

Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

Ethan Hipple

Director

Angela O'Connor

Deputy Director



April 25, 2025

Dear Portland Public School Families and Staff,

I am writing to share information regarding ongoing improvements at Fitzpatrick Stadium, as well as important details related to recent media reports of contaminated soils excavated from the Stadium roadway. We take your concerns seriously; the health and safety of Portland children, residents, and employees is a shared priority.

In fall 2024, the paved roadway in Fitzpatrick Stadium was excavated as part of the ongoing work to improve the public facility. This work included improvements to stormwater infrastructure and utility connections related to the new, modular locker rooms. During this process, urban fill material was found in subsurface soils beneath the roadway. These soils did not come from under the playing surface of the field or other areas where people gather.

City staff immediately consulted with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and environmental consultant TRC to ensure appropriate environmental management practices were followed. The excavated soil is currently stockpiled on-site and securely covered and enclosed with fencing, in accordance with DEP rules.

To further ensure environmental compliance and public safety, the City contracted qualified environmental consultants to oversee the handling and inspection of the soil. These consultants conduct regular inspections of the stockpile and will continue to monitor its condition until the material is fully removed from the site early this Summer. Representative samples of the soil were collected and submitted for chemical analysis.

The presence of urban fill is not uncommon in construction projects throughout Portland, given the City's industrial history and land use. Laboratory results confirmed that the material is consistent with typical urban fill commonly found in the Portland area and does not present any unusual environmental hazards.

To facilitate proper off-site disposal of the excavated material, the City successfully secured \$205,000 in federal grant funding through the Greater Portland Council of Governments

(GPCOG). This funding will fully support the transportation and disposal of the soil in accordance with applicable environmental regulations. The removal and disposal process is scheduled to take place in June 2025.

The City remains committed to upholding the highest standards of environmental stewardship and public safety throughout the duration of this project. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding as we continue this important infrastructure work at Fitzpatrick Stadium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ethan Hipple". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ethan" being more prominent than the last name "Hipple".

Ethan Hipple