

Site Redevelopment Profile

Spokane Junkyard/Associated Properties

North 3322 Cook Street
Spokane, Washington 99207

Property Overview

Size

16 acres

Current Site Uses

- Andrew Rypien sports complex and community garden

Land Use Restrictions

- Land use restrictions protect the site's containment cell and prevent exposure to contaminated soil.

Surrounding Population

15,350
1 MILE

90,941
3 MILES

225,265
5 MILES

Within a 1-mile radius of the site, 50% of the population are low income, compared to the state average of 26%.

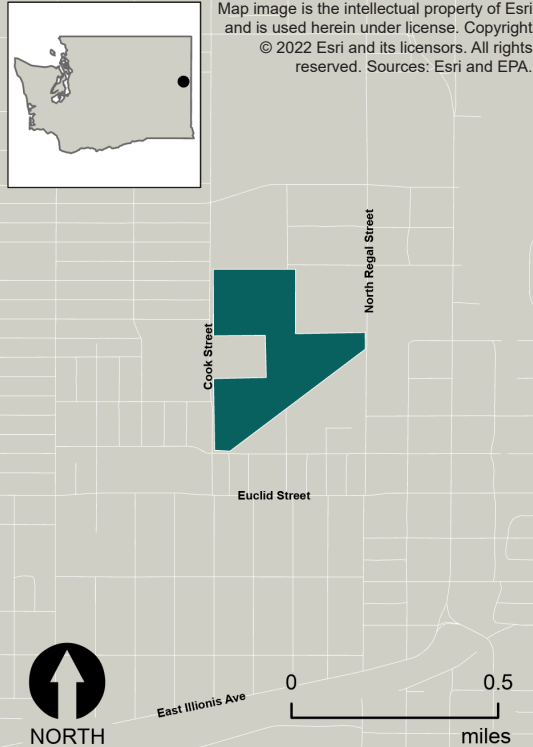


Figure 1. The location of the Spokane Junkyard/Associated Properties site in Washington

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1936-1983

Spokane Metals Company operated a metal recycling facility at the site. The adjacent Spokane Junkyard operated from the 1940s until 1983. Operations at the metal recycling facility and junkyard contaminated soils on site.

1987-1989

A fire destroyed the junkyard. EPA conducted a short-term removal action that removed asbestos and contaminated soils from the site.

1994

EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL).

1996-1997

In 1996 potentially responsible parties (PRPs) removed and consolidated contaminated soil on the Spokane Metals Company property. After cleanup, EPA removed the site from the NPL in 1997.

2002

The Spokane Youth Sports Association built a multi-use sports complex on site.

2004

The sports complex received the national Phoenix Community Impact Award for achievement of excellence in Superfund site reuse.

Present

The sports complex provides recreation opportunities to local community members. Part of the complex is also a community garden. Land use restrictions are in place to ensure reuse of the site remains protective of human health and the environment.

History and Cleanup

The Spokane Junkyard/Associated Properties Superfund site is in a light commercial and residential area of Spokane, Washington. From 1936 to 1983, Spokane Metals Company operated a recycling facility salvaging metal from transformers and batteries. Starting in the 1940s until 1983, next to the recycling facility, Spokane Junkyard accepted military surplus items, automobiles, heavy equipment, appliances and electrical transformers. The junkyard also accumulated surplus substances including asbestos, paint waste and various liquid and solid wastes. Operations and improper storage practices at the metal recycling facility and junkyard resulted in hazardous chemicals and lead contamination of on-site soils.

In 1987, after an explosive fire destroyed the junkyard, EPA began a removal action on the property. In 1988 and 1989, EPA removed asbestos and about 8,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the site. EPA added the site to the NPL in 1994. In 1995, cooperating PRPs signed a consent order with EPA to investigate the site. In 1996, the PRPs removed and consolidated about 10,000 tons of contaminated soil into a containment cell on the Spokane Metals property. The containment cell is an engineered hole located on site where contaminated soil is stabilized and held in place underground with a protective cover to ensure that hazardous substances from the soil do not further contaminate site areas. An additional 2,600 tons of lead-contaminated soil was treated and added to the containment cell. The containment cell was covered with a paved cap. Land use restrictions are in place at the site properties to ensure that future use does not disturb the containment cell. After a post-removal risk assessment determined that no additional action was needed, EPA removed the site from the NPL in 1997.



10,000
tons of soil removed and consolidated into the containment cell



2,600
tons of lead-contaminated soil treated and added to the containment cell



Figure 3. A concession stand, playground and picnic tables at the sports complex



Figure 4. Soccer fields and a walking path on site



Figure 2. Sign for the Andrew Rypien sports complex

Redevelopment

After the cleanup, the Bemiss Neighborhood Council worked to identify reuses for the site that would best serve the needs of the local community. The Spokane Youth Sports Association headed a team to plan, fund and build a multi-use sports complex for youth in the area. The Association coordinated the redevelopment plans with EPA to ensure that the cleanup remained protective of human health and the environment and that land use restrictions on site were followed.

The Andrew Rypien Field sports complex was completed in 2002. As a part of the redevelopment, the paved containment cell area is safely used as a parking lot for the sports complex. The complex includes several soccer, rugby, and baseball fields, two basketball courts, a picnic area and a concession stand. The field serves over 4,500 neighborhood children. In 2004, the sports complex received the national Phoenix Community Impact Award for achievement of excellence in Superfund site reuse. In addition to the sports fields, the Northeast Community Center operates a community garden on site. The field and garden areas are surrounded by a lit walking path. With dedicated collaboration and planning, this once blighted former junkyard has been transformed into much needed recreational space for the local community.

Contacts

For more information, please contact:

Chelsea Sebetich

EPA Superfund Redevelopment Program
(202) 566-1151
sebetich.chelsea@epa.gov

Roberto Armijo

EPA Region 10 Remedial Project Manager
(509) 376-3749
armijo.roberto@epa.gov

Piper Peterson

EPA Region 10 Redevelopment Coordinator
(206) 553-4951
peterston.piper@epa.gov



Figure 5. The community garden on site



For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment.