



# City of Medford

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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STEPHANIE MUCCINI BURKE  
MAYOR

April 2, 2019

Dear Resident,

I am writing you with exciting news from our consultant regarding the fenced in area of the northern part at Riverbend Park.

In March, the City's environmental consultant completed a comprehensive site investigation and health risk assessment for this City-owned open-space. Based on findings of these studies, we are pleased to announce that most of the open-space will be reopened shortly, with the remainder of the area to open following remediation.

As you know, high levels of metals were first discovered in surface soil in 2017. At that time, the state Department of Environmental Protection required the City to fence off this area and post warning signs about the contamination. Since then, over 200 soil samples and 27 groundwater samples have been collected and analyzed to outline how contaminants are distributed across the site and to inform a health risk assessment.

As required by MassDEP, the health risk assessment was conducted. The soil was evaluated, and groundwater data collected during a comprehensive site investigation. The health risk assessment found that unacceptable levels of metals in shallow soil are limited to the southeast corner of the open-space and to a small area in the center of the open-space. These findings support the removal of fencing from most of the area. The southeast corner will continue to be temporarily fenced and the small area in the center of the open-space will be removed and replaced to prevent direct contact with soil.

The City is currently developing a plan to permanently address risks from metals in soil at these two areas. The rest of the fencing can be removed when cleanup is complete. Even though fences will be taken down, vegetable gardens will not be permitted at the park as soil from the park is not safe for gardening. Contact with soil deeper than 3 feet is not recommended, therefore digging at the park will be prohibited.

Thank you for your understanding and patience and if you have any environmental concerns, please contact Alicia Hunt, Director of Energy and Environment ([ahunt@medford-ma.gov](mailto:ahunt@medford-ma.gov) or 781-393-2137) or if you have public health concerns, please contact Mary Ann O'Connor ([moconnor@medford-ma.gov](mailto:moconnor@medford-ma.gov) or 781-393-2565).

Very truly yours,

STEPHANIE M. BURKE  
Mayor

Cc: Energy and Environment  
Law