



Trail Area Health & Environment Program Leading the Way!

July 6, 2022, Trail, B.C. – The Trail Area Health & Environment Program (THEP) has caught the attention of Australian communities that have active smelting operations. In Trail, the average blood lead level in children has been less than 3 micrograms per decilitre since 2018 and Pb (lead) in air as measured at Butler Park in Trail, sits well below the standard set by the USA Environmental Protection Agency.

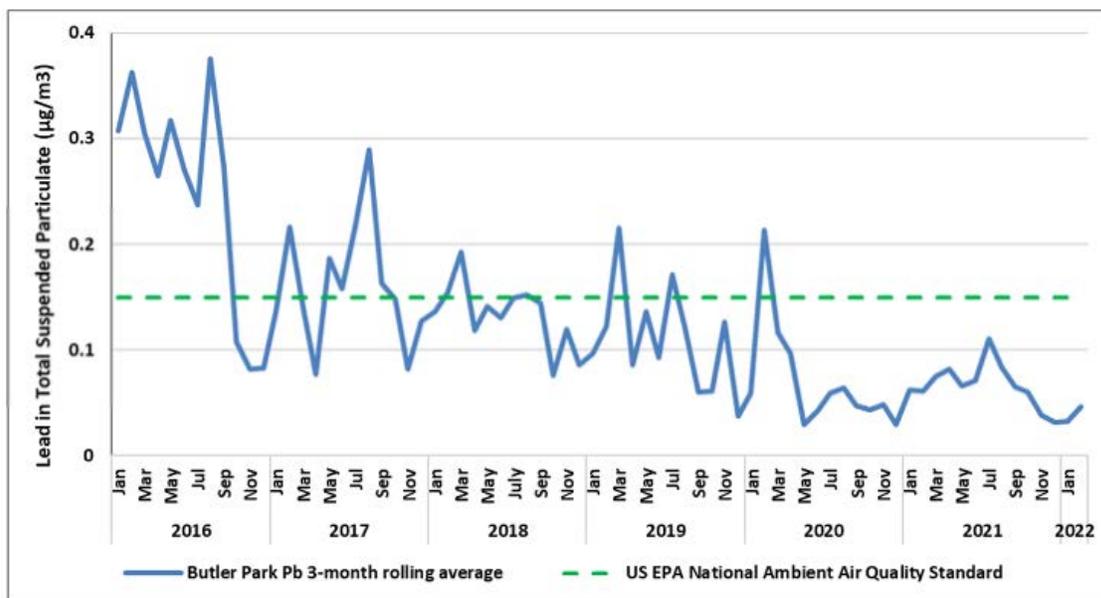


Figure 3: 3-month rolling average lead in air at Butler Park station (as total suspended particulate measured bi-daily)

The chart in Figure 3 shows the 3-month rolling average for lead in air for Butler Park (blue line), in comparison to the US EPA standard (green dashed line).

Hoping to learn from Trail’s experience, between June 20-23, 2022, government, company and community representatives from South Australia participated in face-to-face and virtual learning sessions. Visitors met with their counterparts to discuss health, air quality, soil management, community engagement and governance. The week ended with a commitment to developing a global community of learning and knowledge sharing for programs that focus on enabling a healthy community where active lead smelting facilities operate.

“In our eyes, Trail and the surrounding area is a truly beautiful part of the world. The amazing mountain and valley landscape, plus the sheer volume of water in the Columbia River is a stark contrast to the Australian landscape. Our impression is that the staff involved in the Trail Area Health & Environment Program are doing a really good job at ensuring the community’s needs are at the centre of all the work they do. We observed that the community representatives involved are very invested in ensuring success,” notes Sophie Martin from the South Australian Environmental Protection Authority. “Everyone was very welcoming and open with their knowledge and experience and we hope that we are able to repay the hospitality shown to us if any of the people we met make a visit to South Australia in the future.”

Lisa Pasin, Mayor of Trail and the Chair of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee says, “We are very proud of the accomplishments made in Trail over the years to always be a community with thriving families, environment and economy. We are very open to sharing our experience and learning with other communities that have active lead-based industries as well.”

Trail and Area residents can sign up for all programs online. You are invited to get your soil tested, a free service, offered from April-October annually. Learn more at thep.ca.

About the Trail Area Health & Environment Program

THEP’s purpose is to support the community of Trail and surrounding areas to live, work and play in an area influenced by smelter air emissions. THEP works collaboratively to reduce exposure to smelter air emissions such as Pb (lead) and SO₂ (sulphur dioxide) by improving air quality, providing community-based education and programs to reduce children’s blood lead levels, and ultimately improve peoples’ health.

For more information contact:

Michelle Laurie, Lead Facilitator, Trail Area Health & Environment Committee
(250) 231-0635; michelle@thep.ca

Lisa Pasin, Mayor of Trail and Chair of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee
(250) 364-0809 or lpasin@trail.ca



Clare North, Superintendent of Environmental Remediation at Teck Trail Operations explaining the context of the smelter and Trail's geography to visitors from South Australia's Environmental Protection Authority.



Meeting the team at the downtown Community Program Office located at 1319 Bay Avenue. Residents are welcome to drop-in, ask questions, and sign up for programs.



Meeting with Steve Hilts, community member of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee.

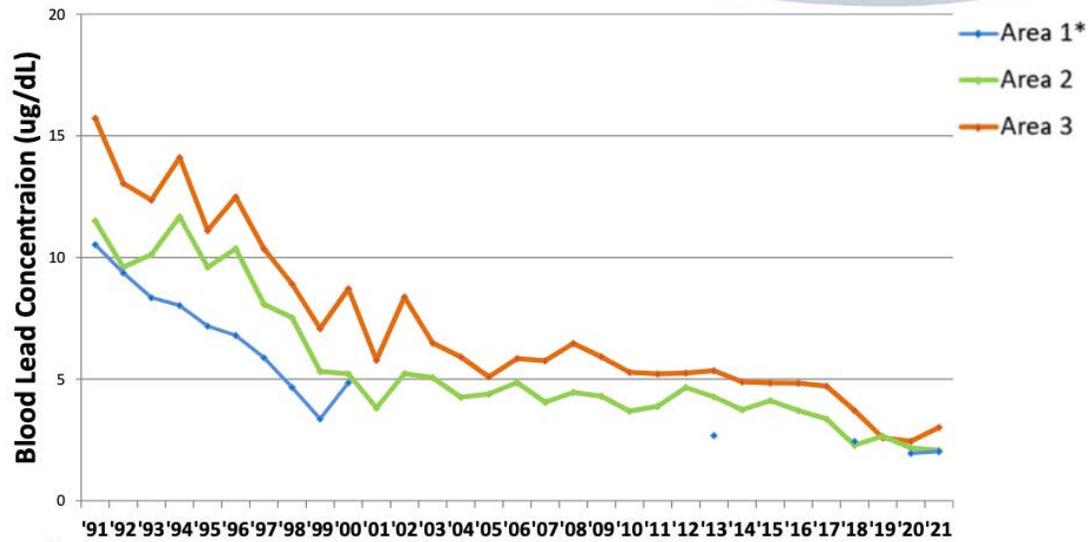


Touring West Trail to better understand the challenges associated with managing soil on steep lots with limited access for equipment.



Visiting an active soil remediation project in Glenmerry neighbourhood.

Trend of Blood Lead Geomean by Area Years 1991-2021



*Area 1
 2000 - Stopped testing
 2013 - Rejoined testing with a recommendation to retest every 5 years.
 2020 - Rejoined testing with a recommendation to retest every year

11/15/2021

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Every person matters

Each year, the Medical Health Officer for Trail presents the annual blood lead results from the voluntary blood lead testing clinic for children held in September. This slide is captured from the November 2021 presentation to the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee.