

What is soil remediation?

Soil remediation is one way to reduce exposure to metals in the community. Remediation includes covering bare soil, improving lawn condition, and at times replacing contaminated soil with clean fill. The team will be out in the community from April to October!



**CURIOUS TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE SOIL
IN YOUR YARD?
HELP US TEST
300 MORE PROPERTIES
THIS YEAR!**

Sign up at thep.ca
to put your name
on the list.

**HAS YOUR PROPERTY BEEN PART OF
THE SOIL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM?
ENTER OUR CONTEST!**

Maintaining good ground cover is important for a healthy and safe yard in Trail. If you have had a ground cover evaluation, lawn care or yard improvement by THEP, send us your photos to be featured in the next newsletter AND entered into a draw for a local garden basket valued at \$50!

Email programs@thep.ca

YOU CAN'T JUST ROLL UP TO THE LANDFILL WITH YOUR EXCESS SOIL!

All soil going to the landfill must be tested **BEFORE** you start your excavation and landscaping works. To find out about the testing, analysis, approval requirements and associated costs **PRIOR** to soil disposal, please contact the Environmental Services Department at the RDKB.

Email esmanager@rdkb.com or call 250.368.9148.



MEET STEVE HILTS

Community Member of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee

Steve Hilts grew up in West Trail, the famous neighbourhood lined with rock walls, hard to access properties and looking out toward the smelter. Steve left Trail to study environmental sciences in Vancouver, but he returned twice. The first time, he came back for work that was expected to last a short time but ended up staying 20 years. Steve researched issues related to reducing lead in the environment, as well as protecting the community from lead exposure and ultimately implementing programs to work toward improving the health and environment of Trail. The second time, Steve returned to retire after working with Teck in Vancouver.



Steve Hilts at Silver City Days in Trail as a youth and now.

1. In retirement, what draws you to keep volunteering with the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee?

I want to be involved because the Committee is dealing with issues that are very important to my home town and because I think it's helpful to keep sharing the knowledge and insights that I've gained over the last 30 years.

2. Why do you think more parents, grandparents and other residents should get involved?

The community ought to be aware and engaged on these issues because there is continuing action to protect children's health, property investments and the economy and image of their community. It's important to have residents represented and heard when it comes to evaluating progress and discussing how current and future programs are best delivered.

3. In five years, what would you like to be able to say the Committee has achieved?

That it has reached and is maintaining a sufficient level of community participation in the Committee itself, it's working groups and in the delivery of information and services/actions in the area. Also, that it has helped to rally the community around goals that can be used to measure and celebrate continued progress.

Join Steve to improve the health and environment of Trail.

Email programs@thep.ca

Air Quality Program: Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

SO₂ is a colourless, reactive gas which at high levels can adversely impact human health and the environment. SO₂ is emitted by Teck Trail Operations as a by-product of processing mine concentrates, which contain sulphur, into metal and chemical products. SO₂ levels are not static and change throughout the day.

Those most sensitive to the effects of SO₂ include persons with chronic respiratory disease, especially persons with asthma.

Learn more about the Air Quality Program, read the FAQs or download the SO₂ Fact Sheet at thep.ca

CHECK CURRENT SO₂ LEVELS ONLINE

Visit <https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/find-stations-map-SO2.html>

Air Quality Program: Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) is a colourless, reactive, gas which at high levels can adversely impact human health and the environment.

SO₂ is emitted by Teck Trail Operations as a by-product of processing mine concentrates, which contain sulphur, into metal and chemical products. SO₂ levels are not static and change throughout the day.

Those most sensitive to the effects of SO₂ include persons with chronic respiratory disease, especially persons with asthma.

Short term exposures to elevated SO₂ levels can cause the air passages in the lungs to constrict or tighten, leading to breathing difficulties and tightening in the chest. Symptoms may worsen during vigorous exercise or hard physical labour.

! YOU CAN CHECK CURRENT SO₂ LEVELS ONLINE. Visit <https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/find-stations-map-SO2.html>

If you have concerns about air quality, please call the City and Environment at (250) 364-4877 between 24 hours a day.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR 1-HOUR SO₂ LEVELS

SO₂ Levels Consider taking the following action at these levels

0-25 ppb None

36-184 ppb Persons with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma should consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous outdoor activities if experiencing symptoms. No effects are expected for the general population.

185+ ppb Persons with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma should reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Others, especially children and the elderly should also consider avoiding outdoor physical exertion.

Benchmarks for short-term (1-hour) SO₂ levels in air have been developed by the Canadian and BC governments to guide collaborative action (among other objectives) based on recent monitoring in Trail. SO₂ levels exceeded the benchmarks at Teck Trail Operations. Currently more than 90% of the sulphur is captured and converted to by-products, such as sulphuric acid and fertilizer. About 1% leaves the operation as emissions to air. The location of the smelter is in the heart of Trail, within a deep valley, and at times constrains dispersion of air emissions.





INVASIVE PLANTS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Learn to recognize and identify invasive species.



Clean, Drain, Dry all equipment, boats, motor, trailer, bait buckets and pets of aquatic debris before moving locations.



Do not share or purchase species that are invasive.



Learn about 5 invasive plants to watch for (and how to remove responsibly!).

Visit ckiss.ca



It's building season! Planning a home or yard renovation?

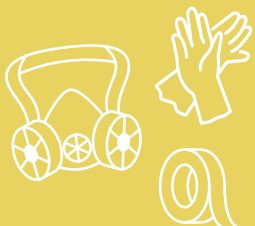
SIGN UP
for FREE lead safe renovation supplies at thep.ca

WATCH
'How to' videos to keep you and your family safe from Pb (lead).



GETTING STARTED ON A LEAD SAFE RENOVATION

REMOVING SOIL?
We offer FREE soil testing at thep.ca and help you plan for safe soil disposal if needed.



HEALTHY FAMILIES HEALTHY HOMES DON'T BRING Pb (LEAD) HOME FROM WORK.

Many people work around lead dust. Lead dust can be harmful to young children and pregnant women. If you work in jobs such as lead smelting, plumbing, welding, renovating or painting houses, autobody work, electrical work, battery recycling, or radiator repair there are ways to protect you and your family. **Be sure to follow these recommendations before interacting with your family.**



Change out of your work clothes before leaving work. Never wear work clothes in your car or in your home.



Wash work clothes at work if possible. Otherwise carry them home in a sealed plastic bag or container and wash them separately from your family's laundry.



Wash your hands and face immediately after you finish working.



Shower and wash your hair as soon as possible after you finish working.



Choose a lunch kit that has a hard surface and can be wiped clean and ensure careful storage that is out of reach of small children.



Do you have children under age 3? Visit thep.ca to sign up for a healthy home visit.



SPRING INTO ACTION AND FIRESMART YOUR HOME!

We've teamed up with the FireSmart folks at The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) to learn about affordable, yet simple, ways you can reduce the risk of wildfire damage in and around your home.

Your roof is the most vulnerable component of your home. Up to 90% of homes with non-combustible roofs and 10 metres of clearance will survive a major wildfire.

Don't worry if upgrading your roof isn't on your Spring renovation list! Developing good habits, keeping on top of yard maintenance, clearing debris from gutters, keeping plants healthy, choosing fire resistant landscaping and mowing the grass regularly can all really help to significantly reduce the risk of wildfire damage.



**DID YOU KNOW?
DURING A FIRE, EMBERS
CAN TRAVEL UP TO 9KM
AHEAD OF A FIRE**

(That's right – even city dwellers need to be Firesmart!)



Remember that the worst plan is no plan – the RDKB can help you get FireSmart ready: It's easy! **Request your FREE Home Ignition Zone Assessment Appointment TODAY!**

E-mail Carlene Pires the RDKB's Emergency Program Coordinator, at firesmart@rdkb.com or call 250.368.0259.

Follow RDKB on social media too!

@RDKB_Emergency + rdkbdotcom

For more information:

Visit our Office
1319 Bay Avenue

Call
250.368.3256

Email
programs@thep.ca

Website
thep.ca