

Community Fact Sheet

Kenilworth Park Landfill Site

CERCLA Actions

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic
Gardens



August 2013

Site Background

The Kenilworth Park Landfill Site (Site) is located within the 700-acre Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens (Park), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), located on the east side of the Anacostia River in Northeast Washington, D.C. The 130-acre Site is the former location of a municipal solid waste landfill operated by the District of Columbia (District) from 1942 until 1970.

In the late 1990s, NPS began an extensive environmental investigation to evaluate risks posed to human health and the environment by contaminants at the Site and evaluate

potential remedies to address identified risks. That investigation and evaluation has been conducted pursuant to the cleanup authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also referred to as Superfund. NPS is the CERCLA “lead agency” at the Site, responsible for planning and directing the Site investigation and cleanup.

NPS has completed the investigation and the identification of remedial alternatives to address risks associated with exposure to contaminants remaining in the landfill and in soils covering the landfill. From those alternatives, evaluated in a Feasibility Study, NPS identified a “preferred alternative” in a Proposed Plan, which was issued for public comment in March 2013.

Proposed Plan Summary

The preferred alternative identified in the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site Proposed Plan was a 24-inch low-permeability cap, which would prevent exposure to contaminants within the landfill and cover soils, and also would significantly reduce surface water infiltration into the landfill.

Before identifying the preferred alternative (**Alternative 3b**), NPS evaluated the following options for addressing the contaminated surface and subsurface soils and landfill wastes at the Site:

Alternative 1 - No Action

Alternative 2 - Minor Regrading and Institutional Controls

Alternative 3a - 12-Inch Soil Cap

Alternative 3b - 24-Inch Low Permeability Soil Cap

Alternative 4 - Removal of All Accessible Waste Material and Existing Cover Soils with Off-Site Disposal

NPS currently is considering all public comments on the Proposed Plan that were submitted during the 60-day public comment period. Those comments range from support for the comprehensive removal of all landfill material to taking no action to support for the preferred alternative.



Current Status

In the course of completing the Feasibility Study, NPS concluded that additional groundwater data should be collected. Data collected previously indicate it is unlikely that landfill contaminants are migrating to adjacent surface water bodies including the Anacostia River, Kenilworth Marsh, and Watts Branch. However, to ensure that contaminants are not being transported from the landfill to those water bodies, NPS will collect additional groundwater data later this year. The additional data will be used to supplement existing data in order to reevaluate whether the Anacostia River and adjacent surface water bodies may be at risk from contaminants disposed in the landfill. The additional groundwater data also will be used to further inform the selection of the remedy for the landfill.

Accordingly, NPS has decided to hold off on selecting a final remedy for the landfill until more groundwater data are available. NPS will notify park neighbors before the groundwater investigation fieldwork begins. Once NPS has collected and analyzed this data, the NPS will once again reach out to the public.

Community Involvement

NPS appreciates your involvement in this public process and wishes to thank you for your engagement as we move forward in ensuring that any risks posed to human health or the environment by the Site are fully addressed.

Copies of key Site documents, including the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Reports and the Proposed Plan, are available on the internet at:

www.nps.gov/nace/parkmgmt/kpls.htm.

Hardcopies of these documents also may be found in the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site Administrative Record File.

The Administrative Record File is available at:

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE,
Washington, D.C. 20020
(202) 692-6033

and

National Park Service
1050 Walnut Street, Suite 220
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 415-9030

Hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Except federal holidays

Please contact Emily Ferguson, Project Manager, if you have questions about the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site cleanup process, at (202) 692-6033 or kenilworthpark_ou1@nps.gov.

