

Community Fact Sheet

Kenilworth Park Landfill CERCLA Actions

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
National Capital Parks – East

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic
Gardens

May 2012



A SITE HISTORY

The Kenilworth Park Landfill Site (Site) is located within the 700-acre Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens (Park) on the east side of the Anacostia River in N.E. Washington, D.C. Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens is part of Anacostia Park and is a unit of the National Park System within National Capital Parks-East.

From 1942 until 1970, the District of Columbia (DC) used the northern (KPN) and southern (KPS) portions of the Site for municipal solid waste disposal. Municipal waste incineration, incinerator ash disposal, and landfilling of municipal solid waste occurred at the Site. By the 1970s, the entire landfill (KPN and KPS) had ceased operations, was covered with soil, revegetated, and reclaimed for recreational purposes.

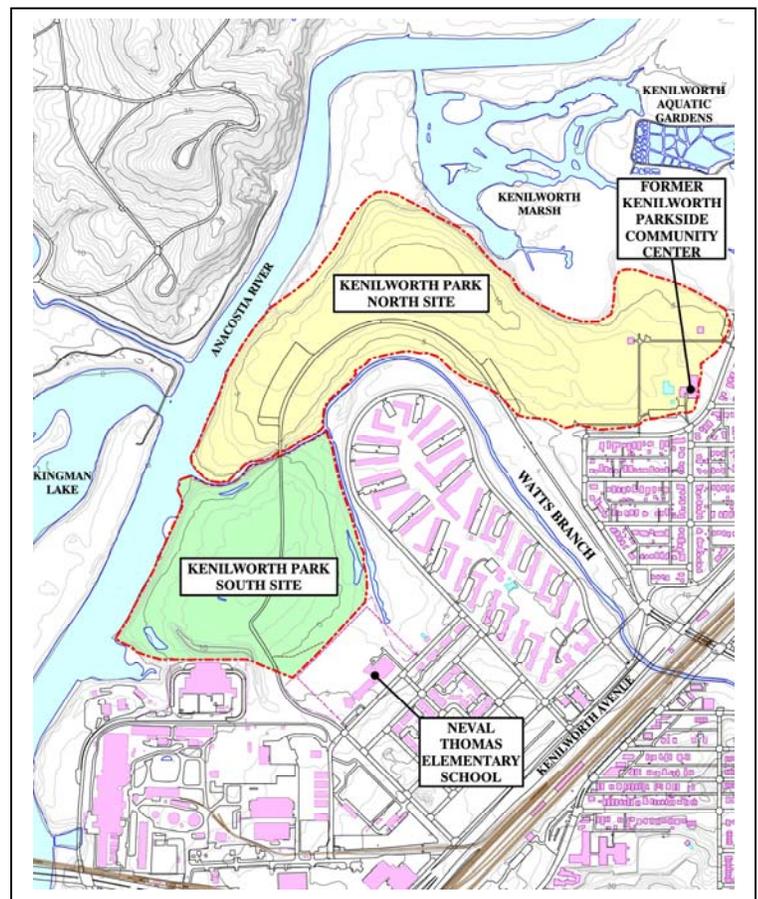
In 1973, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) opened the Kenilworth-Parkside Community Center in the northeast portion of KPN. Playing fields also were built on the northern and southern portions of KPN. KPS is currently undeveloped and not used for active recreation. In 2010, DPR demolished the Kenilworth Parkside Community Center and has publically expressed its intentions to replace it.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

In late 1998, NPS began conducting environmental investigations to determine what risks, if any, the former landfills may pose to human health or the environment. The most comprehensive of these Site studies are the Remedial Investigations (RIs) conducted pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Separate RI Reports were prepared for KPN and KPS.

Under CERCLA, RIs are conducted to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Site, determine whether any contamination found poses risks to human or ecological health, and identify cleanup objectives. Based on the results of these investigations, NPS identified polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), lead, and methane gas as contaminants of concern at the Site.

Although methane has been identified as a contaminant of concern, it was not detected inside the Community Center prior to its demolition, indicating that there was no indoor health or safety risk from methane, nor was it found to pose a risk beyond the boundaries of the Site. Methane concentrations in subsurface soils, however, were determined to pose potential safety risks associated with future construction or utility work or other activities that disturb the subsurface waste material.



Location Map – Kenilworth Park Landfill Site

CLEANUP OPTIONS

Under CERCLA, the remedial investigation process is followed by a “feasibility study” or FS. Feasibility studies take the information collected during the RI and other environmental investigations, including the risk assessments, and develop, consider, and evaluate a range of cleanup alternatives, including a “no action” alternative.

The Kenilworth Site Feasibility Study Report was completed in April 2012 and is publicly available (a copy may be found on the project website identified below). Although the RIs concluded that significant groundwater transport of Site contaminants to adjacent surface water bodies was not likely, NPS has decided to conduct further study of the potential for Site contaminants to migrate via groundwater to the Anacostia River, thereby ensuring that the Site is not adversely impacting the river. The Site, therefore, has been divided into two “Operable Units” (OUs): OU1 comprises surface and subsurface soils, including waste materials disposed in the landfills, and OU2 comprises the shallow groundwater underlying the Site. At the conclusion of the further study, NPS will prepare an RI Addendum. The RI Addendum will be used to support the development, evaluation, and selection of response action for OU2, if warranted.

The April 2012 FS presents and evaluates five remedial alternatives for OU1:

Alternative 1: No action (required by CERCLA);

Alternative 2: Minor regrading of surface soil combined with controls on the future use of the land (referred to as “institutional controls”) and three years of annual methane monitoring;

Alternatives 3a and 3b: Alternative 3a includes a 12-inch soil cap, localized shallow soil excavation (*e.g.*, around existing features such as tennis courts and sidewalks) and off-site disposal of those excavated soils, institutional controls, and methane monitoring before, during, and after remedial activities. Alternative 3b includes the same components as 3a, except that the soil cap is 24 inches thick; and

Alternative 4: Complete removal of virtually all accessible waste material and existing cover soils, institutional controls for the limited areas where fill materials would be left in place, and wetlands restoration.

NEXT STEPS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Based upon the FS and previous investigations, NPS will identify a preferred remedial alternative and present it to the public in the “Proposed Plan.” The Proposed Plan will be made available for public comment for at least 30 days. During the public comment period, NPS will host one or more public meetings to discuss the rationale for the preferred alternative described in the Proposed Plan. The public meeting(s) will provide the opportunity for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. Comments received prior to and during this period are important to NPS and will be considered as it selects the remedy for OU1.

Once public comment has been taken into consideration, NPS will select a final remedy for OU1, which will be presented in the “Record of Decision” (ROD). The ROD will describe the selected remedy and establish the requirements and framework for the more-detailed remedial design process to follow. Once the detailed remedial design is complete, the remedy will be implemented in the remedial action phase of the project.

Information repositories for key Site-related documents (*i.e.*, the Administrative Record file) have been established in the two locations identified below. The Site Administrative Record file includes all documents that will form the basis for the selection of the remedy. This includes investigation reports (including risk assessments), the FS, Proposed Plan, community involvement materials, and responses to significant public comments, as well as the ROD. These documents, as they are completed, will also be made available on the project website: www.nps.gov/nace/parkmgmt/kpls.htm

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If you have questions about the Kenilworth Park Landfill cleanup process, please contact Emily Ferguson, project manager, at (202) 692-6033.