



▼ Remediated wetland at the Watertown Arsenal FUDS in Watertown, MA. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Watertown FUDS property remediated

by
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THE SUCCESSFUL REMEDIATION

of the General Services Administration (GSA) Watertown Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) marks the completion of the last remaining site associated with the Watertown Arsenal, MA, cleanup. The site was restored from a hazardous waste site to a lush, green recreation space, allowing the federal government to return the property to the people of Massachusetts after 94 years. The New England District was the lead agency for the cleanup and worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and GSA to ensure the site was suitable for its future use as park land.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion took place at the Commander's Mansion in Watertown in early December 2014. COL Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, joined congressional, federal, state, and local partners in celebrating the land turnover.

Anna Shpigel, Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator, GSA, served as Master of Ceremonies. Natalie Kaufman represented Congresswoman Katherine Clark. COL Barron told the audience that the New England District became involved with the project in May 1991. He concluded by thanking the entire team of partners for the success of the project. "You made possible the transfer of a 13-acre hazardous waste site into usable green space," he said.

Other speakers included Gary Moran, Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Environmental Compliance at Massachusetts DEP; Kevin Whalen, Deputy Director for the Massachusetts DCR, and Robert Zarnetske, GSA's Regional Administrator.

Glenn Rotando, GSA's Regional Commissioner for the Public Buildings Service

New England Region, closed the ceremony. "In 1920, the U.S. Army acquired this site from the state of Massachusetts with the promise to return it to the state when it was no longer needed," he said. "Now, 94 years later, the property is being returned. Job well done by everyone. Enjoy the parcel."

The New England District was responsible for completing remedial activities at the site. With the exception of one building that was demolished with GSA funding, the \$3.68 million project was completely funded under FUDS.

The property was part of Watertown Arsenal; during WWII, the U.S. Army constructed five structures on the GSA property to store various materials and equipment. As part of the Manhattan Project, the site was used to stabilize depleted uranium to allow for it to be shipped for disposal offsite.

Since 1991, a variety of investigations and removal actions were performed by the New England District. In May 2012, the Decision Document was signed, paving the way for the remediation.

Charter Environmental of Boston, MA, and its subcontractor, Nobis Engineering of Concord, NH, mobilized to the site in November 2012. Remedial action work on the site included demolition of all the structures that were unoccupied and deteriorated, excavation and off-site disposal of 450 cubic yards of PCB contaminated soil above 50 parts per million, and construction of a two-acre soil cover and two-acre compensatory wetland. All work was completed in July.

As part of long-term monitoring to ensure the remedy performs as designed, the New England District will perform inspections of the wetlands twice a year for five years and inspections of the soil cover annually.

New England District team members who accompanied COL Barron to the event were New England District Deputy Commander LTC Charles Gray, Gary Morin, Maryellen Iorio, Joel Bloom, James Morocco, and Sally Rigione. 