

Memo

Date: November 1, 2016

To: Matt Martin, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP), Warren, OH
From: Alison Mears, Director Healthy Materials Lab, Parsons School of Design, The New School,
New York City

Subject: Update on summer soil testing, Parsons Healthy Materials Lab

Parsons has worked on projects in Warren Ohio since the fall of 2013 as part of Parsons Urban Design studio collaboration with The New School's Milano School of Policy. Students and faculty have partnered with a number of local organizations proposing urban revitalization efforts in the city. This year, the Parsons students focused on new uses for abandoned houses. As part of that study, and in collaboration with the Parsons Healthy Materials Lab, we are in the process of recommending better construction materials for minor housing renovations.

For the last three summers, Parsons students have worked over the summer in Warren to prototype ideas generated in the studio. This year, in June 2016 aligned with the Healthy Materials Lab and partnering with the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, students collected soil samples adjacent to houses and from community gardens in Warren for soil testing.

The US EPA recommends soil remediation of lead levels that are over 400ppm for residential properties, particularly those which children are directly exposed to. The Ohio EPA follows this standard. **Soil samples tested in the TNP gardens tested were well within the EPA limits for lead in soil; meaning these sites are clean and safe for continued use.**

High lead was found, however, in some cases in soil **adjacent to vacant houses**, very high in some cases. While the specific issues identified in the soils tested can be easily addressed before any occupancy occurs, **the likelihood that lead is present in soil in private residential homes in Warren and Trumbull County remains.** Residents should be proactive and seek to advocate for their right to a clean home environment; testing may exist for residents; please check out <http://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/503/Healthy-Homes-Lead-Hazard-Control> for more information

TNP and TNS encourage residents to pursue testing if they are concerned, and present this summary statement in the interest in public awareness.



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