
EPA Plans Cleanup Project at Popular Park

W.C. Reed Playfields Site

Cleveland, Ohio

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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:

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a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

Website:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/wcreed/index.html>

Administrative Record

Repository:

Cleveland Public Library –
Brooklyn Branch
3706 Pearl Rd
Cleveland, OH 44109

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

In spring of 2014, EPA plans to begin a cleanup at W.C. Reed Playfields, a 12- acre Cleveland City park located in a residential area at the intersection of West 15th 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 contaminants. EPA will also be conducting real-time air monitoring and collecting air samples throughout the course of the cleanup to ensure 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 park soil poses an imminent health threat to people playing or working at the location. In addition, if not addressed, environmental conditions such as high winds and heavy rains could cause the pollution to move off-from the park into nearby residential neighborhoods. The Agency is conducting the cleanup project under the emergency authority provided in federal law.¹ The cleanup is expected to cost approximately \$3 million dollars.

Background

W.C. Reed Playfields is a 12- acre Cleveland City park located in a residential area at the intersection of West 15th Street and Denison Avenue.



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.

¹EPA 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).

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's 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 in 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 playfields 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 fall and next spring on an emergency cleanup project to contain hazardous chemicals located just below the surface of the W.C. Reed Playfields. Despite a fence around the site, there are indications people are still using the park.