



*Revitalizing Auto Communities  
Environmental Response Trust*

## Cleanup Progresses at Former Factory Complex

### Buick City Site

Flint, Michigan

November 2018

#### For more information

If you need more information, have questions or would like to be added to the mailing list about the Buick City site, please contact one of these individuals:

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**Information repository and  
website:**

A file containing official documents about the Buick City site is available for your review at the Flint Public Main Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., or see

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/rcra/buickcity/index.html>

The former General Motors-Buick City manufacturing complex is undergoing environmental cleanup that will take several years to complete. Buick City includes approximately 413 acres divided into the Northend (north of Leith Street) and the Southend (south of Leith Street) – see attached Site Map. Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response (RACER) Trust is tasked with conducting the cleanup and marketing the property for sale and redevelopment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorizes and oversees the required cleanup work with the support of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Two parcels (one on the Northend and one on the Southend), totaling approximately 49 acres, have been sold and successfully redeveloped for new manufacturing operations. About 364 acres are still owned by RACER Trust and are available for purchase and redevelopment. RACER Trust continues to work on completion of the necessary environmental cleanup work for the entire 413-acre site. Environmental cleanup that is necessary because of GM's historical operations remains RACER Trust's responsibility, regardless of who owns the property.

#### Site Conditions

Buick City contains soil and groundwater (water below the surface) that is contaminated with various petroleum products and chemicals that were used as part of GM's car and truck manufacturing. Some of the petroleum products float on top of the groundwater and are very difficult to remove. Select areas of the Buick City property also have contamination levels in soil that require cleanup. The goal of the Buick City environmental work is to meet EPA and MDEQ cleanup standards and support redevelopment of the site.



*Example of soil excavation work at the Buick City property.*



*This building contains a treatment system that extracted/removed and treated gasoline-contaminated liquid and vapor from beneath the property.*

## Cleanup work

### Soil

Covers were placed over six areas in the Southend where lead-contaminated soil is located that keep the soil in place and prevent human contact with contaminants. The covers consist of a fabric barrier with six inches of crushed stone over the fabric. Some of the affected soil was partially covered by concrete or other material. Regular inspections are required to make sure the soil covers remain in place.

In addition to the covers, approximately 600 cubic yards of soil contaminated with PCBs, manganese, lead and/or a chemical called benzo(a)pyrene were dug up and disposed of in a landfill.

### Underground petroleum

A multi-phase (liquid and vapor) removal system (*see photo above*) was operated at the Southend to cleanup an underground gasoline plume located near the corner of Hamilton and Industrial avenues. A plume is underground contamination usually associated with groundwater. Mixtures of groundwater, gasoline, and underground vapors were removed by this treatment system. In 2013-2014, more than 4,300 pounds of gasoline liquid and vapor were removed.

### Storm sewers

Fifteen storm sewers pass through and serve the Buick City property. All but one small sewer also collects storm water from the City of Flint and other nearby properties. Absorbent booms designed to soak up potential petroleum or petroleum byproducts were installed in four storm sewers where they empty into the Flint River. RACER continues to inspect and maintain these absorbent booms.

Also, bulkheads that completely block storm water flow have been installed at multiple locations inside the storm sewers to prevent contaminants from the property to reach the city storm sewer system. In addition, one storm sewer line was re-routed before entering the property to avoid potential contamination.

Bulkheads cannot be used on the primary sewer lines because those lines also drain other properties in the city, much like tributaries drain into a river. An engineering study is under way to determine if another primary main line can be re-routed to avoid an area of contamination between Leith Street and Stewart Street.

### PFAS

Current work is focusing on the recent discovery in groundwater of new contamination - so-called PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) – (see attached sample location map) which have been used by hundreds of industries and in consumer products such as carpeting, clothing, upholstery (Scotchguard), food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foams and metal plating. There is much still to learn about the PFAS impacts at Buick City and other RACER properties where PFAS is known to be present. **Importantly, to the best of our knowledge, none of the PFAS at Buick City is impacting any known drinking water source.**

### Maintenance

While final cleanup steps are being developed, four outfalls to the Flint River continue to be maintained using oil absorbent booms and/or oil-water separators. Multiple sections of the property's perimeter security fence have also been repaired or replaced, and trees and bushes removed to improve how the property looks.

### Next steps

More investigation is needed to completely assess conditions at the property and develop cleanup plans that protect public health and the environment.

In addition, EPA will prepare a proposed final report called a Statement of Basis for the Northend which will outline EPA's recommended cleanup approach. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Statement of Basis before EPA issues its Final Decision. After the Final Decision, RACER Trust will submit for EPA approval a final remedy report called the Corrective Measures Implementation Work Plan.

The objective is to complete the major components of active cleanup by 2020. Long-term monitoring of the property is expected to continue through the year 2060.





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