Community Update – Dunbar Area Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys

The Department of Environmental Protection's Geological Survey Section has completed the draft preliminary review and analysis of the GPR data retrieved from parcels in and around South Street in Fort Myers from Aug. 16-18, 2017.

Reports of this nature are not finalized until they are thoroughly peer reviewed by other agency experts, which provides an opportunity for important supplemental localized information to be included in the report. This review is underway.

In the interest of open communication with this community, we are making the draft preliminary report available until the report can be finalized.

The preliminary draft report can be accessed here.

The final report, will be provided directly to property owners, and will be available here as soon as it is completed.

Summary of Initial Review

While the review of this report is still ongoing, initial review of the data shows that:

· Most detections of possible buried objects were at the near surface, less than 6 feet, which would not be indicative of a former dump site.

· Within the 25 residential properties surveyed, a total of 59 possible buried objects were identified. Initial review suggests, based on size and depth (small objects at shallow depth), the majority of possible buried objects appear consistent with what would be expected of remnants of home construction debris.

· The GPR data from the South Street site seems to be consistent with the areas identified as borrow areas in aerial photography from 1950s, 60s and 70s.

The GPR data was not able to conclusively determine the thickness of the lime sludge at the South Street site. The core drilling planned as part of the City's assessment will be able to assist with this determination. This assessment plans requires them to drill until the reach a depth at which no more sludge is encountered.

When Reviewing this Preliminary Report

As other experts review the data, and supplemental information is weighed, information may be added or clarified.

Conclusive identification of a specific object by GPR data alone is nearly impossible. The GPR data is rather a starting point for further investigations of the possible buried objects.

The size of the dots on the maps noting anomalies, such as a possible buried object, reflect the accuracy of the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) reading, not the size of the potential buried object.

While the GPR can detect relatively small objects, such as a soda can, the size of any detected possible buried object is relative to depth. The shallower the object is, the smaller the possible buried object that can be identified, conversely the deeper the object is the larger it must be to be detected.

Residents with questions concerning the draft report should contact:

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