

FINAL

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

**FOR BUXTON NAVAL FACILITY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE
(FUDS) PROPERTY**

BUXTON, DARE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Prepared for:



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
NCDEQ	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

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1.0 OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) developed this Community Relations Plan to encourage community involvement in activities related to the property and to facilitate two-way communication between those living or working within or near the Buxton Naval Facility Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) property (FUDS Property No. I04NC0001) and USACE.

The purpose of this Community Relations Plan is to serve as a method for USACE to communicate with the local community during response actions. Through the Community Relations Plan, USACE addresses stakeholder/community concerns and expectations for the property. USACE will use the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that those living or working near the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property are continuously informed and provided opportunities to participate in the environmental remediation process. This plan is a living document and can be revised as the projects develop and actions progress throughout the property.

This Community Relations Plan addresses the property's relationship to the community and USACE (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents USACE community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of available resources (Appendices). USACE drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including property files. The USACE Savannah District will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this plan.

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2.0 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The military acquired properties across the country, often during times of conflict to use for military operations, demonstrations, training, and testing. Once the military no longer needed the land, it was transferred to other entities. These properties can range from privately owned farms to national parks. They also include residential, educational, and industrial areas. The Department of Defense is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities and created the Defense Environmental Remediation Program to evaluate, and if necessary, remediate sites such as the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. USACE is responsible for executing the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

2.1 PROPERTY HISTORY

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is located within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in Dare County, North Carolina and consists of approximately 49.99 acres (see **Figure 1**). The National Park Service is the federal landowning agency responsible for operating and maintaining the property. A detailed chronological history of the property uses and ownership is included below:

- National Park Service Acquisition (1952)

The land was used by the U.S. Coast Guard as the Cape Hatteras, NC Radio Compass Site. The station was inactivated in 1945 to a caretaker status. Congress authorized the purchase of the land for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Project in 1937. On July 18, 1952, the Department of the Interior announced the intent to purchase the land to begin the project (Navy Department, 1947, USDOJ, 1952).

- Naval Facility (1956 – 1982)

The military history of the property began on February 9, 1956, when the U.S. Navy secured a special use permit from the National Park Service for 49.99 acres of land, primarily to establish a submarine monitoring station. Built as part of a series of underwater listening stations along the Atlantic coast, its mission was to detect Soviet submarines during the Cold War. Notably, in June 1962, the facility made the U.S. Navy's first contact with a Soviet diesel submarine (USACE, 2013b). The property was equipped with essential buildings and infrastructure for operations, including office and administration buildings, communication facilities, and several amenities. It also featured its own sewage treatment plant and vehicle maintenance facilities (USACE, 2024).

On June 7, 1958, the U.S. Navy expanded the facility by acquiring an additional eight acres on the northern boundary, increasing the total area to 57.99 acres (USACE, 2013b). This expansion was necessary to accommodate naval personnel and led to the construction of 27 family housing units. The facility continued to operate as a naval installation until its closure on June 30, 1982 (USACE, 2013b).

- U.S. Coast Guard (1982 – 2010)

Following the naval facility's closure, the U.S. Coast Guard obtained a two-year interim use permit from the U.S. Navy for the 49.99-acre area, which was subsequently expanded on January 5, 1984, when the U.S. Navy transferred the remaining acreage to include the entire property (57.99 acres). On March 13, 1984, the National Park Service and U.S. Coast Guard initiated a memorandum of understanding. The U.S. Coast Guard used the property as U.S. Coast Guard Group Cape Hatteras until it vacated the National Park Service property in 2010 (USACE, 2013a; USDOT, 1984; USACE, 2024).

- Post-U.S. Coast Guard (2013 – Present)

The property was vacated by the U.S. Coast Guard in 2010 following the decommissioning of the U.S. Coast Guard base. On June 29, 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard transferred ownership of the neighboring eight acres, which were subsequently conveyed to the Cottages at The Cape, LLC via a Quitclaim Deed (USACE, 2013a, National Park Service, 2012).

Congress established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program on October 17, 1986, with passage of Section 211 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program includes several different programs, one of which is the FUDS Program. The Department of Defense tasked the U.S. Army with carrying out the FUDS program, and execution of the program was delegated to USACE. FUDS restoration efforts are restricted to cleaning up properties formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed, by the U.S. and transferred outside Department of Defense control prior to October 1986. When Congress created the FUDS Program in 1986, building demolition and debris removal work was limited to 'unsafe' buildings and structures in such a state when transferred out of Department of Defense control (USACE, 2022). When the U.S. Navy ceased control of the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property in 1982, the conditions of buildings and structures of the facility were able to be utilized subsequently and beneficially by the U.S. Coast Guard.

USACE initially became involved with Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property restoration activities in 1989 to remove aboveground storage tanks. USACE continues to be involved with environmental response actions relating to the property as a result of the FUDS program. Details on why response actions are ongoing at the property and potential health risks are included below in Sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2. Details on the history of community involvement are included below in Section 3.2.

2.2 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is situated approximately 1,000 feet west-northwest of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and lies just a few hundred feet from the Atlantic Ocean. The property area features a north-south stretch of beach bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Sand dunes run along the length of the beach, creating a

natural barrier that separates it from the previously occupied areas to the west (USACE, 2013b).

The hydrogeology of the local area surrounding the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property consists of a system of five aquifer units separated by semi-confined units. The aquifers include: the Surficial aquifer, the Yorktown aquifer, the Pungo River aquifer, the Castle Hayne aquifer, the Beaufort aquifer, the Peedee aquifer, the Black Creek aquifer, the Upper Cape Fear aquifer, the Lower Cape Fear aquifer, and the Lower Cretaceous aquifer (WSP USA Inc., 2024).

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is located in the Pamlico Sound watershed. The Pamlico Sound is located less than a mile north of the area. Wetlands, as identified in the National Wetlands Inventory, are located on the southern and western portions of the property area. A freshwater forested/shrub wetland is located to the west and a freshwater emergent wetland is located to the south. Ecological and wildlife protections do occur in the area surrounding the project area. For example, a North Carolina Division of Natural and Cultural Resources and Natural Heritage Program managed area is located nearby: Turtle Pond and (Cape Hatteras) Lighthouse Pond Registered Heritage Area. Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the Fish and Wildlife service, located approximately 30 miles north on the coast, includes and is home to over 370 species of birds, 25 species of mammals, 24 species of reptiles, and five species of amphibians (WSP USA Inc., 2024).

The Site Inspection report for the project area reported the possible presence of four federally protected mammals, four federally protected birds, and six federally protected reptiles (WSP USA Inc., 2024).

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is in the vicinity of residential areas, local businesses, and a local community center. Cape Hatteras Elementary and Secondary schools are within four miles of the project area. The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is located within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore near multiple recreational public trail access points. Land within the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is undeveloped. Both residential and commercial areas can be found primarily to the north and east of the property location within the National Seashore.

2.3 CURRENT AND FUTURE LAND USE

The property is utilized by the National Park Service for public parking and beach access. Current land use is anticipated to remain the same for the foreseeable future (WSP USA, Inc., 2024).

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Figure 1: Map of the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property

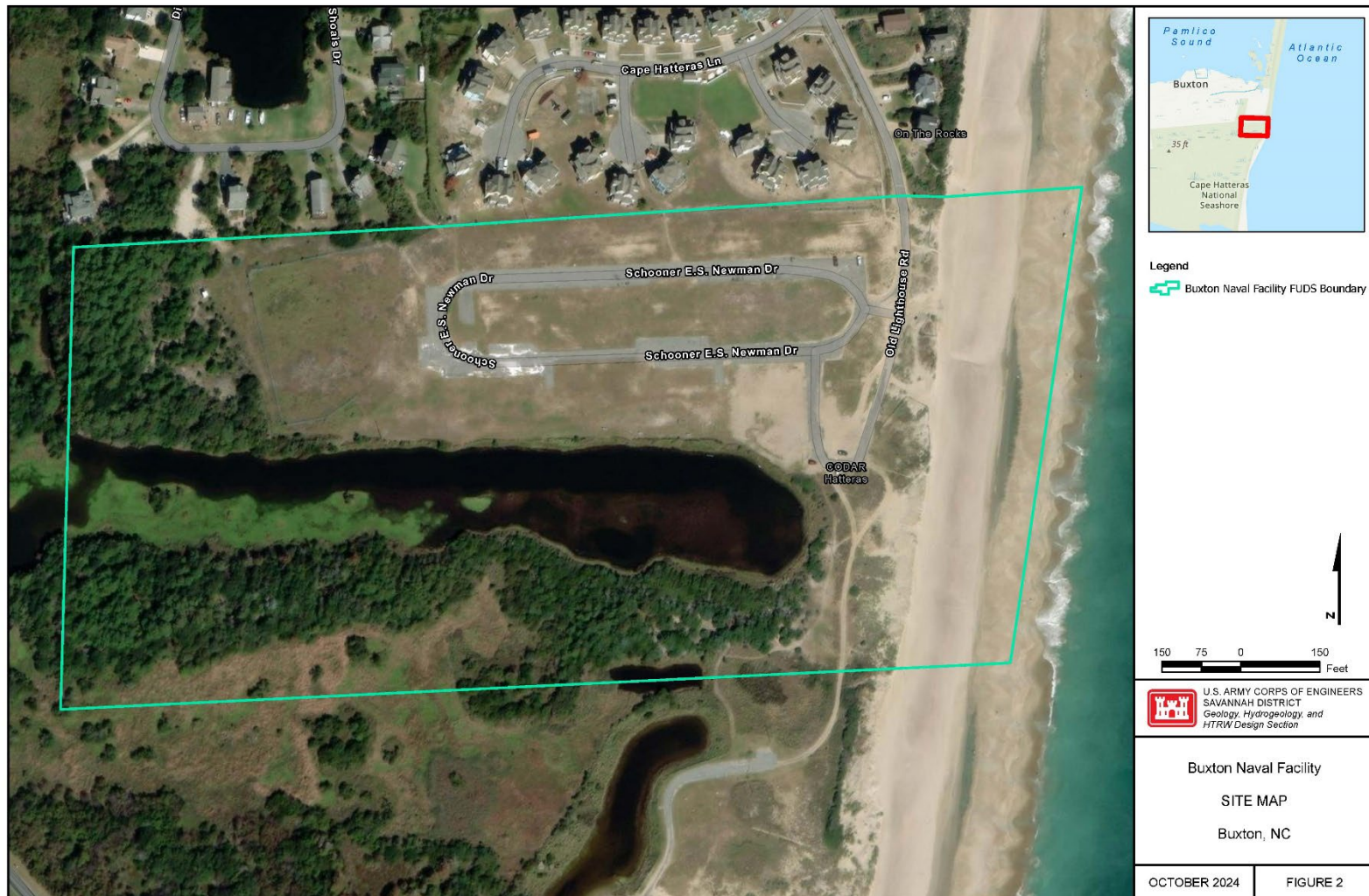


Image Received from: USACE, 2024

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2.4 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

2.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS PRESENT

Based on prior use of the property and environmental investigations, potential petroleum impacts from aboveground and underground storage tanks have been identified at the property and have facilitated response actions by USACE in order to protect human health and the welfare of the environment.

2.4.2 POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS

Current 'unsafe conditions' for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property are based on the likely progression of erosion on the beach. Petroleum impacts and emergence of former U.S. Navy infrastructure exposed by beach erosion over time have triggered the influx of activity by USACE at the property in response to concerns for public health and the surrounding environment. The USACE FUDS program does not have authority to remove the infrastructure at the property. However, the response action included excavating soil beneath the remaining infrastructure which required removal of some of the infrastructure.

2.4.3 HISTORY OF INSPECTIONS AND STUDIES

This section includes the history of inspections and studies conducted at the property by USACE in response to the results of long-term groundwater sampling and geophysical investigations.

2.4.3.1 Closed Project

- **Project 02: Building Demolition/Debris Removal**

Project 02 addresses a building demolition and debris removal project within the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. The project was approved on May 17, 1991, and initially consisted of the demolition and removal of a communications tower. The demolition of the television tower was given a No Department of Defense Action Indicated status on September 30, 1991, because the U.S. Coast Guard was still utilizing the tower.

As observed during a 2012 property visit, the U.S. Coast Guard had completed razing all structures on the former station in preparation for the property to be returned to a natural state (USACE, 2013a). At the time of the 2012 visit, no known structures remained on the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property that qualified for a Building Debris/Debris Removal and the project is not currently active (USACE, 2013a).

2.4.3.2 Active Projects

- **Project 01: Containerized Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiologic Waste**

Project 01 comprises the 49.99-acre portion of the property that was originally acquired by the U.S. Navy. The project was opened on February 1, 1989. Under this project, seven aboveground storage tanks (six 1000-gallon tanks, and one 57.6' x 14' tank) were removed from the property followed by environmental testing and sampling to evaluate the need for further action. In 1991, three additional aboveground storage tanks (one 3,000-gallon, one 4,000-gallon, and one 7,000-gallon) were removed from the property. The project was considered a No Department of Defense Action Indicated on September 30, 1993. A September 28, 2009, letter from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) to the USACE Wilmington District stated that Project No. I04NC000101 (Project 01) was planned for project closeout. The letter stated that tanks were removed in the 1990s. The letter concluded that the State of North Carolina concurred with the closeout of the tank removal project. The letter noted that soil and groundwater were contaminated and investigation and remedial action for that contamination had been conducted (USACE, 2013b). Soil and Groundwater contamination continue to be addressed under Project 03.

In May 2024, Project 01 was reopened to remove a pipe with an odor of petroleum suspected of being part of a fuel distribution system. The following are descriptions of recent actions that have occurred in response to environmental concerns related to petroleum sheen on the beach and ocean beginning in September 2023; these concerns are related to active Project 01.

September 2023 – February 2024: In response to the September 2023 event, USACE initiated a comprehensive series of inspections and investigations spanning several months. On October 12, 2023, the team collected ambient air readings at exposed pipes and structures, collected surface samples, and excavated three test pits. On November 2, 2023, the team focused on investigating the potential presence of underground storage tanks (USACE, 2024). USACE worked alongside National Park Service personnel utilizing a magnetic locator and hand excavation tools. The team discovered several magnetic objects but found no evidence of an underground storage tank or any petroleum-related contamination. In December 2023, USACE employed a Geoprobe® direct-push track mounted drill rig to conduct a more thorough site investigation. The field visit resulted in no evidence of organic soils, petroleum products, or other contaminants in the subsurface boreholes on the beach. However, the team did note a presence of peat adjacent to an existing monitoring well. A final field visit on February 15 and 16, 2024, was prompted by reports of a strong petroleum odor that had resulted in limited beach access. USACE personnel did not observe any petroleum odors, sheens, or stained soils (USACE, 2024).

February-March 2024: In February of 2024, the National Park Service discovered and reported a small-diameter iron pipe exposed on the oceanside of the sand dunes, likely uncovered by recent storm activity. The pipe was noted to emit a strong petroleum odor,

with concerns of potential soil contamination. During a late March 2024 site visit by Savannah District leadership with the National Park Service, USACE leadership observed a petroleum odor and sheen along the beach. Due to this finding, USACE planned to award a contract for the pipe's removal in May 2024 (USACE, 2025).

May 2024: A site visit was performed on May 1, 2024, to assess the property and discuss concerns about reported petroleum contamination. The team met with representatives from the National Park Service and Dare County to evaluate current conditions and address agency and public concerns (USACE, 2024g).

During the week of May 13, 2024, the pipe was removed, and confirmatory soil and water samples were collected from beneath the pipe's location to assess any residual contamination. The sample analysis results are undergoing validation. Overall, the field activities did not reveal any additional tanks (USACE, 2024h).

USACE in coordination with Dare County, held a public meeting on May 14, 2024, at the Fessenden Center in Buxton. The purpose of the meeting was to address community concerns, explain the process and limitations, and provide updates, including a recently awarded contract for pipe removal and soil sampling (USACE, 2024a). The work, finished on May 17, 2024, involved removing 70-80 feet of pipe, soil sampling, and extracting trapped liquids (USACE, 2024b).

June 2024: USACE conducted geophysical work near and around where previous underground storage tanks and above ground storage tanks were identified, which was approximately 6.3 acres. This investigation aimed to identify any remaining fuel distribution components (USACE, 2024e and USACE, 2024i).

September 2024: The USACE Savannah District Commander (Colonel Ronald Sturgeon) provided a project update at the Dare County Board of Commissioners' monthly meeting in Manteo on September 3, 2024. Geophysical surveys have not found underground storage tanks, and comprehensive sampling is planned (USACE, 2024c).

During the week of September 8, 2024, a team was deployed to the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property, as part of a response action due to reports of fuel sheen and odors along the beach. The team remained on-site during a King Tide event to manage potential petroleum releases (USACE, 2024k).

A September 20, 2024, update by USACE stated that a site survey and response action was initiated. The team identified several areas with petroleum-impacted soil to be excavated and removed. Preliminary findings detected petroleum above state screening levels in the area where the pipe was previously removed (USACE, 2024f).

October - November 2024: USACE conducted a response action to address petroleum contamination. Excavation of petroleum-impacted soil and extraction of petroleum-impacted water began on October 2, 2024. Soil testing was completed to support planned comprehensive soil and groundwater sampling to better understand the extent of contamination (USACE, 2024k).

November 2024 – December 2024: The response action to address petroleum contamination was completed on December 10, 2024. The follow-on contract for the comprehensive soil and groundwater sampling plan was awarded on November 14, 2024.

- **Project 03: Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste**

Project 03 was approved on August 20, 1998, in response to soil contamination discovered following the removal of 27 underground storage tanks by the U.S. Coast Guard Group during February 1991 (USACE, 2013a). Features on the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property included a grease ramp/oil change ramp and associated underground pipelines. Contamination was found at several locations on the property. In 2004, the former grease ramp/oil change ramp was demolished and removed from the property. More than 2, 700 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soil was excavated.

Project 03 is in long-term monitoring to track natural attenuation of remaining groundwater contamination. Since 2005, USACE has performed quarterly groundwater monitoring events to evaluate groundwater contaminant concentrations. USACE also conducted groundwater injection treatment with two events in 2020 and 2021. Groundwater monitoring data indicates that injection events have been successful as petroleum contaminant concentrations in the groundwater have decreased significantly (USACE, 2024). As of 2013, most monitoring wells were showing contaminant levels below regulatory standards, though a few wells still had some exceedances.

2.4.4 LEAD AGENCY

USACE is responsible for cleanup activities related to the military's use of the property and is coordinating with the NCDEQ (the lead regulator), National Park Service (federal landowner), the U.S. Coast Guard (former federal site occupant), Dare County, local landowners, and other stakeholders.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is situated within census tract 9705.02. The mainland of North Carolina is located across Pamlico Sound, about 30 miles to the northwest, while the city of Nags Head is roughly 50 miles to the north-northwest (USACE, 2024). Dare County, North Carolina consists of approximately 383.2 square miles of land area and is the 68th largest county (by area) in North Carolina as of the 2020 Census. The census data presented in **Table 1** below compares Buxton to Dare County, the State of North Carolina and national U.S. Census Data collected in 2020.

Buxton is on par with Dare County, the State of North Carolina and U.S. by means of median age, limited English-speaking households, and households with computing devices. As an unincorporated community, Buxton meets or exceeds the county, state, and national averages for employment rate, median household income, and poverty rate. The percentage of Buxton residents with a bachelor's degree or higher (28.2%) is lower

than the county (42.5%), state (36.8%), and national (36.2%) averages, representing a difference in higher education attainment (U.S. Census, 2021).

Surrounding communities and townships in and near Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property include Avon to the North and Frisco to the Southwest. Dare County occupies all these cities and townships.

Available data shows that 100% of households in Buxton have access to a computing device. USACE will consider the availability of household computing devices when planning public or RAB meetings. Buxton has a higher percentage of limited English-speaking households at 13.9% compared to the county (8.9%), state (13.8%), and national (13.7%) averages; however, the need for translation services during meetings and translated print materials is not anticipated. USACE will monitor the need for outreach material to be provided for non-English speaking community members and will provide translations, as necessary.

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Table 1: Census Data Comparing Buxton to Dare County, North Carolina and U.S.

2020 U.S. Census Data Measures	Buxton	Dare County	North Carolina	United States
Total population, 2020	1,181	36,915	10,439,388	331,449,281
Education, Bachelor's Degree or above	28.2%	42.5%	36.8%	36.2%
Black or African American alone, percent	0.93%	1.90%	20.5%	12.4%
Hispanic or Latino	86	2,554	1,118,596	62,080,044
Median age	46.5	48.1	39.4	39.2
Employment Rate	68.4%	61.2%	59.5%	60.6%
Median household income	\$87,344	\$79,742	\$70,804	\$77,719
Population with poverty status, percent	5.7%	6.5%	12.8%	12.5%
Limited English Speaking Household Status, <i>Spanish Only</i>	13.9%	8.9%	13.8%	13.7%
Households with one or more computing devices, percent	100%	96.7%	96%	96.1%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2014-2018	95.2%	92.9%	91.7%	92.2%

3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

USACE, in collaboration with the Dare County, hosted a public meeting on May 14, 2024, for the Buxton community at the Fessenden Center with Commander Colonel Ronald Sturgeon USACE, 2024. A follow-on meeting was held on September 3, 2024 (USACE, 2024c). The meetings were aimed to discuss ongoing activities, limitations, and future plans with a focus on reassuring residents about USACE's commitment to protecting human health and the environment. The meetings concluded with a question-and-answer session, allowing community members to voice their concerns and seek clarification on the ongoing activities (USACE, 2024a). On November 4, 2024, a public meeting was held with the primary purpose of soliciting interest in establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). USACE provided a presentation that covered updates to the current response action followed by a presentation on the purpose of a RAB. USACE distributed a public interest survey through hard copy and an online survey link. Following presentations, an informal question and answer session was held. The public interest survey was open to community feedback between November 4 and December 4, 2024. USACE published public notices through various print and online media to advertise the public meetings and invite the public to attend.

Community perceptions of investigations and how the community perceives various levels of the government's involvement in investigations and response actions taken at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property are detailed below in Section 3.3.

3.3 KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

USACE has noted consistent interest from property owners, civic organizations, and local governmental entities since September 2023 on the status of ongoing and future actions (USACE, 2024f). USACE has also observed high attendance at public meetings. Numerous media entities have inquired about investigations and response actions taken at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. USACE will continue to inform the public and respond to any concerns that are raised. The public involvement approach is further discussed in Section 4.0.

On September 1, 2023, a temporary closure was issued for a small stretch of Buxton Beach due to erosion of the shoreline and exposure of remnant infrastructure (Crist, 2024). Due to coastal erosion, abandoned facilities, construction debris, and petroleum-contaminated soils associated with the historic use of the area have been observed along the beach and pose hazards to visitors. As a result of these hazards, the National Park Service expanded its original closure to south by two-tenths-of-a-mile in the summer of 2024 (National Park Service, 2024). The key community concerns identified through communications with USACE, attendance at public meetings, and media sources include:

- Hazardous debris sticking up in the water, posing risks to beachgoers (McLaughlin, 2024);
- Potential long-term health effects of exposure to the contamination (Broadway, 2024);
- Environmental contamination (Tabb, 2024);
- Slow pace of cleanup (Broadway, 2024);
- Economic impact (Bohon, 2024);
- Transparency (Broadway, 2024); and
- The effects of the continued erosion exposing more contamination and debris (Kozak, 2024).

Community concerns identified through the 2024 public interest survey are detailed below in Section 3.3.1.

3.3.1 COMMUNITY REACTION

The Buxton Civic Association Board Members have developed a plan to address community concerns regarding contamination. Additionally, the Buxton Civic Association has launched a letter-writing campaign targeting various stakeholders, including leadership from the USACE and environmental agencies (Tabb, 2024). USACE will

continue to monitor community input closely to educate the public and to encourage participation in the investigation and remediation process.

3.3.1.1 2024 Public Interest Survey Tools, Methodology, and Analysis

Conducting public surveys is a recommended action in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Involvement Toolkit to keep USACE informed of the local community's interest or concerns and build constructive interaction between USACE and the public. An in-person and virtual public interest survey was made available online starting November 4 through December 4, 2024, for local residents, neighboring business employees and owners, elected officials, and organization leaders. The blank public interest survey is provided in **Appendix A** for reference. Results from the survey are shown in **Appendix B** and summarized below.

A total of 90 survey responses were received, 3 were completed in-person and 87 completed virtually, with 94% of the survey participants being local residents. 27% of participants have lived and/or worked in the area for 30 more years and have some knowledge of the environmental investigation and restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property.

Most (98%) survey participants expressed they would like to stay informed about the ongoing activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. When given the option to select multiple methods of communication, survey participants indicated they would prefer to receive notifications about ongoing environmental restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property via e-mail (79%), the RAB (39%), website (33%), public notices (26%), public meetings (23%), and news publications (21%). Other potential media outlets that were less popular with participants included direct mail, fact sheets, postcards, live streams, and pre-recorded events. Based on the survey results, approximately 74% of participants indicated that they would be interested in participating in future public meetings with most (75%) noting a preference for holding meetings during weekday evenings. The majority (96%) of participants have reliable access to the internet, so utilizing virtual methods of communication is a viable option.

3.3.1.2 Restoration Advisory Board

Due to the high level of visibility and public interest, a main objective of the public interest survey was to determine if there was enough community support to establish a RAB. The public interest survey included targeted questions on RAB interest, which is further summarized in the following section.

A RAB is a stakeholder group that meets on a regular basis to discuss USACE environmental restoration activities occurring at a specific FUDS property. RABs bring together community members to enable the sharing of information with representatives of regulatory agencies, USACE, and other community members. RABs provide valuable input to USACE, but they are not a decision-making body and do not direct work. The Department of Defense developed a RAB Rule Handbook as an accompaniment to the RAB Rule, which was issued on May 12, 2006 (*71 Federal Register 27610*). A copy of

the RAB Rule Handbook is available through the following link: https://www.denix.osd.mil/rab/denix-files/sites/22/2016/03/RAB-Rule-Handbook_Final.pdf.

USACE will form a RAB when there is sufficient and sustained community interest and one of the following criteria is met: at least 50 local citizens have petitioned for a RAB; federal, tribal, state, or local government representatives have requested a RAB; or USACE has determined the need for a RAB. USACE will determine whether any of the criteria for establishing a RAB are met by reviewing media files, reviewing correspondence with USACE, and consulting with potential stakeholders and government officials.

92% of survey participants indicated that a RAB should be established for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. If a RAB were established, 29% of survey respondents expressed they would voluntarily participate on the RAB as a member, and 70% of those interested in membership expressed they can commit to attending quarterly RAB meetings.

When asked why individuals would be interested in serving as a member of the RAB, respondents shared the following themes: concerns regarding health and/or environmental impacts of pollutants in the surrounding beach and ocean, concerns for local stakeholder properties, and desire for community involvement and input.

When asked what special skills, knowledge, or experience (if any), respondents possess that could contribute to the RAB, respondents shared the following themes: communication skills, technical skills, and business experience. A detailed summary of responses to the public interest surveys can be found in **Appendix B**.

3.3.2 IMPACTED COMMUNITY

The impacted community includes local residents, property owners, commercial properties, and seasonal tourism. A list of potentially impacted stakeholders, state regulator, Dare County, and federal, state, and local officials, is included in **Appendix C**.

3.4 RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

USACE is actively addressing community and environmental concerns. USACE is collaborating closely with the NCDEQ, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure coordinated efforts in protecting public health and the environment (USACE, 2024g). USACE officials, including Colonel Ronald Sturgeon, continue to be actively engaged with the community through meetings, and public news releases to address concerns and reaffirm USACE's commitment to transparency, public health, the well-being of the community, and the environment by sharing progress at the property with the public.

3.5 SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS

Planned or completed public information activities for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property include updating a local stakeholder list, uploading property-specific response action information to the FUDS website, placing notices in local newspapers, publishing news releases and updating social media sites with updates on ongoing activities, responding to media queries received by local news media, and allowing for public input through meeting venues. General awareness of USACE's response actions is likely to generate community interest in other potential projects at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

4.1 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The overall goal of the public involvement program is to promote two-way communication between the community and USACE and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement in the cleanup process. USACE has (or will) implement the community involvement activities described below.

Issue 1: Keeping the Public Informed

Activity 1A: Identify USACE Public Affairs Office

- Objective: The Corporate Communications Office will act as a liaison between the community and USACE through distribution of news releases, social media posts and website updates, to ensure prompt, accurate and consistent information is disseminated to the public about the site.
- Method: USACE will provide Public Affairs Office contact information on the Savannah District's website, social media pages, and on news releases.
- Timing: USACE has a dedicated Corporate Communications Office that supports public outreach materials and events.

Activity 1B: Maintain a Mailing List

- Objective: To facilitate the distribution of property-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about ongoing actions at the property.
- Method: USACE will create a mailing list that includes all identified stakeholders.
- Timing: USACE has developed a list of potentially impacted stakeholders, state regulator, Dare County, and federal, state, and local officials included in Appendix C and a media list in **Appendix D**. Results of the Public Interest Survey indicate that the Island Free Press is the preferred media outlet for public outreach.

Activity 1C: Prepare and distribute fact sheets and provide project-specific update summaries.

-
- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property.
 - Method: Fact sheets can be available for distribution for property owners, local community members, and other stakeholders included on the stakeholder list included as **Appendix C**. Distribution of project-specific update summaries will be provided through updates to the FUDS website, e-mail, and/or mailings. USACE will also provide fact sheets and project-specific update summaries during scheduled public and/or RAB meetings.
 - Timing: USACE will prepare and distribute fact sheets and project-specific update summaries as necessary, but at least in conjunction with major milestones associated with ongoing projects. Previously distributed public outreach materials are included for reference in **Appendix F**.

Activity 1D: Provide Project Information on the Internet

- Objective: To provide property and project information as well as general FUDS information.
- Method: Upload documents and relevant information to the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property public website (<https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/missions/formerly-used-defense-sites/buxton-naval-facility/>).
- Timing: Project information and related documents will be added to the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property public website.

Issue 2: Provide Adequate and Meaningful Opportunities for Community Involvement

Activity 2A: RAB Assessment

- Objective: Assess the community's interest in a RAB.
- Method: USACE will hold a public meeting to discuss requirements of a RAB to ensure stakeholders have a complete understanding of the level of effort RAB community members will incur versus continuing with public meetings. USACE will distribute a public interest survey during the public meeting to gauge the community's interest in forming a RAB and evaluate if there is sufficient community support to establish a RAB.
- Timing: A public meeting was held on November 4, 2024, and the public interest survey was open for community input between November 4 and December 4, 2024.

Activity 2B: RAB Establishment

- Objective: USACE will form a RAB if there is sufficient and sustained community interest.
- Method: In accordance with 32 C.F.R. § 202.2 and § 8.1.4 of the FUDS Handbook (December 2, 2022), USACE is required to establish a RAB when certain criteria

at a FUDS property are met. First, USACE must determine whether there is sufficient and sustained stakeholder interest in an ongoing environmental restoration effort. Second, USACE must determine that one of the following criteria is met: (1) at least 50 local citizens petition for the creation of the RAB; (2) a federal, state, tribal, or local government representative requests the formation of a RAB; or (3) USACE determines the need for a RAB.

- Timing: USACE recorded the formal determination for establishing a RAB in December 2024. There is no timeline for RAB establishment; typically, it may take four to six weeks to notify the community, approve membership, and create operating procedures. USACE will hold quarterly RAB meetings; meetings are anticipated to be held in-person and/or virtually. USACE will provide at least a two-week notice via a local newspaper announcement and USACE press releases before scheduled meetings. Potential meeting locations are included in **Appendix E**.

Activity 2C: Revise the Community Relations Plan

- Objective: To identify and address community needs, issues or concerns regarding the property or response actions that are not currently addressed in this Community Relations Plan.
- Method: The revised plan will update the 2025 version.
- Timing: USACE will revise the plan as community concern warrants.

Table 2: Projected Schedule for Community Involvement Activities

Activity	Time Frame
Identify USACE Public Affairs Office	Complete
Maintain a mailing list	Ongoing
Prepare and distribute fact sheets and provide project-specific update summaries	Ongoing
Provide project information on the internet	Ongoing
Establish a RAB	In progress
Revise the Community Relations Plan	As needed

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Appendix A

Blank Public Interest Survey

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Buxton Naval Facility Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Property Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Public Interest Survey



Disclosure: Completion of this survey is voluntary, and results will be summarized in the Community Relations Plan for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. In accordance with 32 C.F.R. Part 202, USACE will evaluate completed surveys to determine if there is sufficient and sustained community interest in establishing a RAB. In such an instance, USACE will also use the surveys to identify and contact potential RAB members from the local community. Failure to provide all the requested information may prevent consideration for RAB membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail Address _____

Background

1. How long have you lived and/or worked in the area?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0–4 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 15–19 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5–9 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 20–29 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10–14 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 or more years |

2. How would you describe your role in the community? (*check all that apply*)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of an environmental organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local business owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a homeowners' association or civic group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Community leader (<i>describe in comment section below</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public or elected official | |

Comment: _____

Environmental Investigation Knowledge and Interest

3. Are you aware of USACE's environmental restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property?

- ☐ No
☐ Yes

If yes, when did you first become aware of these activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property?

Communications

4. How do you typically get *local* news? Please check all the boxes that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube | <input type="checkbox"/> Websites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Community organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television news | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio/Podcast | |

5. How would you like to receive information about ongoing environmental restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property? Please check your preferred methods:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Community Meeting or Open House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fact Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Notice | <input type="checkbox"/> Live Stream Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postcard | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-recorded Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News Publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Public Meetings

6. Public meetings can occur quarterly and include relevant project updates for the restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. Public meetings can include the opportunity for the public to ask questions and engage with USACE and other agency personnel to discuss site related information. Would you be interested in participating in another public meeting?

- ☐ No (*If no, go to Question 11*)
- ☐ Yes (*If yes, continue to Question 7*)

7. What days typically work best for you to attend a public meeting (select all that apply)?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to view on my own time (Virtual or prerecorded information) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend | |

8. What time of day typically works best for you to attend a public meeting (select all that apply)?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morning | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to view on my own time (Virtual or prerecorded information) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening | |

9. What style of meeting do you typically prefer *(Please check up to three)?*

- ☐ Conference call with handouts sent ahead of time
- ☐ Prerecorded presentation
- ☐ Virtual meeting
- ☐ In-person open house (poster discussion format)
- ☐ In-person presentation and discussion format

10. Do you have reliable internet access and a computer or smartphone to access websites and/ or participate in online meetings?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Notes/comments: _____

RAB

A RAB is a stakeholder advisory group that meets regularly to discuss environmental restoration at DoD sites (active or former), where the DoD oversees the environmental restoration activities. A RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local community, enabling the exchange of information, concerns, values, and needs between the affected community, the DoD, and representatives of regulatory agencies. A RAB is not a decision-making body but rather an opportunity for interested community members to be involved in the environmental restoration process.

11. Do you think a RAB should be established for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

RAB Membership

The duties and responsibilities of a RAB member include:

- Volunteer to serve a two-year term;
- Devote approximately 6-8 hours each month to RAB business;
- Attend all quarterly RAB meetings;
- Provide input in an open, honest and constructive manner;
- Represent and communicate community concerns to the RAB;
- Act as a conduit for the exchange of information;
- Review, evaluate and comment on documents and other materials related to restoration; and
- Represent and communicate RAB concerns to the community.

12. If a RAB were formed at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property, would you be interested in serving voluntarily and without compensation as a member of the RAB?

- ☐ Yes *(If yes, continue to Question 13)*
- ☐ No *(If no, your input is complete)*

13. A RAB often meets quarterly, and meetings typically last several hours. If a RAB is established for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property, can you commit to attending the quarterly RAB meetings as a member?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

14. Why are you are interested in serving as a member of this Restoration Advisory Board?

15. Do you have any special skills, knowledge, or experience that you could contribute as a member of the RAB?

16. Are you affiliated with any group or organization who is connected to environmental restoration activities?

Thank you for your time and valuable input!

Please provide feedback prior to December 4, 2024, by emailing a scanned copy to CESAS-FUDS@usace.army.mil or by scanning the QR code below:



Appendix B

Public Interest Survey Results

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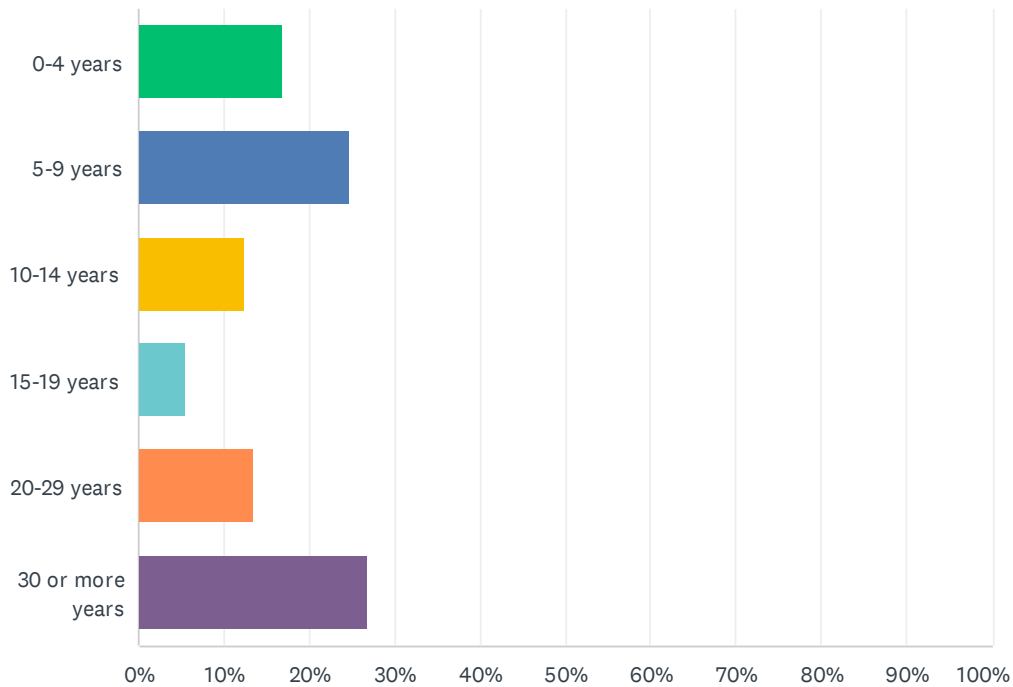
Q1 Contact Information

Answered: 89 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	89
Company	0.00%	0
Address	96.63%	86
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	100.00%	89
State/Province	100.00%	89
ZIP/Postal Code	98.88%	88
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	98.88%	88
Phone Number	89.89%	80

Q2 How long have you lived and/or worked in the area?

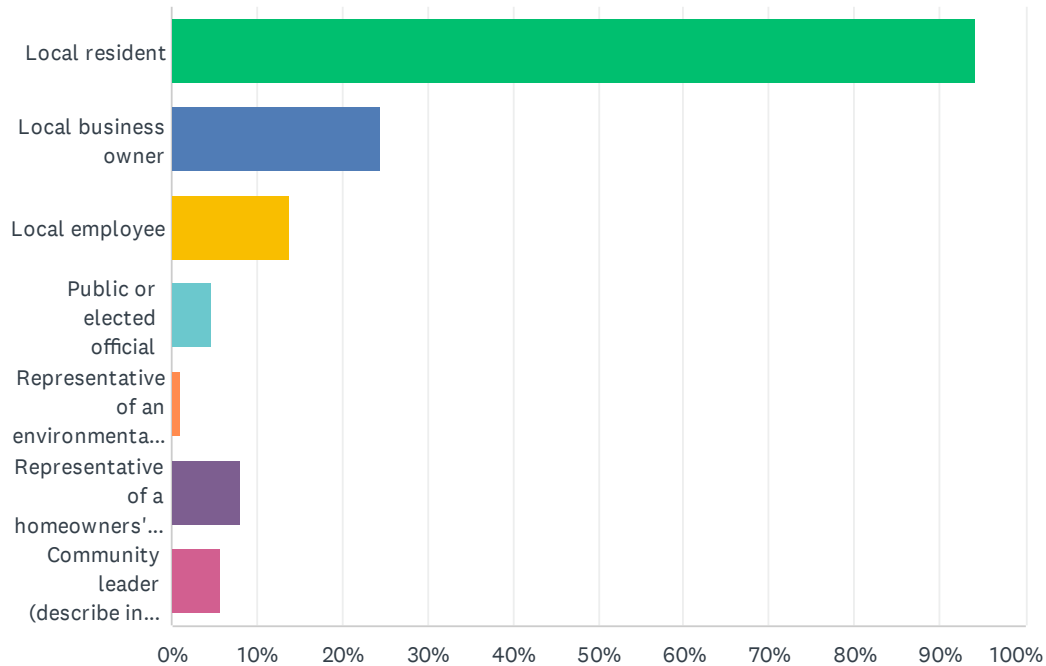
Answered: 89 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-4 years	16.85%	15
5-9 years	24.72%	22
10-14 years	12.36%	11
15-19 years	5.62%	5
20-29 years	13.48%	12
30 or more years	26.97%	24
TOTAL		89

Q3 How would you describe your role in the community? (check all that apply)

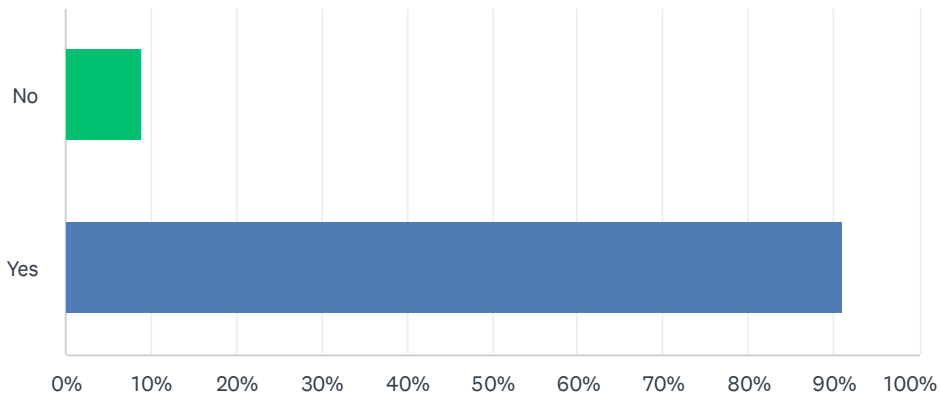
Answered: 86 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local resident	94.19%	81
Local business owner	24.42%	21
Local employee	13.95%	12
Public or elected official	4.65%	4
Representative of an environmental organization	1.16%	1
Representative of a homeowners' association or civic group	8.14%	7
Community leader (describe in comment section below)	5.81%	5
Total Respondents: 86		

Q4 Are you aware of USACE's environmental restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property?

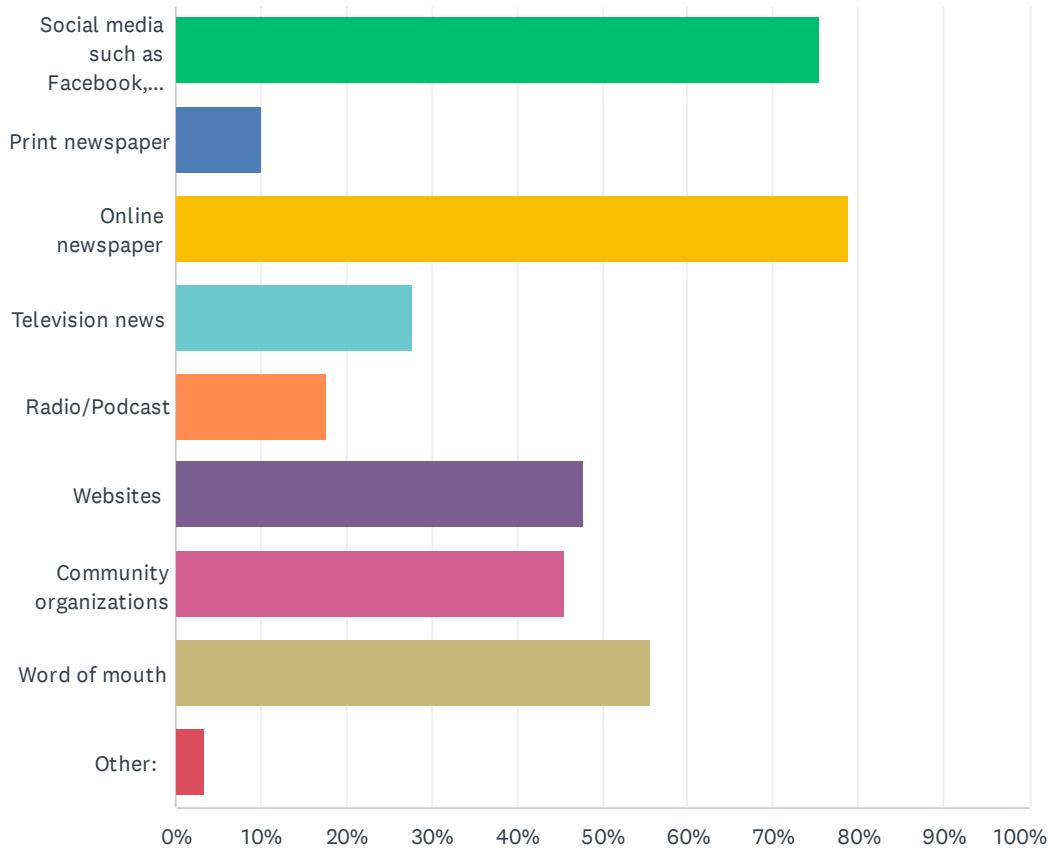
Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	8.89%	8
Yes	91.11%	82
TOTAL		90

Q5 How do you typically get local news? Please check all the boxes that apply.

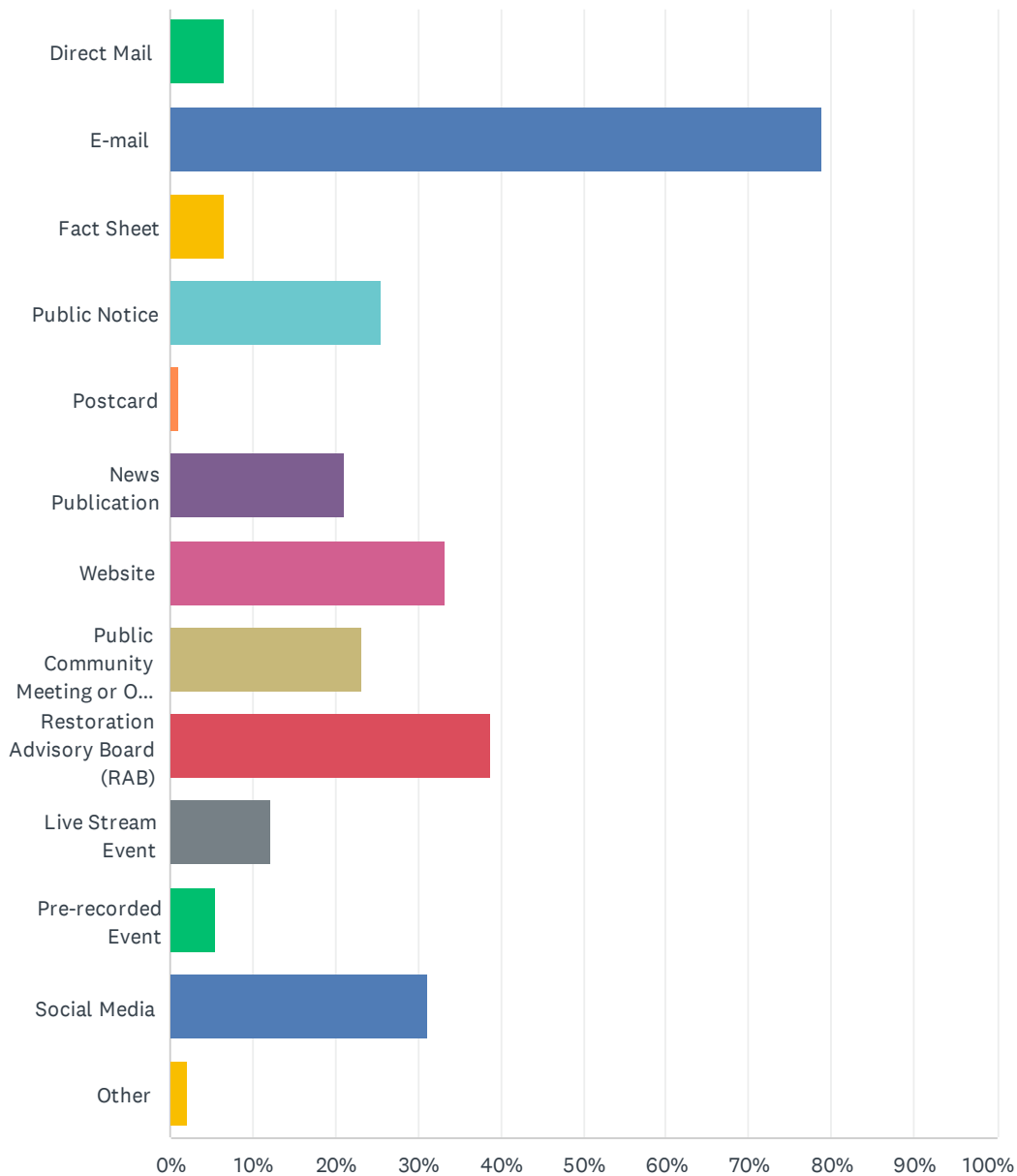
Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Youtube	75.56%	68
Print newspaper	10.00%	9
Online newspaper	78.89%	71
Television news	27.78%	25
Radio/Podcast	17.78%	16
Websites	47.78%	43
Community organizations	45.56%	41
Word of mouth	55.56%	50
Other:	3.33%	3
Total Respondents: 90		

Q6 How would you like to receive information about ongoing environmental restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property? Please check your preferred methods:

Answered: 90 Skipped: 0

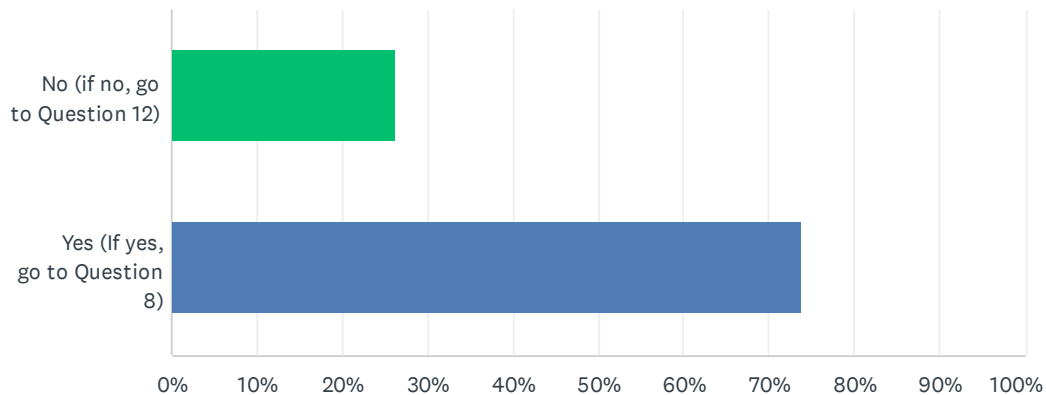


Buxton Naval Facility Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Property

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Direct Mail	6.67%	6
E-mail	78.89%	71
Fact Sheet	6.67%	6
Public Notice	25.56%	23
Postcard	1.11%	1
News Publication	21.11%	19
Website	33.33%	30
Public Community Meeting or Open House	23.33%	21
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)	38.89%	35
Live Stream Event	12.22%	11
Pre-recorded Event	5.56%	5
Social Media	31.11%	28
Other	2.22%	2
Total Respondents: 90		

Q7 Public meetings can occur quarterly and include relevant project updates for the restoration activities at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property. Public meetings can include the opportunity for the public to ask questions and engage with USACE and other agency personnel to discuss site related information. Would you be interested in participating in another public meeting?

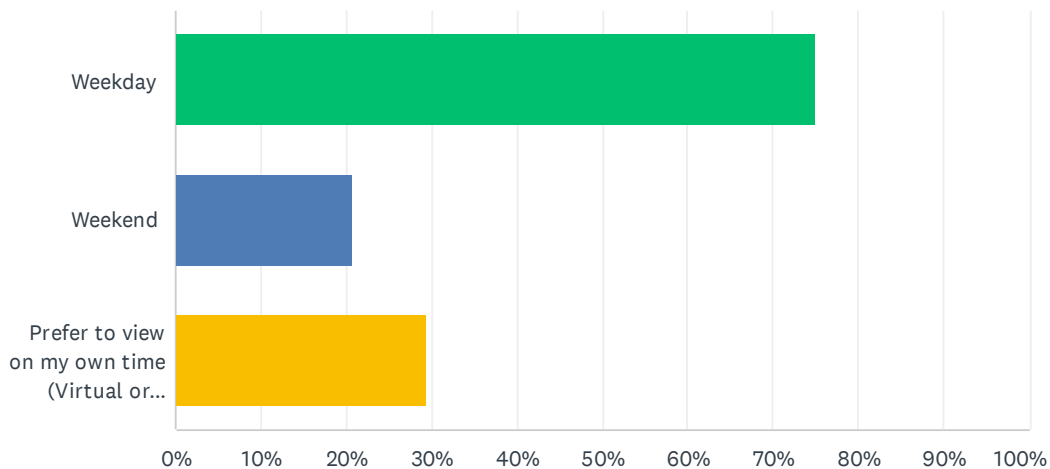
Answered: 88 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No (if no, go to Question 12)	26.14%	23
Yes (If yes, go to Question 8)	73.86%	65
TOTAL		88

Q8 What days typically work best for you to attend a public meeting (select all that apply)?

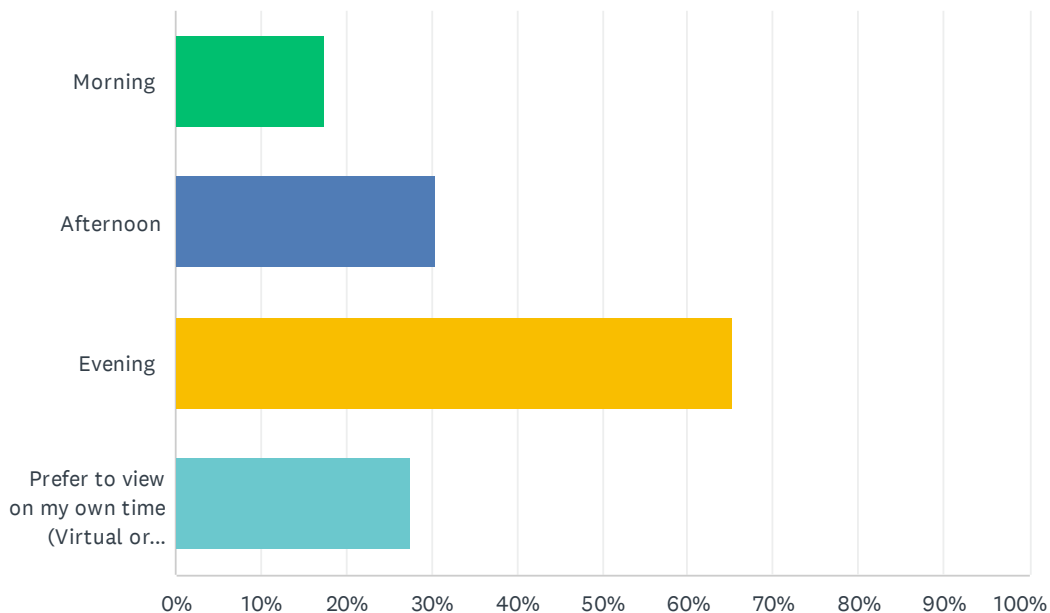
Answered: 68 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Weekday	75.00%	51
Weekend	20.59%	14
Prefer to view on my own time (Virtual or prerecorded information)	29.41%	20
Total Respondents: 68		

Q9 What time of day typically works best for you to attend a public meeting (select all that apply)?

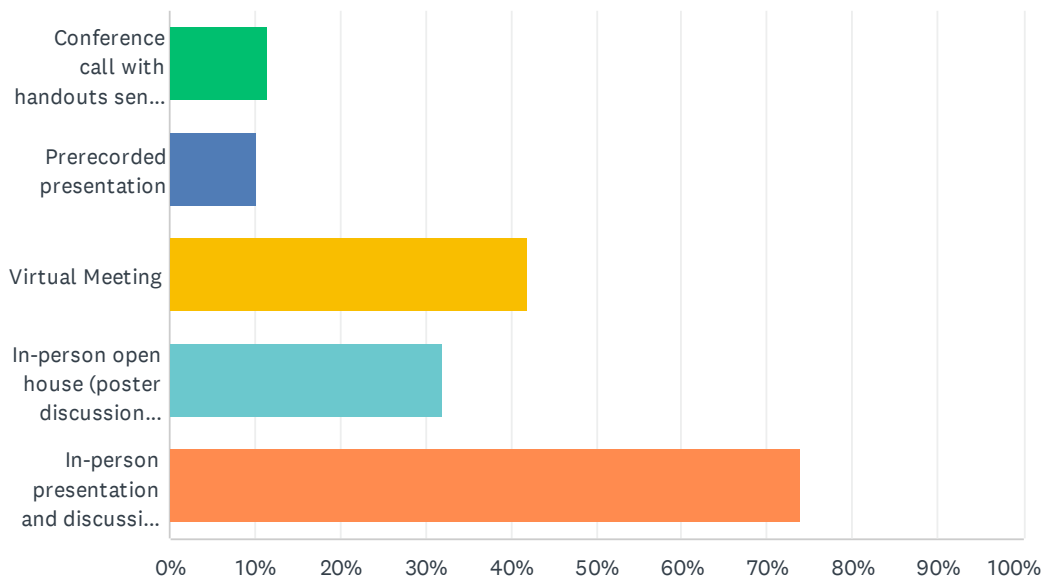
Answered: 69 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Morning	17.39%	12
Afternoon	30.43%	21
Evening	65.22%	45
Prefer to view on my own time (Virtual or prerecorded information)	27.54%	19
Total Respondents: 69		

Q10 What style of meeting do you typically prefer (Please check up to three)?

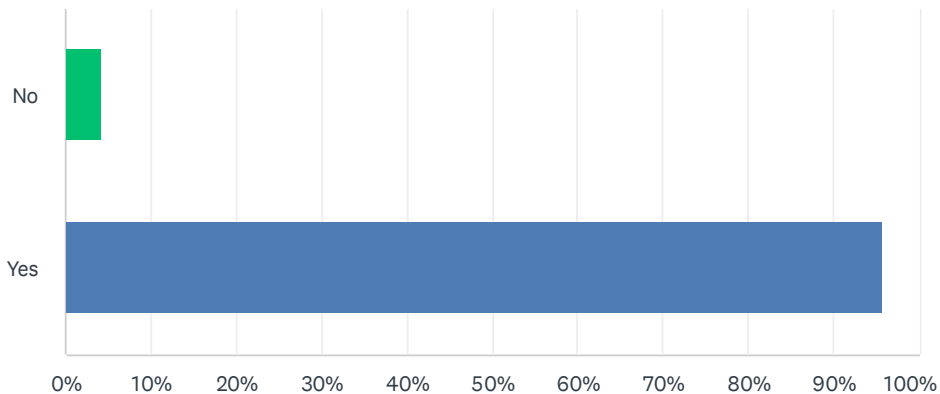
Answered: 69 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Conference call with handouts sent ahead of time	11.59%	8
Prerecorded presentation	10.14%	7
Virtual Meeting	42.03%	29
In-person open house (poster discussion format)	31.88%	22
In-person presentation and discussion format	73.91%	51
Total Respondents: 69		

Q11 Do you have reliable internet access and a computer or smartphone to access websites and/ or participate in online meetings?

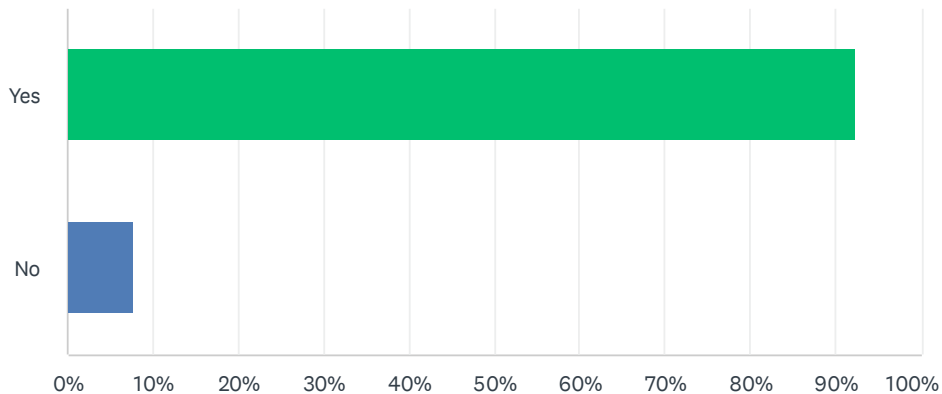
Answered: 69 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	4.35%	3
Yes	95.65%	66
TOTAL		69

Q12 Do you think a RAB should be established for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property?

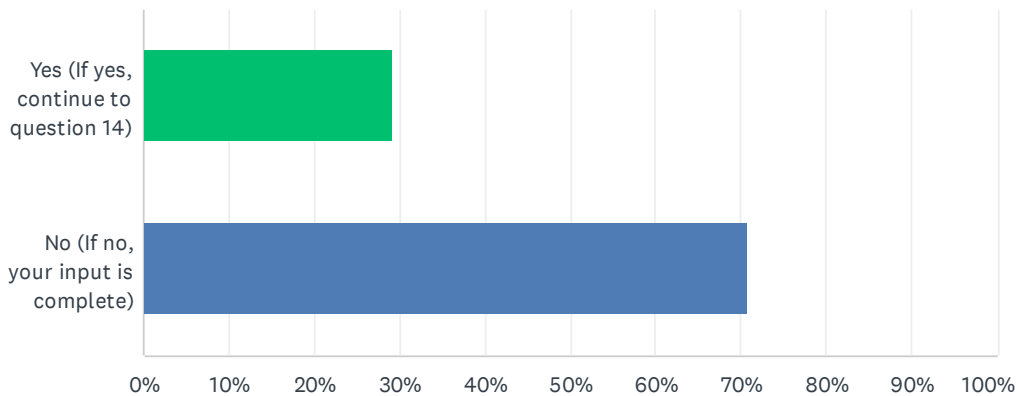
Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.22%	83
No	7.78%	7
TOTAL		90

Q13 If a RAB were formed at the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property, would you be interested in serving voluntarily and without compensation as a member of the RAB?

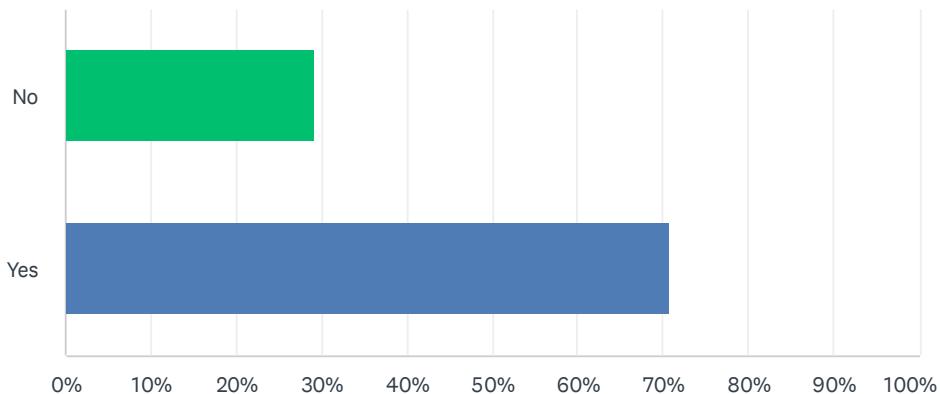
Answered: 89 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (If yes, continue to question 14)	29.21%	26
No (If no, your input is complete)	70.79%	63
TOTAL		89

Q14 A RAB often meets quarterly, and meetings typically last several hours. If a RAB is established for the Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property, can you commit to attending the quarterly RAB meetings as a member?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	29.27%	12
Yes	70.73%	29
TOTAL		41

Q15 Why are you interested in serving as a member of this Restoration Advisory Board?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 60

Q16 Do you have any special skills, knowledge. or experience that you could contribute as a member of the RAB?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 65

Q17 Are you affiliated with any group or organization who is connected to environmental restoration activities?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 61

Appendix C

Stakeholder List

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USACE

USACE Project Manager

Gayle Garland

E: sheridangayle.f.garland@usace.army.mil

FUDS Program Manager

Sararina Keisler

E: sararina.m.keisler@usace.army.mil

USACE Corporate Communications Office

Cheri Pritchard

E: cheri.e.dragos-pritchard@usace.army.mil

Regulators and Other Agency Stakeholders

NCDEQ

David May, Regional Supervisor

E: david.may@deq.nc.gov

Main Office: (252) 948-3800

U.S. Coast Guard, Sector North Carolina

Carl Hendrickson

E: Carl.E.Hendrickson@uscg.mil

P: (910) 772-2230

Main Office: (216) 902-6200

National Park Service Region 4

Mark Foust, Regional Director

Main Office: 404-507-5600

Buxton, Dare County, and Other Local Resources

Buxton Civic Association

E: <https://buxtoncivic.com/contact>

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Buxton-Civic-Association/61558639647443/>

Dare County Board of Commissioners

P: (252) 475-5700

Main Office: DCBOC@DareNC.gov

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

E: <https://www.nps.gov/caha/contacts.htm>

P: (252) 473-2111

Dare County Health Department

Sheila Davies, PhD, Director

E: sheila.davies@darenc.gov

P: (252) 475-5003

Buxton Volunteer Fire Department

P: (252) 995-4082

Dare County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Doug Doughtie

E: doug.doughtie@darenc.gov

P: (252) 441-9437

Dare County Environmental Health

Dakota Briggs

E: whall@darenc.gov

P: (252) 475-5080

Dare County Waterways Commission

Barton Grover

E: Barton.Grover@DareNC.gov

P: (252) 475-5628

Dare County Planning Department

Noah Gillam, Planning Director

P: (252) 475-5873

E: noah.gillam@darenc.gov

State

Representative Keith Kidwell, District 79

E: Keith.Kidwell@ncleg.gov

P: (919) 733-5881

Legislative Office:

16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1206

Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Mailing Address:

53 Elks Rd

Chocowinity, NC 27817

Representative Edward C. Goodwin, District 1

E: Edward.Goodwin@ncleg.gov

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Legislative Office:

16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1206

Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

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Senator Norman W. Sanderson, District 2

E: Norman.Sanderson@ncleg.gov

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Mailing Address:

300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 309

Raleigh, NC 27603

Governor Josh Stein

E: <https://governor.nc.gov/contact/contact-governor-stein>

P: (919) 814-2000

Mailing Address:

20301 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Federal

Senator Ted Budd

E: <https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/>

P: (910) 218-7600

Mailing Address at the Advance office:

5380 US Highway 158

Suite 202

Advance, NC 27006

Mailing Address at the Asheville office:

151 Patton Ave.

Suite 204

Asheville, NC 28801

Mailing Address at the Raleigh office:

333 Fayetteville Street

Suite 1504

Raleigh, NC 27601

Mailing Address at the Wilmington office:

201 N. Front St.

Suite 809

Wilmington, NC 28401

Mailing Address at the Washington D.C office:

304 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thom Tillis

E: <https://www.tillis.senate.gov/email-me>

P: (252) 329-0371

Mailing Address at the Raleigh office:
310 New Bern Ave
Suite 122
Raleigh, NC 27601

Mailing Address at the Charlotte office:
10150 Mallard Creek Rd
Suite 508
Charlotte, NC 28262

Mailing Address at the Greenville office:
1694 E. Arlington Blvd
Suite B
Greenville, NC 27858

Mailing Address at the Hendersonville office:
1 Historic Courthouse Square
Suite 112
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Mailing Address at the Greensboro office
3200 Northline Ave
Suite 150
Greensboro, NC 27408

Mailing Address at the Washington D.C office:
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Greg Murphy
E: <https://gregmurphyforms.house.gov/contact/email-me.htm>

P: (252) 230-3549

Mailing Address at the Greenville office:
Pitt and Wayne Counties
1105 Corporate Drive
Suite C
Greenville, NC 27858

Mailing Address at the Jacksonville office:
Onslow, Duplin and Sampson Counties
815 New Bridge Street
PO Box 1487

Mailing Address at the Manteo office:
Beaufort, Camden, Currituck, Dare and Hyde Counties
954 Marshall C. Collins Dr

Room 194

Mailing Address at the New Bern office:
Craven, Lenoir, Pamlico, Carteret, and Jones Counties
2402 Dr. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562
Mailing Address at the Washington D.C office:
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4

Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division
Maria Arevalo Gonzalez, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Hazardous Waste
Cleanup Program North Carolina
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P: 404-562-8651

North Carolina Division of Waste Management

Katherine Lucas, Public Information Officer
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katherine.lucas@deq.nc.gov
P: 919-707-8233

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Appendix D

Media List

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Newspapers

Island Free Press Outer Banks News

Joy Crist, News and Editorials

E: Joy@islandfreepress.org

P: 252-995-6959

Surfrider Foundation

Trey Highton, Senior Communications Manager

E: thighton@surfrider.org

P: 949-492-8170

WAVY News

Nick Broadway

E: news.director@abc11.com

The Coastal Review

Mark Hibbs, Editor

E: markh@coastalreview.org

P: 252-393-8185

OBX Today

Kassidy Watson-Perry

E: kwperry@jammediallc.com

P: 252-449-6074

The Coastland Times

Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy

E: atmmhgm@aol.com

P: 252-987-2656

Outer Banks Insider

Corinne Saunders

E: outerbanksinsider@gmail.com

TV Stations

ABC-11 Hatteras

Rob Elmore, General Manager

E: news.director@abc11.com

P: 919-683-1111

News 13 – ABC

Brenna McIntosh, Reporter/digital producer

P: 757-285-9385

E: BMcintosh@13newsnow.com

WAVY TV 10 and WVBTV FOX43 TV

Steve Fundaro, Meteorologist

E: steven.fundaro@wavy.com
P: 757-673-5366

WTKR/CBS News

Allison Herman
E: Allison.Herman@wtkr.com
P: 757-446-1352

FOX News

Mallory Drummond, Producer
E: Mallory.Drummond@FOX.COM
P: 571-651-1440

WRAL

Liz McLaughlin, Climate Change Reporter
E: lmclaughlin@wral.com
P: 919-614-5768

Spectrum News1

Lauren Howard
E: lauren.howard@charter.com
P: 910-617-8467

Radio Stations

WUNC NC Public Radio

Will Michaels
P: 919-442-8417
E: wmichaels@wunc.org

Appendix E

Potential Meeting Locations

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Potential Meeting Locations

Fessenden Center

P: 252-475-5650

Main Address:

46830 NC Highway 12

Buxton, NC 2792

Cape Hatteras Anglers Club

P: 252-995-4253

Main Address:

47231 Light Plant Road

Buxton, NC 27920

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Appendix F

Public Outreach Materials

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FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property

Response Action



November 2024

Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Sites

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of war, to use for military training, testing and demonstrations. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or other government entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) can range from privately owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial, and educational properties. The Department of Defense is committed to protecting people and the environment as well as improving public safety by cleaning up these sites if hazards from the former military operations remain. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program, that created the FUDS program, was established to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate FUDS properties. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Background

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property was used by the U.S. Navy as a submarine monitoring station. The Department of Defense used the 49.99-acre property on February 9, 1956, through a special use permit with the National Park Service, then acquired eight additional acres from private parties for the facility. The Buxton Naval Facility continued to operate until closure on June 30, 1982. The U.S. Coast Guard subsequently used the property until 2010, until it was returned to the National Park Service.

Environmental Investigations

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property projects include:

- Project 01: Under this project, 7 aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) were removed in 1989 followed by environmental testing and sampling to evaluate the need for further action. In 1991, three additional ASTs were removed from the property. This project was reopened on May 1, 2024, to include additional work, including the ongoing response action.
- Project 02: This project was approved on May 17, 1991, to demolish a communication tower, but was closed out on September 30, 1991, after the tower was determined to be beneficially re-used by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Project 03: This project was approved on August 20, 1998, to address soil contamination discovered at the grease ramp/oil change ramp (OCR), Building 9, and underground piping after the US Coast Guard removed 27 underground storage tanks (USTs). In 2004, USACE removed approximately 4,006 tons of contaminated soil, demolished and removed the OCR, collected 30 confirmation samples. Since 2005, USACE has performed 32 groundwater monitoring events to evaluate natural attenuation. USACE also conducted groundwater injection treatment with two events in 2020 and 2021. This project is active.

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Buxton Naval Facility FUDS Property

- **Response Action Phase I:** In early September, USACE quickly deployed a reconnaissance team to respond to reported petroleum. The team had the capability to mitigate petroleum releases into
- **Response Action Phase II:** USACE is currently removing petroleum-impacted soil and performing confirmatory soil sampling in areas along the beach and dunes that have exhibited odors and sheen. Phase II excavations began October 2, 2024, and are expected to continue through November. The impacted areas will be backfilled to a natural grade. As part of this effort, portions of the remnant infrastructure are being removed to access underlying soil.
- **Comprehensive Sampling:** In November, USACE plans to award a contract to perform comprehensive sampling of soil and groundwater to delineate the nature and extent of petroleum contamination within the project area.

Safety First:

The Buxton Naval Facility FUDS property is an active construction site and is not safe for public and/or media access. Photos and video should be taken from a safe distance outside of the active work and beach closure areas.

Imagery of response actions can be viewed on our Flickr account at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/savannahcorps/albums/72177720321102827/>



For More Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District
Email: Cesas-FUDS@usace.army.mil

Visit: <https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/missions/formerly-used-defense-sites/buxton-naval-facility/>

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

