
South Fruit Valley Neighborhood

Additional Information about Groundwater & Soil Investigation and Cleanup Work in Your Area



Если вы не говорите по-английски и вам нужно помощь с этим "анкета" по-русски или по-украински, пожалуйста звоните по телефону: Игорь Верн (Igor Vern) (360) 407-0281.

Si usted no habla inglés y necesita este formulario en español, favor de comunicarse con el Sr. Gregorio Bohanal (509) 454-4174.

Introduction

This flyer is designed to answer questions about the groundwater and soil investigation and cleanup work in the Fruit Valley Neighborhood (FVN) area. The investigation and cleanup are being supervised by the Washington Departments of Ecology and Health. Please feel free to call or email the contacts listed on page two if you have any questions not answered by this flyer.

This flyer shares information about:

- Work that is being done at the Cadet Manufacturing and former Swan Manufacturing sites to identify and clean up the solvent contamination in groundwater and soil;
- Work that has been done in the North Fruit Valley Neighborhood (the area north of Fourth Plain Boulevard); and
- Effects of groundwater and soil contamination on human health and the environment.

Brief Background

Groundwater and soil samples taken from numerous groundwater wells and soil borings in your area have contained solvents. These solvents were once used in degreasing processes at nearby industrial sites. The solvents have reached groundwater and have traveled beneath the North and South Fruit Valley Neighborhood (FVN). These solvents can evaporate from the

groundwater and move up through the soil toward the ground surface, then potentially into indoor air. Groundwater beneath the FVN is not a known source of drinking water. FVN homes receive their water from the City of Vancouver's municipal system.

Cleanup at the Cadet and Swan Manufacturing sites

Cadet Manufacturing and the Port of Vancouver have worked to identify areas of contamination and evaluate cleanup options at the Cadet Manufacturing and Swan Manufacturing sites. Cadet Manufacturing is an operating facility and the Swan Manufacturing plant closed in 1964. Please see Figure 1 (page three) for locations of these, or visit Ecology's website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/cadet/cadet_hp.htm.

Groundwater sampling results indicate cleanup efforts at the Cadet and Swan Manufacturing sites have decreased the solvents levels in the groundwater. This in turn decreases the amount of solvent that evaporates from the groundwater beneath the FVN.



Contaminants evaporating from groundwater and moving up through the soil. (Graphic courtesy of EnviroGroup Limited.)

Investigation and cleanup work in the North Fruit Valley Neighborhood

Cadet began investigating groundwater and soil contamination in the North FVN in 1999. To evaluate if residents were being exposed to solvent vapors from the ground, soil gas samples were collected in 2001 and surveys of building foundations were completed in 2004.

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Since 2002, indoor air samples have been collected in various residences to evaluate if solvent vapors from groundwater have entered homes.

Results of indoor air samples indicated solvent vapors from the contaminated groundwater were found to be entering indoor air of a few homes. However, based on these results and what we know about how solvents affect human health, the Washington State Department of Health determined there was no immediate threat to human health at the sampled residences.

Although no immediate health threat was found at these homes, Health recommended reducing or eliminating exposure to solvent vapors. This recommendation was for homes where indoor air levels were higher than expected, and vapors were likely coming from solvent contaminated groundwater. To accomplish this, Cadet installed solvent vapor filtration systems in six homes where solvent levels were the highest.

To decrease solvent levels in the groundwater, cleanup wells were installed on West 28th and Weigel Avenue. The wells pump contaminated groundwater, inject an oxidizing compound, and then return the water into the ground (see Groundwater Cleanup Wells on Figure 1, page three).

In December 2004, four new cleanup wells were installed along West 27th, Unander and Thompson Avenues, and at the Cadet site. This brought the total number of cleanup wells to seven. The expansion of the cleanup well network should further reduce the amount of solvents in groundwater flowing from the North FVN to the South FVN.

Recent groundwater and soil gas sampling results indicate cleanup efforts are working and solvent levels are decreasing in the North FVN.

Non-groundwater sources of solvent vapors

Solvents easily evaporate and are commonly found in both outdoor and indoor air. Solvents in outdoor air can enter indoor air through normal air exchange, via doors, windows and vents.

Results of air sampling in the North FVN show that the outdoor air contains very low levels of solvents. The higher levels of solvents found in some North FVN homes is not caused by outdoor air.

Solvents found in indoor air can come from products brought into a home. Cleaning products, glues and adhesives, dry cleaned clothes, some building materials, carpeting and paints may contain solvents. Use of these products is a potential source of solvents found in indoor air of North FVN homes.

Healthy actions you can take to avoid exposure to solvent vapors

- Reduce the number of items you bring home that may contain solvents.
- Keep crawl space and basement vents clear and open.
- Avoid deep, open soil excavations, cutting through your foundation walls or basement floors, or encouraging air movement between your basement/crawlspace and living space.
- Follow these healthy actions until more is known about air movement in your home and the groundwater contamination below your home. It is okay to do normal gardening activities.

Questions?

Thank you for your cooperation with this important investigation and cleanup effort.

If you have general questions about this project, please contact:

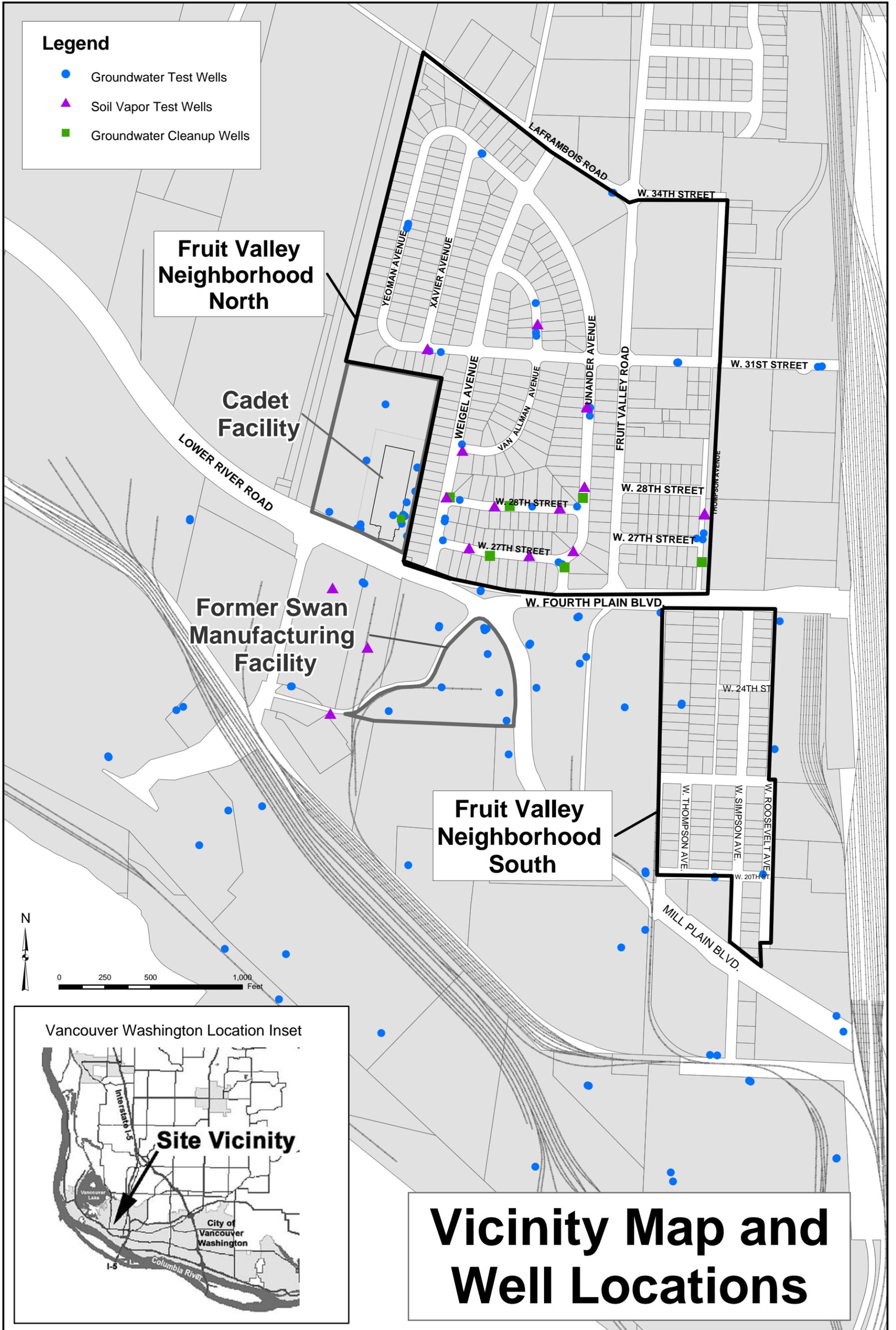
Craig Rankine
Washington Dept. of Ecology, Vancouver
Phone: (360) 690-4795
Email: cran461@ecy.wa.gov

If you have health-related questions, please contact:

Barbara Trejo
Washington Dept. of Health, Tumwater
Toll Free Phone: 1-877-485-7316
Email: Barbara.Trejo@doh.wa.gov

For more information about the North Fruit Valley Neighborhood investigation and cleanup efforts, please visit Cadet's website:

www.cadetco.com/environmental/



Vicinity Map and Well Locations

TAXLOTS AND RAILROAD THEMES FROM CLARK COUNTY GIS DATABASE. DRAWING COURTESY OF AMEC EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL, INC //10135/DWG/PRESENTATION GRAPHICS/vicinity map with wells may 2005.MXD