

Community Update

Kenilworth Park Landfill Site

CERCLA Actions

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



National Capital Parks – East
Washington, D.C.

November 2020

A SITE HISTORY

The Kenilworth Park Landfill Site (Site) is located within the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens portions of Anacostia Park, a unit managed by National Capital Parks – East (NACE), on the eastern bank of the Anacostia River. The Site is divided into two areas, Kenilworth Park North (KPN) and Kenilworth Park South (KPS). The areas are separated by Watts Branch, a stream that flows into the Anacostia River.

From 1942 until 1970, the District of Columbia (DC) used the Site for municipal solid waste disposal. Open burning of municipal waste, incinerator ash disposal, and landfilling of unburned 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. KPN currently contains athletic fields which are actively used for recreation. KPS is currently undeveloped and not used for active recreation.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 1998, NPS began conducting environmental investigations pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to determine what risks, if any, the former landfills may pose to human health or the environment.

Under CERCLA, remedial investigations (RIs) are conducted to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Site and to determine whether any contamination found poses risks to human or ecological health. In 2007, NPS completed an RI Report for KPN and in 2008, an RI Report for KPS was completed. Based on results of the RIs completed at the Site, NPS identified polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, lead, and methane gas as contaminants of concern.



CLEANUP OPTIONS

Under CERCLA, the RI process is followed by a “feasibility study” or FS. Feasibility studies take the information collected during the RI including the determination of risk posed by the Site, and develops, considers, and evaluates a range of cleanup alternatives, including a “no action” alternative.

NPS completed an FS for the Site in April 2012 and in 2013 released a “Proposed Plan” for cleaning up the Site. The Proposed Plan included placement of a 24-inch thick soil cap over both the north and south landfill areas. After receiving public comments and determining that additional groundwater sampling was required to fully evaluate the Site’s impact on underlying groundwater and surface water, NPS decided to defer implementation of the Proposed Plan until the results of additional investigations could be considered.

From 2013 through 2018, NPS conducted additional sampling investigations at the Site. The results of these investigations were summarized in a RI Addendum Report that was completed in 2019. The 2019 RI Addendum also provides an updated human health risk assessment that uses the additional data collected from 2013 to 2018 and revised risk assessment guidance for certain chemicals. The updated risk assessment also considered the revised future use for Kenilworth Park South. NPS will manage Kenilworth Park South for “natural resources recreation” such as walking, biking and bird watching. Kenilworth Park South will not be developed for active recreational uses such as athletic fields, as was previously contemplated. The updated risk assessments concluded there was unacceptable risk to active recreational users posed by certain PAHs, PCBs, dieldrin (a pesticide), and lead in surface soil. The updated assessment also indicated unacceptable risk posed to workers involved with activities that may disturb the subsurface due to lead present in waste or subsurface soil. Using information provided by the RI Addendum Report, NPS completed a FS Addendum Report in September 2020. This report identifies and evaluates five cleanup alternatives to address unacceptable risk documented in the RI Addendum Report.

NPS reviewed the cleanup alternative evaluations documented in the 2020 FS Addendum Report and chose Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative. Alternative 3 includes selective placement of clean fill barriers and institutional controls. This alternative will address risks posed to human health and the environment and will allow the site to be enjoyed for recreational use. On November 12, 2020, NPS released a Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Site which explains NPS’s preferred alternative, Alternative 3 and the rationale used to choose this alternative.

NEXT STEPS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

On November 12, 2020, NPS announced the release of the Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site and invited public comments on the plan. The preferred alternative described in the plan is a preliminary recommendation. NPS will select the final plan after soliciting and considering all community feedback. This final plan will be shared publicly in a Record of Decision.

NPS will present the proposed plan and accept public comments during a **virtual public meeting on Nov. 18, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** Members of the community may join the meeting through a link on the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site [webpage](#). Community members may also join the meeting by phone at 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID 963 0559 4573; Passcode 052877). NPS is hosting this meeting virtually to ensure that project progress continues while protecting the health and safety of the community during the COVID-19 emergency.

Public Comment Period: The 90-day public comment period begins Nov. 12, 2020 and closes Feb. 10, 2021. The Record of Decision will include a summary that responds to all significant comments received during the comment period.

Providing Your Comments: Comments on the proposed plan and the other documents contained in the Administrative Record File can be submitted to NPS in three ways:

Mail: VHB Metro DC, LLC
Attn: KPL Proposed Plan Public Comments
1001 G Street, N.W., Suite 1125
Washington, DC 20001

Email: Donna.Davies@nps.gov

Phone : (202) 359-3234

After consideration of comments received, NPS will determine if any changes are required to the Proposed Plan and will select a final remedy for the Site which will be presented in the “Record of Decision” (ROD). The ROD will describe the selected remedy which will be implemented to clean up the Site.

All of the key Site-related documents are included in the Site Administrative Record. The Site Administrative Record file includes all documents that formed the basis for selection of the cleanup alternative. Compact disks that contain the most updated Administrative Record have been provided to the Benning (Dorothy I. Heights) Neighborhood Library at the address provided below. Earlier versions of the Administrative Record were provided to Deanwood Library; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Deanwood Library is temporary closed. The public may view the disks on computer available for public use at the Benning library. Electronic copies of the administrative record may also be requested by

contacting the NPS Kenilworth Park Landfill CERCLA project manager, Donna Davies, at donna_davies@nps.gov or (202) 359-3234. Key Site documents are also available for download on the NPS Kenilworth Park Landfill webpage which can be accessed at: <https://www.nps.gov/anac/learn/management/kpls.htm>.

DC Library System
Benning (Dorothy I. Height) Neighborhood Library
3935 Benning Road NE
Washington, DC 20019
Phone: (202) 281-2583
Email: benninglibrary@dc.gov
<https://www.dclibrary.org/benning>
Mon–Fri: 11am–7pm (closed 2pm–3pm for sanitizing)

If you have questions about the Kenilworth Park Landfill cleanup process, please contact the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site NPS CERCLA project manager, Donna Davies, at donna_davies@nps.gov or (202) 359-3234.