



Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site

EPA to Remove Contaminated Soils in Eastwick Yards

EPA TO REMOVE CONTAMINATED SOIL FROM SOME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN EASTWICK

Beginning in fall 2016, EPA plans to remove contaminated soil from some residential properties in Eastwick. This work is being done as part of EPA's ongoing cleanup at the Clearview Landfill Superfund Site.

Results of soil samples taken during the spring and summer of 2016 show levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in some residential properties. Although the levels do not pose an immediate health risk to the residents, they are above EPA's acceptable levels for PAHs in soil and need to be removed in order to reduce the potential for exposure, especially in areas where there may be bare soil.

EPA has been working with the affected residents to inform them of the soil sample results and to work with them to schedule the soil removal.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, August 31
6:30PM—8:30PM

Eastwick Regional Park Recreation Center
S. 80th St. and Mars Place, Philadelphia, PA

Join us at the community meeting to ask questions about the soil removal work and get an update on the ongoing cleanup work at Clearview Landfill.

For more information about EPA's work at the Clearview Landfill, please visit us at:

Lower Darby Creek Area Website:
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby>

EPA CONTACTS

For Technical Questions:
Remedial Project Manager
Joshua Barber
(215) 814-3393
barber.joshua@epa.gov

For General Questions:
Community Involvement Coordinator
Larry Brown
(215) 814-5527
brown.larry@epa.gov

Community Involvement Coordinator
Gina Soscia
(215) 814-5538
soscia.gina@epa.gov

LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area
Community Advisory Group
(ELDCA CAG)
<http://www.eldcacag.org/>

Darby Creek Valley
Association (DCVA)
Technical Assistance Grant
(TAG) Recipient
<http://www.dcvva.org>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PAH CONTAMINATION

What are PAHs?

PAHs are found naturally in the environment but they can also be man-made. They are a group of chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, or other substances like tobacco or charbroiled meat.

Some PAHs found in Eastwick are related to historic Clearview Landfill activities. It is also likely that the PAHs stem from typical urban activities, for example, automobile exhaust, asphalt, charcoal grills (BBQ), etc.

Are PAHs dangerous to my health?

The levels of PAHs found in the Eastwick yards do not pose an immediate health threat. This is because they are below the ground surface and people are generally not coming into contact with the contaminated soil. However, the levels are high enough that they need to be removed in order to reduce the potential for exposure, especially in areas where there may be bare soil.

PAHs are considered to be carcinogenic and exposure to PAHs over a lifetime (30-70 years) may pose an increased cancer risk.

The most likely way to be exposed to the PAHs is through direct contact with contaminated soil through the skin. Contaminated soil that sticks to a person's skin could be ingested (via hand to mouth contact).

In the Eastwick properties, the contaminated soil is below the surface so direct contact is unlikely. Also, PAHs stick to soil particles and do not typically move unless the soil is disturbed (by digging or other activities that could rip up grass).

The presence of grass and/or weeds or hard surfaces, such as concrete patios, can minimize or eliminate the potential for direct contact with contaminated soil.

Are all Eastwick properties being cleaned up?

Only properties where EPA has determined that PAHs exceed our acceptable levels will be cleaned up during this initial effort. Additional properties where PAH levels are lower will be addressed at a later date as part of our overall work at the Clearview Landfill.



Team taking samples in an empty lot in Eastwick neighborhood.



How does EPA decide which yards to test?

Based on historic soil test results, EPA began testing in the northern and southern ends of the the Park in November 2015. Most of these test results showed PAHs above EPA's acceptable levels which is why EPA expanded the test area to include the Eastwick neighborhood.

EPA tested the soil from over 60 residential yards throughout Eastwick. Most of the testing focused on yards that are closer to the historic landfill boundary, which includes the Eastwick Regional Park. This includes sections of Buist Avenue, Angelo Place, Mars Place and Saturn Place.

EPA will continue testing until we can determine the extent of the contamination.

Has EPA tested my yard? If not, will more tests be conducted in the near future?

EPA is working directly with property owners to test their yards. If you have not yet been contacted by EPA, your yard is not part of this initial testing effort.

As we make progress in determining the extent of contamination, EPA may be reaching out to additional property owners to take samples.

What can I expect if my yard is being cleaned up?

EPA will meet with each property owner to go over the details of the cleanup including any unique yard features such as trees, gardens, pavers or patios, etc. that may have to be removed and replaced. Before starting any excavation, EPA will take pictures to document the condition of the property.

The cleanup will consist of removing 1 to 2 feet of soil from each yard, backfilling with clean soil,

and restoring the property to its original condition to the extent possible.

Most of the soil excavation will be done using a medium-sized excavator, a skid-steer, and dump trucks (see photos). When not in use EPA will park the equipment in a portion of the Park near the yards that are being cleaned up. EPA will place safety tape and fencing around the equipment as well as any open excavation areas.



Sod installation process



Example medium-sized excavator removing soil



How long will it take to clean my yard?

It will typically take about one week to clean each yard. The more items and unique features a yard has, such as large trees, gardens, pavers, etc., the longer the work will take. Yards that are part of an entire row of homes will be cleaned together, which may take several weeks to complete.

How will EPA protect our health and keep us safe during the soil cleanup?

EPA will develop a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) that will detail the steps being taken to protect the community. This HASP will be reviewed by experts from the Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area Community Advisory Group (ELDCA CAG) and will be available on the EPA LDCA website.

Specific health and safety activities will include monitoring the air quality (see photo) before and during the cleanup. While we do not expect there to be an air quality issue during the cleanup, EPA recommends that doors and windows remain closed during work hour hours.

All air quality monitoring data will be available on the LDCA website at www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby.

EPA will also take steps to minimize truck traffic through the neighborhood by constructing a temporary road through the Park and up onto the landfill. The excavated soil will be stored on the landfill and will be included under the new cover to be built as part of the landfill cleanup.

Controls will also be put in place to manage any stormwater runoff from open excavations and the stored soils on the landfill.

What steps should I take if my property is not included in this round of cleanup?

EPA recommends you follow the steps outlined in the ***How to Avoid Disturbing Soil In Eastwick Residential Yards*** fact sheet (included on Pages 7 and 8). Following these recommendations will greatly reduce the potential for any exposure to PAHs in your yard. This fact sheet is also available on the LDCA website at www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby.



Air sampling equipment



Who is paying for this cleanup?

EPA funds are used to pay for the cleanup. There is no cost to the homeowner. At the end of each yard cleanup, EPA will restore or replace each property to as-found condition. This means that landscaping, fences and other items are returned to their pre-removal location and condition, where reasonably possible.

What is the schedule for the rest of the Clearview cleanup?

The Clearview Landfill design is scheduled to be completed in March 2017. EPA is requesting funding to start the landfill cleanup in 2017. However, funding decisions are made by EPA Headquarters are based on several criteria. Once the landfill cleanup is funded and begins, it is expected to take up to two years to complete.



City park walking path

**Legend**

- Approximate Extent of Investigation
- Historical Extent of Clearview Landfill
- County Boundary Line
- Removal Action

Data Sources
Imagery: ESRI Bing Service

Coordinate System:
State Plane Pennsylvania South FIPS 3702
Linear Unit: Foot US

Datum: D North American 1983 (NAD 83)



0 260 520
Feet

Site map showing this approximate extent of the investigation



How to Avoid Disturbing Soil In Eastwick Residential Yards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been testing in the Eastwick neighborhood to determine the extent of contaminated soil potentially related to the Clearview Landfill, which is part of the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site. Contaminants known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been found at elevated concentrations beneath the surface of several residential yards near the Eastwick Park. The levels of PAHs found do not pose an immediate health threat for residents. However, long-term exposure to PAHs over an extended period (30-70 years) may increase cancer risks.

EPA is currently conducting additional testing in the Eastwick neighborhood to identify other residential properties that are impacted by this contamination. We are also developing a strategy to address this soil contamination. While limited and infrequent contact with the soil will not affect residents' health, it is still important to minimize the chances for exposure to contaminants. EPA's health experts encourage you to follow these general recommendations to avoid disturbing soil and limit any exposure to contaminants in soil:

It is recommended that in residential yards, residents should:

- Avoid games and activities that disturb the soil, like digging, scraping, picking up rocks.
- Avoid any "water-play" activities, such as sprinklers and pools, in areas with exposed soil.
- Consider putting down a tarp around sprinklers and pools to avoid creating mud.
- Avoid walking barefoot in areas of the yard with exposed soil.
- Place blankets or towels down prior to sitting in areas with exposed soil.
- Avoid sports activities that could rip up grass (golf, football, or wearing cleats).
- Prevent dogs or other pets from digging in yards.
- Prevent small children from eating soil through hand-to-mouth play and playing in exposed soil.

It is recommended that after using your yard, residents should:

- Make sure to wash hands or other areas of exposed skin that may have had contact with the soils in your yard with soap and water.
- Take off shoes and clean off pet paws before going inside homes.
- Wash outdoor toys, sporting equipment, etc., before bringing them inside homes.
- Wet mop and wet dust floors, counters and furniture regularly to reduce soil dust inside homes.
- If you use the yard and are in contact with the soil, put very dirty clothes in a bag before bringing them in the house, and wash them promptly in a separate load.

It is recommended that for gardening, residents should:

- Use raised garden beds, pots, etc., filled with clean soil.
- As a precaution, mix additional compost into existing in-ground gardens.
- Wash all produce, peel root crops, and remove outer leaves of leafy vegetables grown in a home garden before eating.
- Clean tools, gloves and shoes before bringing them indoors, or leave them outside.

What are Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)?

PAHs are found naturally in the environment but they can also be man-made. They are a group of chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas and contained in tobacco smoke and charbroiled meat. PAHs stick to soil particles and typically do not move unless the soil is disturbed. A yard that is covered well with grass or other vegetation will reduce or eliminate potential direct contact with contaminated soil. For more info on PAHs, visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x32qz>.

For More Information

Lower Darby Creek Area Website:
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby>

**Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area
Community Advisory Group Website:**
<http://www.eldcacag.org/>

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