



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Drill Rigs in Westbrook: Landslide Vulnerability Assessment Underway

Westbrook, Maine – The City of Westbrook has launched a Landslide Vulnerability Assessment to identify risks from unstable terrain and severe weather. **Beginning September 8, drill rigs and field crews will be collecting soil samples** as part of a planned, proactive effort to better understand the landscape and prepare for future risks. This study is funded through Congressionally Directed Spending secured by Senators Susan Collins and Senator Angus King, with matching support from MaineDOT's Infrastructure Adaptation Plan.

"Westbrook has a proud history of adapting to change," said Mayor David Morse. "This assessment gives us the science and tools we need to understand where our greatest vulnerabilities are so that we can make smart, cost-effective investments in the future of our community."

The Landslide Vulnerability Assessment will:

- Map areas at-risk of slope failure and erosion across the city.
- Evaluate potential impacts to roads, utilities, and residential areas.
- Provide recommendations for stabilization, land-use planning, and emergency preparedness.
- Support long-term resilience planning under state and federal climate adaptation frameworks.

Landslides, though less frequent than floods or storms in Maine, can cause serious damage when triggered by heavy rain, snowmelt, or steep-slope development. "Since the landslide occurred in September 2020, the City has been building a team of technical experts to guide the assessment," said Robyn Saunders, City Project Manager. "With support from Presumpscot River watershed municipalities, this assessment aims to better understand ground conditions and guide future policy and planning to ensure resilient, sustainable development and infrastructure for future generations."

"This is about protecting both people and place," said Director Michael Durkin of Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency. "By leveraging federal and state resources, Westbrook is demonstrating leadership in reducing risks from natural hazards before they become costly disasters."

The assessment results will be shared publicly to guide policy discussions and next steps across watershed communities. For more information, please contact: Robyn Saunders, Project Manager at rsaunders@westbrook.me.us or visit <http://westbrookmaine.gov/landslide>