

## Site Redevelopment Profile

# Kentwood Landfill

4900 Walma Avenue  
Kentwood, Michigan 49512

### Property Overview

#### Size

72 acres

#### Current Site Uses

- Public library
- Public works facilities
- Storage

#### Use Restrictions

- Land use restrictions prevent excavation, construction or drilling on site.
- Wells are not permitted on site or within 1,000 feet of the site.

#### Surrounding Population

**8,953**  
1 MILE

**59,711**  
3 MILES

**157,540**  
5 MILES

Within a 1-mile radius of the site, 55% of the population are people of color, compared to the state average of 25%.

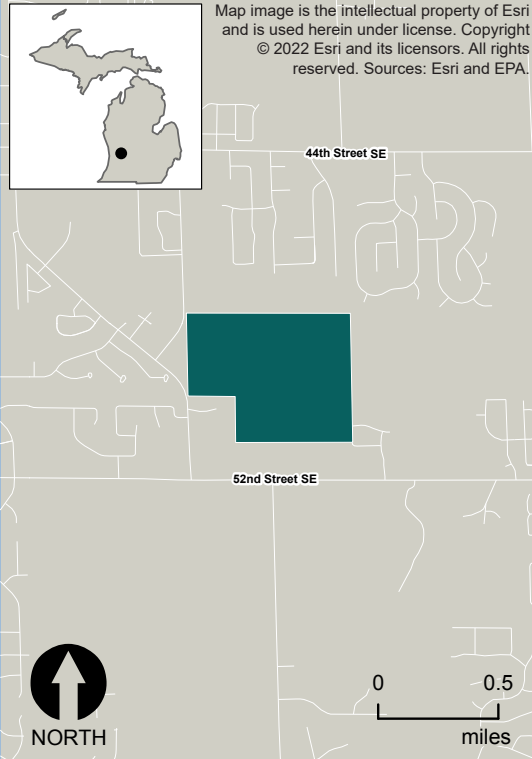


Figure 1. The location of the Kentwood Landfill site in Michigan

### Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

#### 1950-1976

A landfill operated on site, accepting garbage, construction and demolition waste. Site operations contaminated the soil and leached into groundwater. The landfill closed in 1976.

#### 1983

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

#### 1990-1991

EPA conducted site investigations and selected a cleanup plan.

#### 1994-1995

Under EPA oversight, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) cleaned up the site. Cleanup included a leachate extraction system, landfill cap improvements, landfill gas control and groundwater treatment.

#### 2009

Kentwood District Library (Richard L. Root Branch) opened on site with special features to prevent methane build up.

#### 2015-2017

Following the discovery of methane near the site, PRPs upgraded the landfill gas control systems.

#### Present

The site is in public service reuse and provides the community with access to a public library and space for community events. The Kentwood Public Works Department's main office also continues to operate on site, conveniently located near the city's major roadways and parks.

## History and Cleanup

The Kentwood Landfill Superfund site is in Kentwood, Michigan. From the early 1950s to 1976, the Paris Township Dump operated on site. The dump accepted general waste including garbage, construction and demolition waste. On-site activities led to the contamination of soils and groundwater. EPA added the site to the NPL in 1983. EPA issued a cleanup plan that included groundwater treatment, controls for landfill gas and improvements to the landfill's protective cap.

Cleanup was conducted by the city of Kentwood (City) and Kent County, the site's PRPs, with oversight by EPA. Additional waste was removed from the site before improvements were made to the cap. In 1995, PRPs installed a leachate collection system to prevent contaminants from reaching groundwater. Another essential aspect of cleanup is the use of land restrictions to prevent exposure to contaminants. Land use restrictions ensure that the site remains protective over the long term. In 2015, EPA approved additional cleanup measures, including modifications to the leachate collection system and additional landfill gas wells to prevent vapor intrusion.

## Redevelopment

Following changes in land use restrictions, the City constructed an expansive, state-of-the-art library partially on site. Opening in 2009, the 48,000-square-foot Kentwood District Library (Richard L. Root Branch) provides educational resources for the local community. Amenities include 15,000 square feet of children's play and reading areas, computers with internet access and an outdoor courtyard with a stage for performances. Given that 12% of children in the surrounding 1-mile area are under the age of five, this library provides valuable resources for them to learn and grow. The process for planning and constructing the library involved significant coordination between local community members, local government and EPA.

Next to the site's boundary, the library parking lot supports a variety of community-oriented events and resources. The parking lot hosts a summer's farmers market that supports over 20 local vendors where people can buy local produce and goods. The parking lot has also hosted a food truck



Figure 2. Kentwood Branch Library



Figure 3. Open field next to the library



event with local food vendors and music and is the starting location for the annual Valentine's Day 5K race.

The site also supports the Kentwood Public Works Department's main office. It provides office space for city staff and storage for equipment and raw materials. These facilities help ensure the Public Works Department can maintain the county's infrastructure, including roads, drain systems, parks and drinking water.

The city also has plans for recreational reuse of the open field on site (Figure 3). The city is coordinating with EPA on a plan that keeps public and environmental health as the upmost priority.

With its current and planned future reuses, the Kentwood Landfill Superfund site shows how coordination among federal, state and local stakeholders can lead to positive and diverse public service uses.

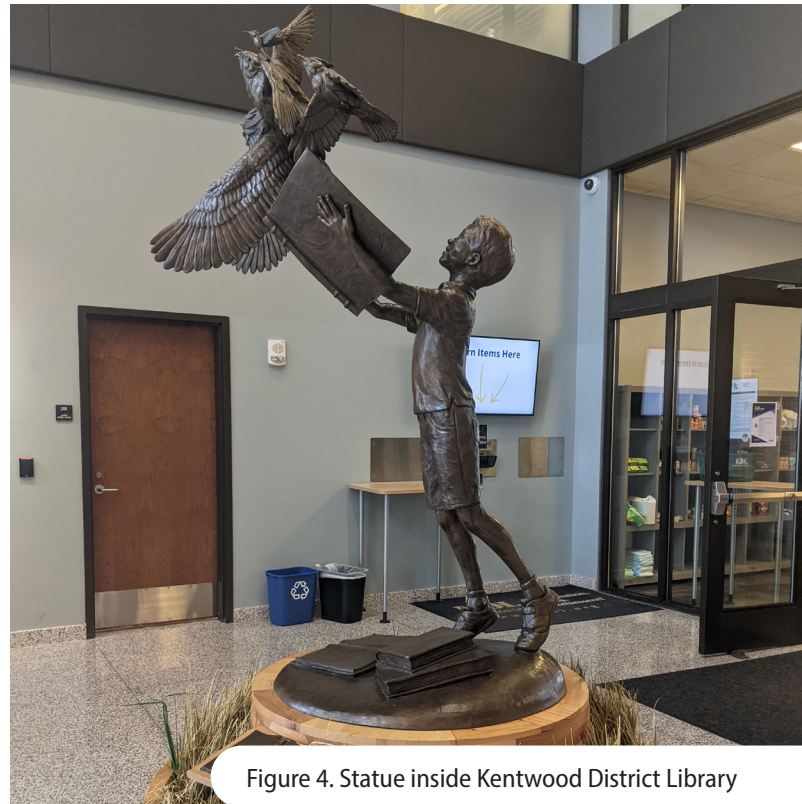


Figure 4. Statue inside Kentwood District Library

## Contacts

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For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment](http://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment).



Figure 5. Public works facilities partially on site

