

LDCA Stakeholders and Partnerships

The EPA is working closely with local community members and groups along with local, state, federal and elected officials to coordinate efforts related to the LDCA Site as well as larger efforts to address flooding issues in the Eastwick section of Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has funded 10% of the Clearview cleanup and will take over maintenance responsibilities from EPA once all vegetation is fully established.

EPA, PADEP, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum coordinate on LDCA activities that may impact the Refuge or LDCA. All agencies are involved in the oversight of Folcroft Landfill cleanup.

EPA and PADEP meet quarterly and communicate more frequently with the Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area Community Advisory Group (ELDCA CAG) and the Darby Creek Valley Association about LDCA progress to obtain community input. The ELDCA CAG also communicates with other local groups such as Eastwick United and the Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition.

EPA recently began coordinating with the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Coalition (SEAMAAC) with the goal of improving outreach and education related to fish contamination.



Clearview cleanup funding announcement with EPA Leadership, elected officials, and community leaders in 2021.

LDCA Cleanup Progress and Future Efforts

LDCA includes many areas that are in different stages of the Superfund Process:

- ◆ The Clearview Landfill cleanup began in 2016 and resulted in the removal of contaminated soil from nearly 200 residential properties and over 11 acres of the Eastwick Regional City Park.
- ◆ An innovative forested evapotranspiration cap and wetlands were constructed over 55 acres of waste that prevent future exposure to Clearview contaminants.
- ◆ EPA is preparing a field pilot of several technologies to treat the contaminated groundwater from Clearview Landfill which includes PFAS and 1,4-dioxane. This pilot is planned for construction in 2024.
- ◆ Potentially Responsible Parties for Folcroft Landfill have submitted the Feasibility Study to address the landfill and contaminated groundwater to EPA and other stakeholders for review. This study should be finalized in 2024.
- ◆ EPA is monitoring and testing the aquatic resources of LDCA to identify any other areas that may require action.

Contact Information

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EPA LDCA Site Profile Page:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby>

Eastwick LDCA Community Advisory Group:

<http://www.eldcacag.org/>

Darby Creek Valley Association (DVCA):

<http://dcva.org>



Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site



EPA constructed new wetlands and stormwater management features (foreground) and a forested cap (background) to contain contaminated soil and waste at the Clearview Landfill.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the cleanup of the Lower Darby Creek Area (LDCA) Superfund* Site, which includes the Clearview and Folcroft Landfills. Both landfills contain many types of wastes and contaminants from decades of disposal operations during the 1950s through the 1970s. While the landfills have unique features, both have contributed to contamination that has impacted groundwater, soil and adjacent waterways.

The map inside this brochure shows the location of the LDCA Site, as well as other prominent features including a DO NOT EAT FISH advisory that the EPA established in 2023 for the area potentially affected by LDCA.

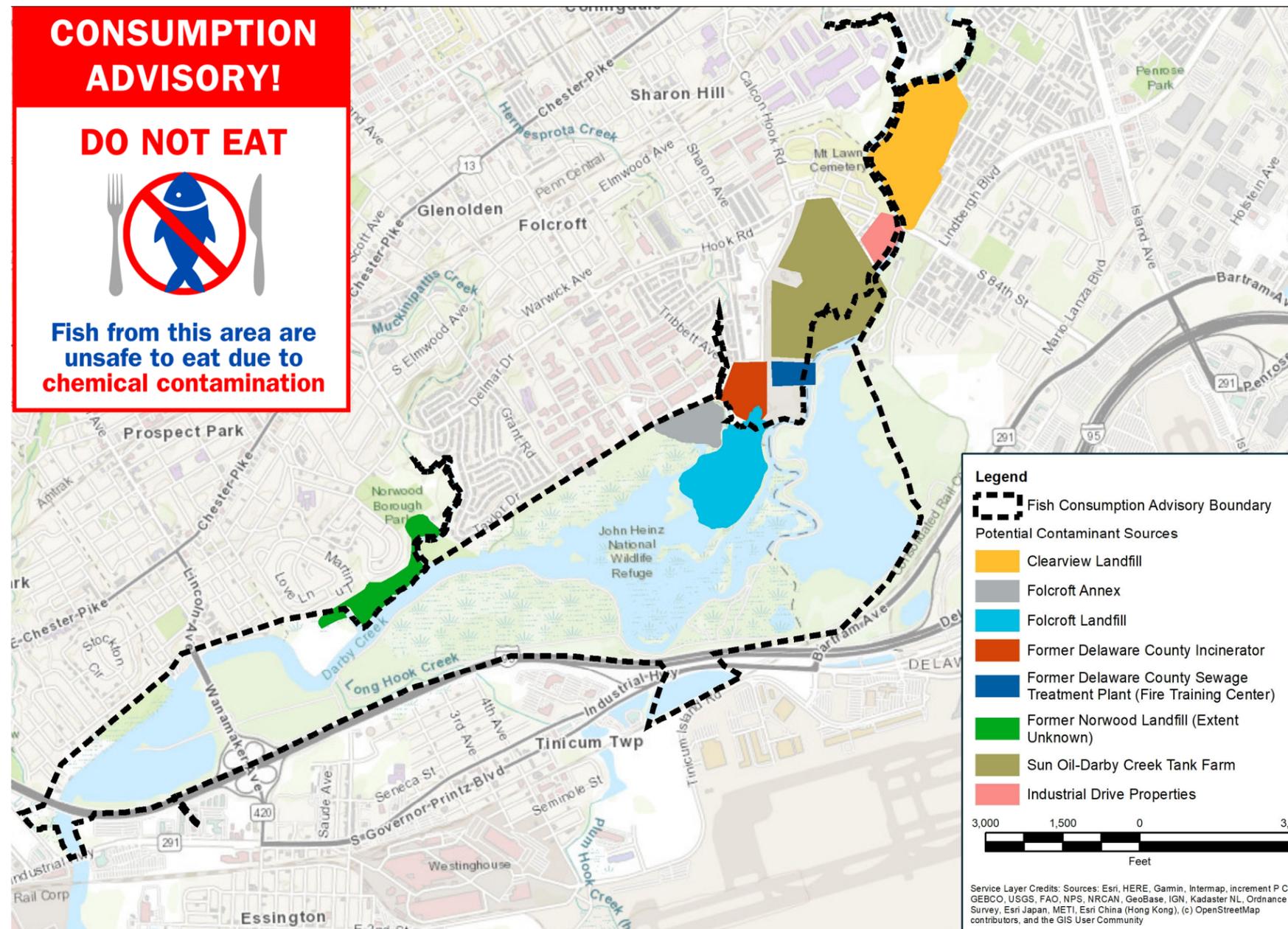
*Superfund is the informal name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). CERCLA allows EPA to cleanup hazardous waste sites and to require responsible parties to perform cleanups.

Fish Consumption Advisory

EPA has established a DO NOT EAT advisory for fish and snapping turtles in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and the creeks that are potentially affected by the LDCA Site contamination (see map below for the extent of the advisory area in pink). Past and potential current releases of chemical contamination from different parts of the LDCA Site and other potential historic sources of contamination have made these fish and turtles unsafe to eat.

Ongoing and planned future cleanups of LDCA will reduce the amount of contamination entering the creeks and help to reduce contaminant levels in aquatic life. Contamination levels will continue to be monitored in order to determine when it is safe to eat fish caught in the LDCA.

LDCA Site Features and Fish Consumption Advisory Area



Why are fish and turtles contaminated?

Chemicals present in Clearview, Folcroft or other potential sources can wash into adjacent creeks and wetlands. The chemicals that are dissolved in the water build up in sediments that can then be absorbed or eaten by small plants, bugs, crustaceans, amphibians and fish. These smaller species are then eaten by larger species and the contaminants can build up in these bigger, longer living species. Large fish also have big home ranges that extend beyond LDCA and they can be exposed to other contaminated areas like the Delaware River.

Is it safe to catch and release fish?

Yes. The chemicals in the fish are absorbed into the meat, fat and organs where they stay unless eaten. Invasive species like snakeheads should not be released, but disposed using instructions from Pennsylvania and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Turtle trapping in the Refuge is illegal.

Can I safely touch water and sediment in the LDCA fish advisory area when fishing, kayaking and other similar activities?

Yes. EPA has sampled Darby, Cobbs and other nearby creeks and none of these water bodies have contaminant levels that pose health risks when they are used for recreational activities like fishing and kayaking. The amount of contamination that is present in sediment varies greatly throughout LDCA.

No areas of sediment have been found with contamination that would pose health risks from recreational or Refuge maintenance use. Fish and other aquatic species are in regular contact with the water and sediment since it is their habitat. This means they are regularly in contact with the contaminants and can be affected to a greater degree than humans.

Swimming and wading in the JHNWR is prohibited.