

National Fireworks Site – Timeline

- 1907 to 1970 - companies that operated on the National Fireworks Site manufactured civilian fireworks, and researched, developed and manufactured US military munitions and pyrotechnics
- 1970s - Town of Hanover purchased approximately 130 acres of the former National Fireworks Site as conservation land
- 1989 - the National Fireworks Site listed as a “Location to be Investigated” under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan
- 1995 - the National Fireworks Site listed as a “Confirmed” Site by the MA DEP
- 1997 – Phase I Initial Site Investigation
- 1999 – Immediate Response Actions performed
- 1999 to 2006 Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment activities performed
- 1999 to present – Meetings held to update public on the status of the National Fireworks site conducted by the MassDEP and the PRP environmental consultant
- 2006 - Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment report submitted and approved
- 2007 - Draft Phase III Remedial Action Plan submitted
- 2009 – Revised Phase III Remedial Action Plan submitted
- 2012 – Discussions with PRP’s and environmental consultant regarding revisions to Revised Phase III ongoing.

What’s Next?

The Town of Hanover will continue to work with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and other interested stakeholders toward a long-term solution. The town is working with the DEP and DPH to schedule a public meeting in the near future, your feedback and involvement is critical.

Contact Information

How can I obtain more information about the National Fireworks Site?

All relevant site materials, reports, and correspondences are available at an information repository at the Hanover Public Library, as well as at the MA DEP southeast Regional Office, 20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville, MA 02347. Telephone 508-946-2700, or through Amy Walkey, LSP with the Town of Hanover, Planning Office.

Amy Walkey’s Contact Info: Phone # 781-826-7641
Email: amy.walkey@hanover-ma.gov

Troy B.G. Clarkson, Town Manager
troy.clarkson@hanover-ma.gov

Town of Hanover’s Web site Address: www.hanover-ma.gov
See quick links for Fireworks Site information.



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ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE: The National Fireworks Site

A stated goal of the Board of Selectmen is to improve communications with the residents of Hanover. Consistent with that goal, we are reaching out to you as neighbors to initiate a dialogue and to answer your questions on the history and current status of the National Fireworks site. The Board of Selectmen and state agencies have been engaged in this issue for some time and as questions have arisen from recent reports in the media we now recognize the need to provide timely and accurate information on this issue.

As stakeholders in the future of our community, we encourage your questions and feedback.



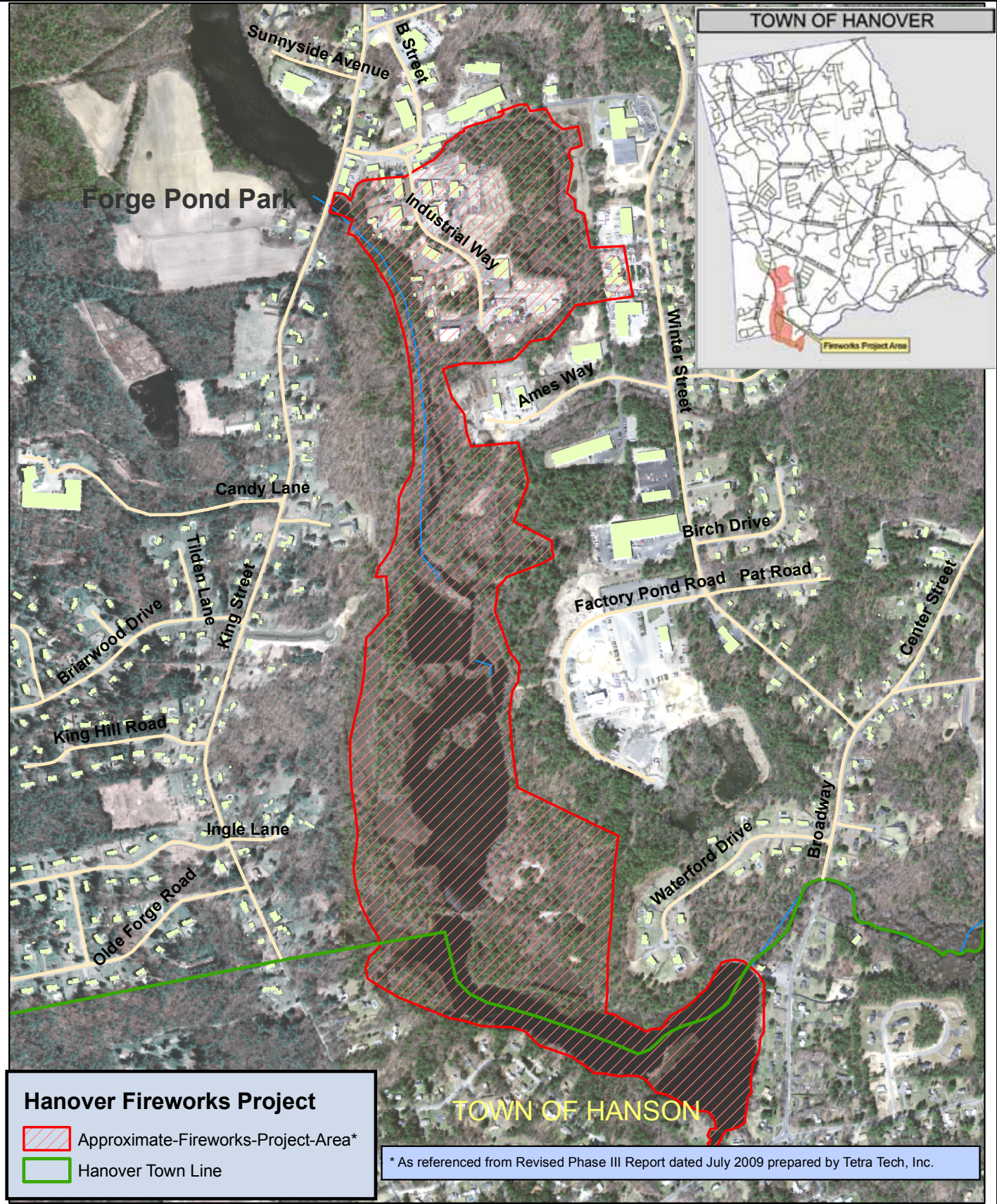
Troy B.G. Clarkson, Town Manager

The National Fireworks Site.

From 1907 to 1970, companies that operated on the National Fireworks Site manufactured civilian fireworks, and researched, developed and manufactured US military munitions and pyrotechnics. Lead, mercury, and organic solvents generated in the manufacturing process were disposed of on the southern portion of the site, and impacted the soil and sediments, groundwater, wetlands, and Factory Pond.

The approximate 240-acre National Fireworks Site is located in the Hanover Fireworks/ Industrial District located generally between King and Winter Streets in the southwest corner of Hanover. The Site is bounded on the east by Winter Street and the Site security fence, on the west by King Street and the Drinkwater River wetland, on the north by First Street, and on the south by Factory Pond. An industrial park currently operates at the northern & eastern portion of the National Fireworks Site. All environmental investigations and remedial activities at the National Fireworks Site have been overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) since approximately 1995.





National Fireworks Site - Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Who is responsible for cleaning up the National Fireworks Site?**

The Mass DEP has identified the Fireworks Site Joint Defense Group (Kerr-McGee, National Coating Corporation, MIT, Tronox, and others) and the US Department of Defense as the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the assessment and future cleanup.
- Q: What is the Nature of the Contamination at the National Fireworks Site?**

Mercury, methyl mercury, lead, other metals, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds generated in the manufacturing process were disposed of on the southern portion of the site, and impacted the soil and sediments, groundwater, wetlands, and Factory Pond.
- Q: When will the cleanup activities be performed?**

MassDEP is in discussions with the PRP group and their environmental consultant regarding revisions to the Revised Draft Phase III. These discussions are progressing and have centered on the range of alternatives included within the Phase III that will get to a permanent solution (Response Action Outcome-RAO) under the MCP.
- Q: How will the National Fireworks Site affect my property values?**

Property values are consistent throughout Hanover with no evidence that property values have been adversely affected in the area around the fireworks site.
- Q: As a nearby resident, is there an increased risk of developing cancer living near the National Fireworks Site?**

In a letter dated December 19, 2011 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health determined that cancer distribution for the town did not appear unusual, as noted in a recent Boston Globe article that listed the top 80 communities for cancer in Massachusetts. Hanover is not among them.
- Q: What are the Health and Safety concerns?**

Samples of fish, soil and sediment from the site have been found to contain elevated concentrations of metals therefore Remedial Action is necessary.
- Q: What is the projected cost of the proposed remedial actions?**

Site wide remedial alternatives have estimates ranging between 12 and 100 million dollars that are to be paid by the PRPs and not the town.
- Q: Is the National Fireworks Site considered a Superfund Site?**

No. However, the National Fireworks Site is considered a high priority by the Mass DEP pursuant to MGL chapter 21E.
- Q: Is the National Fireworks Site impacting the Town of Hanover Public Water Supply?**

No potential risk has been identified to the town of Hanover Water Supply. You may obtain a water quality report by contacting the Hanover Department of Public Works. <http://www.hanoverdpw.org/>
- Q: Can I eat the fish from Factory Pond and other local waterways?**

A Public Health Advisory for Drinkwater and Indian Head Rivers and Factory Pond has been in place since 1994. A “Do Not Eat Fish” warning has been posted between Forge Pond Dam and Luddam’s Ford Dam, including Factory Pond. “Catch and Release” recreational fishing is permitted.
- Q: Are surrounding residential properties at risk?**

Nearby residential properties are not located with the Fireworks Project Area.