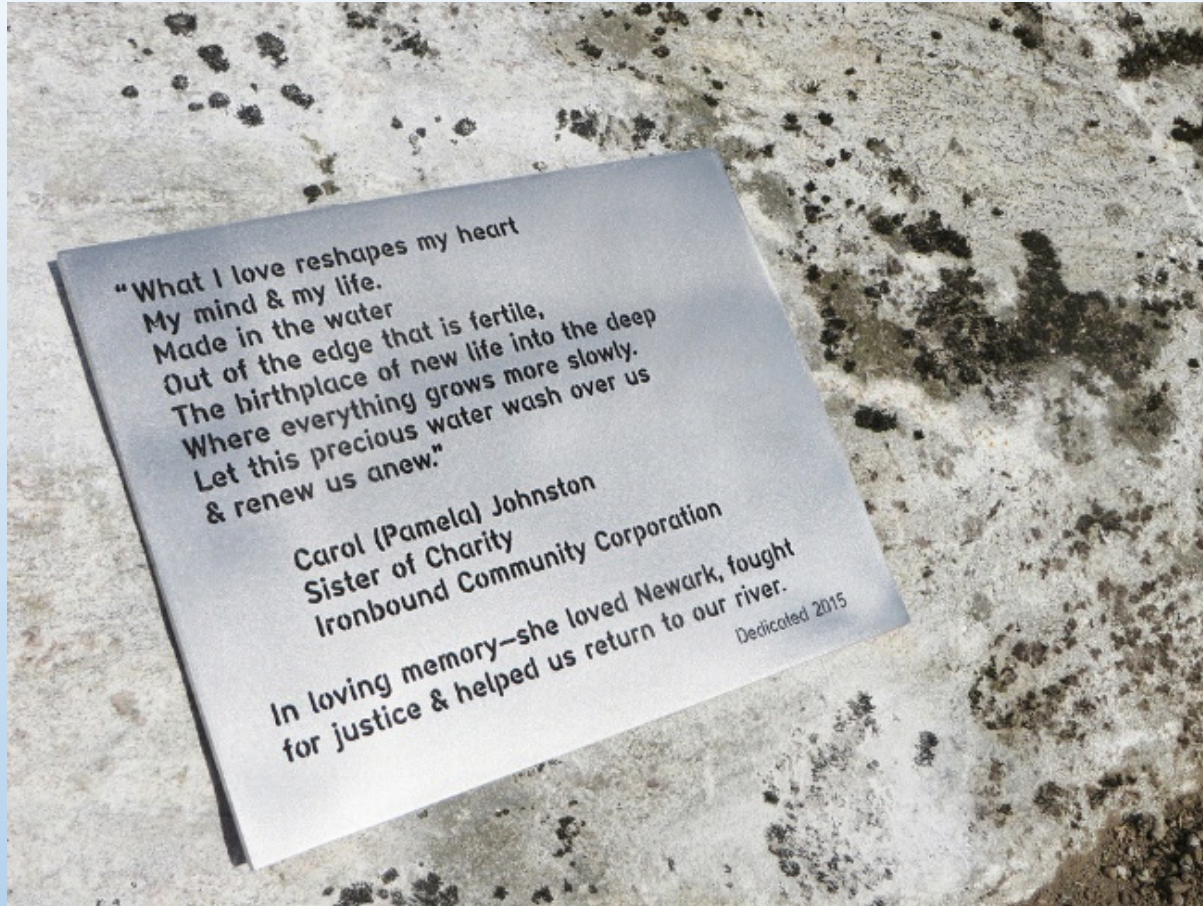
As of May 2017

Diamond Alkali Superfund Site

| Clean Up Steps | Lower 8.3 miles of Passaic (Operable Unit 2) | Newark Bay (Operable Unit 3) | 17-mile Lower Passaic River (Operable Unit 4) |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study | April 2014 | Ongoing until 2020 | Ongoing until 2021 |
| Proposed Plan | April 2014 | To be determined (TBD) | 2022 |
| Record of Decision | March 2016 | TBD | 2023 |
| Remedial Design | 2017-2020 | TBD | TBD |
| Remedial Action | 2021-2027 | TBD | TBD |
| Operation & Maintenance | 2027-... | TBD | TBD |

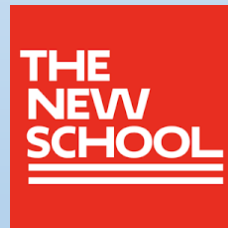
Sister Carol Johnston and Ella Filippone






A newspaper man once called the Passaic River "our most maligned public servant." Isn't that the truth? During war times, its factories served the Nation, and the river got dumped into. If magic wands were real, I would find that rock along the shore in Lyndhurst and wave it over the Passaic River saying: "Save me, clean my poisoned soul, bring me the life I deserve, and do it NOW!" –Ella Filippone

Community Involvement and Advocacy





CAG Participation Elements Cont'd - Reviewing cleanup methods for the lower half of the Superfund— From the Focused Feasibility Study, 2014

Four alternatives EPA considered for the cleanup:

- 1) No Action
- 2) Deep Dredging with Backfill
- 3) Capping with Dredging for Flooding and Navigation
- 4) Focused Dredging and Capping

Three disposal options for each:

- 1) Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) in Newark Bay
- 2) Off-site disposal
- 3) Local decontamination & beneficial Use



Crystal Burguan Environmental Justice Leader

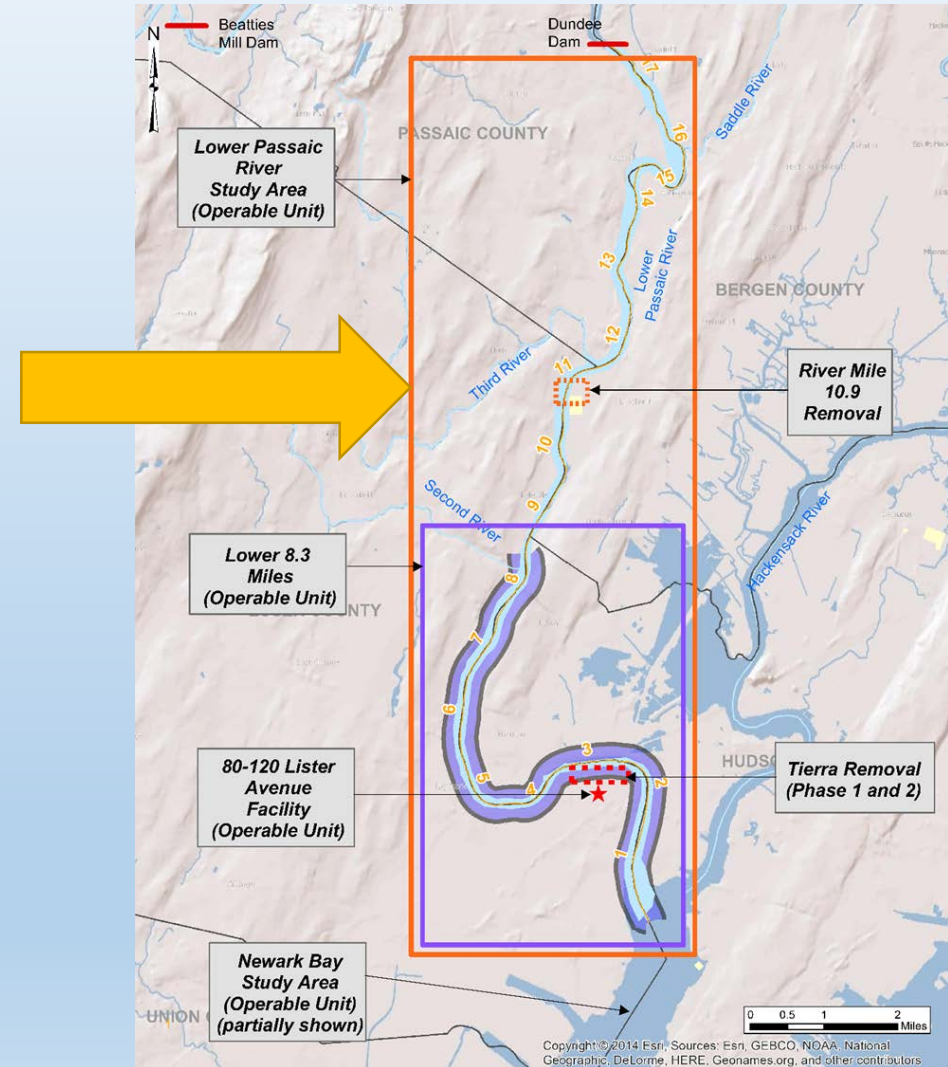


Other CAG Participation Elements



Current Status of the Upper 9 Miles of the River

- Remedial Investigation underway
- CPG proposed Interim Remedy
- Review by technical experts in EPA, as well as the CAG



Looking to the future...Passaic River Restoration and Access



Getting Involved

- CAG meetings are every second Thursday of every other month from 6-8pm and open to the public.
- Meetings are normally held at 1 New York Ave, Newark in the ICC Early Head Start Center.
- Meeting locations sometimes rotate to upriver locations depending on the Agenda
- Next meeting May 10th from 6-8 PM at Clifton City Hall
- To receive regular meeting notices and updates, email Shereen Kandil at EPA kandil.shereen@epa.gov
- All meetings notes and presentations can be found on the CAG website at www.OurPassaic.org
- To find out how to join the CAG, email Doug Sarno, the Passaic River facilitator, doug@forumfg.com
- Questions about this presentation? Email Sarah@hudsonriver.org