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# EPA Plans Cleanup Project At Popular Park

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## W.C. Reed Playfield Site

Cleveland, Ohio

August 2013

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### For more information

You can contact these EPA team members for questions, comments or more information about the cleanup at the W.C. Reed Playfield site:

*For general questions:*

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EPA Community Involvement  
Coordinator

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*For technical questions:*

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

#### **Website:**

[epa.gov/region5/cleanup/wcreed/index.html](http://epa.gov/region5/cleanup/wcreed/index.html)

#### **Administrative Record**

##### **Repository:**

Cleveland Public Library –  
Brooklyn Branch  
3706 Pearl Road

##### **EPA Chicago Office address:**

EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

##### **EPA Westlake, Ohio, Office address:**

25063 Center Ridge Road  
Westlake, OH 44145

Beginning in September, EPA expects to begin a cleanup at W.C. Reed Playfield, a 12-acre Cleveland city park located in a residential area at the intersection of West 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Denison Avenue. The city should be able to reopen the park once the approximately three-month cleanup is completed.

EPA will clean up the site by installing a barrier over the existing contaminated soil and then cover the barrier, made of a semi-porous fabric, with two feet of clean fill dirt. These actions will protect park users from coming in direct contact with contaminants in the soil. In addition, EPA will be sampling yards adjacent to the park to check for the presence of contamination. EPA will also be conducting real-time air monitoring and collecting air samples throughout the course of the cleanup to protect the safety of workers and the surrounding community.

In U.S. EPA terms, the cleanup is called a “time-critical removal action” because the contamination in the park soil poses an imminent health threat to people playing or working at the location. In addition, if not dealt with, environmental conditions such as high winds and heavy rains could cause the pollution to move off-site from the park into nearby residential neighborhoods. The Agency is conducting the project under the emergency authority provided in federal law.<sup>1</sup> The cleanup is expected to cost approximately \$3 million.

### Background

W.C. Reed Playfield is a 12-acre Cleveland city park located in a



*The W.C. Reed Playfield has been closed since last December when soil sampling revealed the presence of elevated levels of PAHs. U.S. EPA plans a cleanup project this summer.*

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<sup>1</sup>EPA conducts emergency cleanups under the authority of Section 104(a)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA better known as the Superfund law) and 42 USC 9604(a)(1).

residential area at the intersection of West 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Denison Avenue. The park is bordered to the east and west by residential properties, to the south by senior housing and an elementary school and to the north by a cemetery. It is heavily used for youth and adult sports, and by the school for recess. The facility contains tennis and basketball courts, baseball and softball diamonds and open grass fields for other recreational activities.

The city closed the park in December 2012 after soil tests found high levels of petroleum-based chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs. Sampling has shown that the contamination is located in the surface soil. Cleveland officials contacted EPA

for assistance with the cleanup and have been working with EPA on a cleanup plan to address the contamination.

After closing the park, the city erected a fence, but there are indications people are still using the park. EPA was asked to present information about the tentative cleanup plan at a community meeting in March. This meeting drew heavy interest from residents who expressed concerns about health effects from the pollution and the length of time the popular Playfield would remain closed. Additionally, concerns were raised at that time about plans to remove many of the park's trees during the cleanup.



*U.S. EPA will spend approximately \$3 million this summer and fall on an emergency cleanup project to contain hazardous chemicals located just below the surface of the W.C. Reed Playfield. Despite a fence around the site, there are indications people are still using the park.*