

For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the Valleycrest Landfill cleanup, you can contact these U.S. EPA team members:

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U.S. EPA Region 5 toll-free:

800-621-8431,
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

U.S. EPA Region 5
Chicago Office
Superfund Division
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

For more information about the Valleycrest Landfill site, please visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/valleycrest

Information repository

Residents can also find official documents and information about the site at the library:
E.C. Doren Public Library
701 Troy Ave.
Dayton, OH 45404
937-496-8928



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed a “Record of Decision” for the Valleycrest site on Aug. 16, 2013. This ROD is the final, long-term cleanup plan for the site. U.S. EPA will negotiate with the responsible parties to implement the cleanup followed by the design and construction of the remedy.

In early 2014, U.S. EPA conducted interviews with several members of the Valleycrest community to gain more insight into the public’s concerns. U.S. EPA staff used the information gathered at the interviews and other discussions with area residents to develop an updated community involvement plan.

During these interviews, residents and other community members asked many of the same questions. This fact sheet provides answers to these most frequently asked questions.

1. What is the game plan for the site?

It is anticipated the remedial (cleanup) design for the site will begin later in 2015 and the actual cleanup work will begin in 2016. Schedule details will be determined in the upcoming negotiations.

Several organizations and entities including the city of Dayton Planning and Community Development, Economic Development and Water departments; Dayton Environmental Advisory Board; city of Riverside; Valleycrest Neighbors and Concerned Citizens; Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association; Dayton Citywide Development Corporation; Valleycrest Landfill Site Group and U.S. EPA Region 5 have been working on a reuse plan for the Valleycrest Landfill site. A reuse assessment for the site has been prepared and is available on the U.S. EPA Valleycrest Web page (*see box on the left*).

2. *Where were the drums taken?*

The drums were taken to an off-site authorized landfill.

3. *How long will plastic liners last at the landfill?*

The liners will be maintained and repaired for the foreseeable future to make sure human health and the environment are protected.

5. *What about the monitoring wells?*

The groundwater (underground supplies of fresh water) monitoring wells will be regularly checked as part of the cleanup plan.

6. *Do you have to get rid of the trees on the site?*

The remedial design will determine what areas require clearing before cleanup construction. Trees and surface vegetation cannot be allowed to grow on top of the constructed landfill cap as they could damage the cap's effectiveness. Trees along the site boundary will be maintained for shielding as long as they do not interfere with the cap.

7. *Is it true that only 3 to 5 acres are going to be reused?*

Currently, there are no specific reuse plans for the landfill site. U.S. EPA will work with interested parties to evaluate potential redevelopment opportunities.

8. *Does the methane burner still work?*

Yes, it only runs when enough gas has accumulated from the perimeter gas collection system.

9. *Who makes the final decision on reuse plans?*

U.S. EPA has ultimate approval for reuse plans, but the federal Agency will consult with numerous public and private groups. U.S. EPA's main priority with reuse is to make sure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment.

10. *Is the fence going to be taken down?*

The fence will likely be repaired/replaced as part of the site remedy.

11. *Is the site harmful to people?*

The cleanup is designed specifically to contain or remove health risks to people. Connecting houses to municipal water and eliminating buried drums

years ago removed the most serious health threats. The site remedial investigation report contains a pollution risk assessment that you can read for a full discussion of health risks. You can find the report in the Valleycrest information repository at the EC Doren Public Library.

12. *Who owns the Valleycrest land?*

Currently a corporation owns the land, but there are plans to transfer ownership to another entity. It is not known at this time who will become the owner of the land, but whoever it is must follow the cleanup plan.

13. *Who pays for the cleanup?*

The intent is to get the parties responsible for the pollution at Valleycrest to pay for the cleanup. If there are no assets available from the responsible parties, taxpayer dollars may be used.

14. *Who is going to do the cleanup work? Will you use local people?*

The responsible parties will be pursued to fund the cleanup work in upcoming negotiations. U.S. EPA with help from Ohio EPA will oversee contractors doing the actual work to make sure it is done according to approved cleanup plans. The responsible parties will make the decision on what contractors are used, and the use of those contractors must be approved by U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA recommends but cannot require local contractors and individuals be used. Any one hired to work on the site must have the proper training.



U.S. EPA staff had the opportunity to visit a 6th grade science class at Kiser Elementary School in Dayton and talk with the students about Valleycrest Landfill and general environmental issues.

About Valleycrest

The North Sanitary Landfill is located in the Old North Dayton neighborhood, which is in the northeast area of the city of Dayton in Montgomery County, Ohio. The property is located in a mixed urban, commercial, industrial and residential area. The location is bordered on the east, northeast and north by residential properties. Valleycrest occupies almost 102 acres. More than half of those acres were used for disposing of industrial and municipal waste into unlined former gravel pits that intersected the underground water table.

Several residential drinking water wells in the area became contaminated with hazardous substances believed to be related to the site. Nearby residences have all been connected to the municipal water supply. Industrial waste disposed of at the site include used oils, solvents, scrap paint, lampblack, electrical transformers, brake grindings containing asbestos and sewage. The property contained a family of chemicals called volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, such as TCE and 1,1-dichloroethene as well as other pollutants such as vinyl chloride, methylene chloride, phenols, PCBs and heavy metals such as lead, mercury,

cadmium and cyanide. Numerous fires occurred at the site over the years, the last one in 1996 when responders spent several weeks battling an underground blaze.

The Great Miami River is located 3,500 feet northwest of the site, and the Mad River is 4,000 feet south of the property.

Previous cleanup work

The approved cleanup plan outlines a permanent, long-term strategy for containing and cleaning up Valleycrest pollution. U.S. EPA has been involved with the site for more than 15 years, and Ohio EPA for much longer than that. U.S. EPA used its legal authority to lessen imminent health threats by conducting short-term, urgent cleanups in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Much of the short-term work involved removing buried containers. From 1998 through 2004, under EPA oversight, various PRPs removed nearly 43,000 drums and containers containing hazardous waste from Disposal Areas 1 and 5 and excavated more than 65,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and waste material.



U.S. EPA answers questions about the North Sanitary Landfill (Valleycrest) cleanup located in the Old North Dayton neighborhood of Dayton.



Map showing the boundaries of the Valleycrest Landfill