

Community Fact Sheet

Poplar Point Site CERCLA Actions

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
National Capital Parks – East

Anacostia Park

Fall 2013



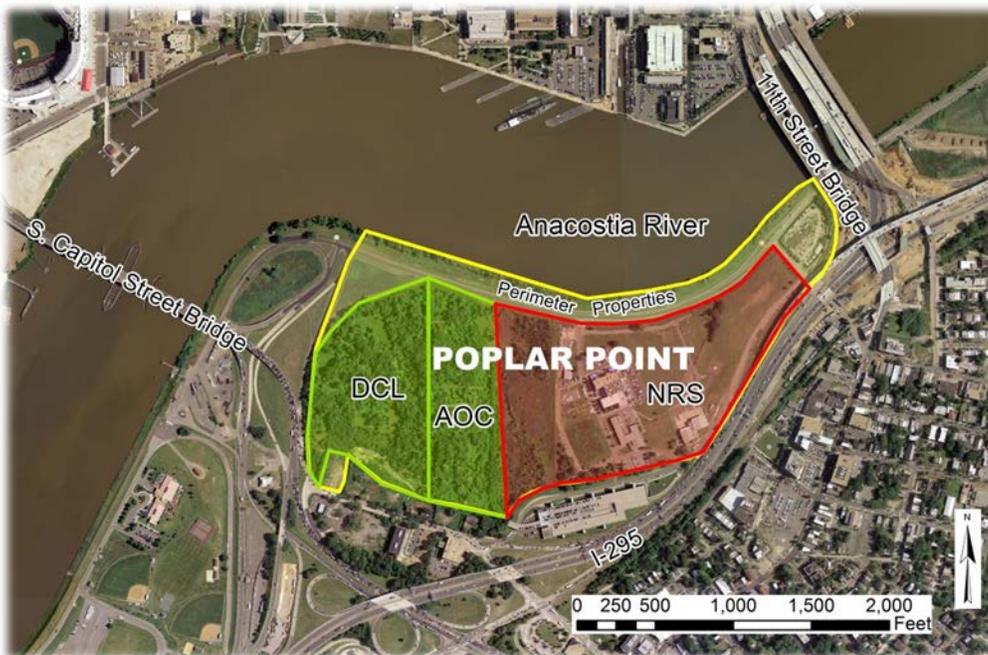
SITE HISTORY

The Poplar Point Site is located in Anacostia Park in S.E. Washington, D.C., along the east side of the Anacostia River, between the South Capitol Street Bridge, 11th Street Bridges, Anacostia Freeway (Interstate 295), and the Anacostia River, approximately one mile upstream from the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. Anacostia Park is a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) within National Capital Parks-East (NACE).

The Site was created in part by the filling of tidal marshes along the Anacostia River between 1882 and 1927. The Poplar Point area has undergone a variety of land uses since that time. The western portion of the approximately 96-acre Site has historically been divided into two parcels, both of which supported nursery and greenhouse operations from the mid-1920s until 1993. One of those parcels was used by the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), and the other by the District of Columbia's Lanham Tree Nursery (DCL). The central and eastern portions of the Site were occupied by the Naval Receiving Station (NRS) from the 1940s through the 1960s. Between 1959 and 1980, the Navy either demolished or transferred the remaining buildings located at the NRS to NPS.

In 2006, Congress enacted legislation (Public Law 109-396, commonly referred to as the DC Lands Act) directing the United States to transfer the Site to the District of Columbia (District), but the transfer is not yet complete. Currently, the NPS Headquarters for NACE, the U.S. Park Police Anacostia Operations Facility (AOF), and the U.S. Park Police Aviation Unit facilities occupy a portion of the Site formerly occupied by the NRS.

The former greenhouse and nursery areas are unused and vegetation has been allowed to grow naturally there. The Site also includes various storage buildings, wetlands, and managed meadows. The existing wetlands, meadows, scrub-shrub areas, and willow thickets at the Site provide important habitat for a diversity of plant and animal life, including some species of special concern.



In September 2008, NPS and the District entered into a Consent Order under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), by which the District agreed to conduct a CERCLA Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS) of the entire Poplar Point Site under the oversight of NPS.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Since the early 1990s, a number of environmental investigations have been performed at the Site. Most of these investigations focused on the western portion of the Site, in the areas formerly operated as nurseries and greenhouses. Those investigations identified metals, pesticides, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Site soils above concentrations that may pose unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (referred to as screening levels). Sediments at the Site were found to contain metals, pesticides, PCBs, and SVOCs above screening levels. Site groundwater sampling detected metals, pesticides, PCBs, VOCs, SVOCs, and petroleum hydrocarbons, and surface water sampling revealed manganese and VOCs above screening levels. In addition to the prior environmental investigations, abandoned drums and inactive underground and above ground storage tanks were previously removed from the Site.

Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) were developed and documented for the Site in the Technical Memorandum on Remedial Action Objectives, dated July 31, 2012. The District and NPS completed the initial RI/FS scoping process to identify project objectives and data needs for developing the RI/FS Work Plan. Although a significant amount of data have been collected to characterize surface and subsurface contaminant conditions, a number of data gaps were identified during the Data Quality Objectives (DQO) review process, especially on the NRS property. Because the Site is large with a complex and diverse history, a phased field investigation approach will be used to collect field data needed to efficiently and cost-effectively meet the project DQOs. Results from the RI/FS scoping process are presented in the Final Conceptual Remedial Investigation Scoping Document, dated May 2013. The RI will characterize the environmental conditions of the Site, and will include ecological and human health risk assessments. The FS will present a range of cleanup alternatives and evaluate those alternatives using prescribed criteria.

NEXT STEPS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Currently, the District and NPS are preparing a Building Demolition Plan, RI/FS Work Plan, Field Sampling Plan (FSP), Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for the Site. The RI/FS Work Plan, FSP, QAPP, and HASP are expected to be completed by early Spring 2014, with the first phase of the comprehensive RI field activities to begin in late Spring 2014. The Building Demolition Plan is also expected to be completed by Spring 2014, with associated building demolition activities to begin in Summer 2014.

Community involvement is an important part of the CERCLA process, and the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on proposed cleanup actions. Together, the District and NPS will develop a Community Involvement Plan, projected to be completed by Spring 2014. As documents related to the Site are completed, they will be made available on the project website: www.nps.gov/nace/parkmgmt/poplarpoint1.htm.

The Site Administrative Record (AR) file is an information repository for key Site-related documents. It will include all documents that form the basis for the selection of the remedy. This includes investigation reports, including risk assessments, the FS, Proposed Plan, community involvement materials, responses to significant public comments, and the ROD. The AR file is being established by NPS and will be available for public review at the two locations identified below (except federal holidays).

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE
Washington, DC 20020
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

If you have questions about the Poplar Point Site cleanup process, please contact Emily Ferguson, Project Manager, at (202) 692-6033 or email emily_ferguson@nps.gov.