



# Fact Sheet

## N. Bradford Street – PCBs Cleanup Project

The N. Bradford Street cleanup project is addressing elevated levels of soil contamination in the area in and around the railroad adjacent to Cathedral Park (see image right). **This contamination does not present an immediate risk to public health.** However, more sampling is necessary to make sure there is no risk of long-term health effects for someone who regularly comes into contact with soil in this area.

The contamination is from a class of chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, which were historically used as coolants and lubricants. PCBs were banned in 1977 due to their toxic impacts on human health and persistence in the environment. DEQ is addressing this contamination through its cleanup process, and the first step is getting more data.

**To minimize your exposure if you're in this area, DEQ and Oregon Health Authority recommend:**

- Staying on the paved path when crossing the railroad
- Not walking on or along the railroad



### What is DEQ doing about this?

Right now, you will see signs like the one on the right posted along the railroad advising people to stay on the paved path. DEQ and Oregon Health Authority are meeting with community members on a regular basis to provide updates on the project and collaborate on getting information to the community. These signs are an outcome of that partnership.

For the most up-to-date information about the N. Bradford Street Cleanup Project, go to [deqblog.com/nbradford-street](http://deqblog.com/nbradford-street), or join our email list at [bit.ly/nbradford-list](http://bit.ly/nbradford-list).

## Contaminated Soil Suelo Contaminado

**Do not walk on or around tracks. Use the path.**  
*No camine en las vías ni en los alrededores. Use el camino.*

**Đất Bị Ô Nhiễm**  
Không được đi trên hoặc đi xung quanh đường ray tàu hỏa. Hãy đi trên đường mòn.

**Забруднення ґрунту**  
Не ходіть залізничними коліями або поруч із ними. Використовуйте доріжки.

## Current status

DEQ collected samples in 12 sampling areas of the park next to the railroad in May 2022. Each area was composed of fifty or more samples. On July 21 and 28, DEQ is meeting with community members to discuss the results of the Cathedral Park soil sampling. This sampling told us some good news:

- PCBs are below DEQ's long-term park user screening levels in 10 sampling areas, including the dog park area, which means the levels are too low to harm health.
- In two sampling areas, levels of PCBs are above DEQ's long-term park user screening level, but well below a level that would be of immediate concern. OHA determined these levels of PCBs are still too low to harm health because the soil is covered by grass and mulch and people do not spend all their time in one area.
- OHA has recommended the City of Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation regularly inspect and maintain the grass and mulch in the area as an extra precaution. Grass and mulch help prevent people from coming into contact with bare or loose soil.
- DEQ will continue requiring sampling through its cleanup process and to evaluate the best way to address contamination.

Peninsula Iron Works and Union Pacific Railroad, both of which may have contributed to the PCB contamination in this area, have signed agreements coming into DEQ's voluntarily cleanup program. Both have submitted draft sampling plans to DEQ and sampling will likely occur in summer to fall 2022.

## Get more information

The most up-to-date information on this project and answers to frequently asked questions are available online at [deqblog.com/nbradford-street](https://deqblog.com/nbradford-street).

You can also direct any questions to [nbradfordst@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:nbradfordst@deq.oregon.gov) or leave us a voicemail at 503-229-6488, and we'll get back to you in three business days.

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