

Site Redevelopment Profile

DuPage County Landfill/Blackwell Forest Preserve Superfund Site

DuPage County Landfill/ Blackwell Forest Preserve,
Warrenville, Illinois

Property Overview

Size

40 acres

Current Site Uses

- A recreation area featuring restored native prairie vegetation, picnic areas, trails, an observation area and a snow tubing run is located on site.
- Other recreation and education activities – including two lakes used for fishing, an archery range and an urban stream research facility – are located next to the site in the Blackwell Forest Preserve.

Use Restrictions

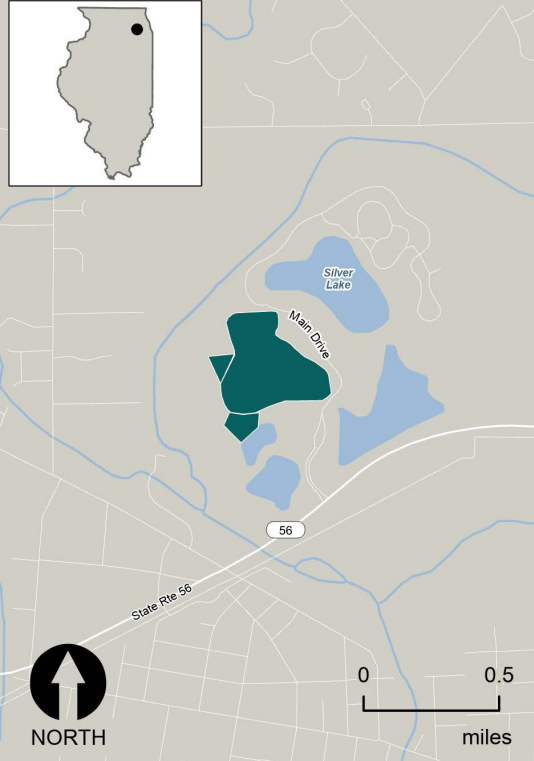
- Interference with the landfill cap, non-recreational uses and groundwater use are prohibited.

Surrounding Population

2,368
1 MILE

40,938
3 MILES

165,083
5 MILES



A map of the site in Illinois.

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1960
FPD bought the 40-acre parcel and surrounding areas.

1965-1973
FPD and DuPage County Public Works accepted landfill wastes on site.

1981
FPD, Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA detected toxic chemicals from the landfill in groundwater at the site.

1990
U.S. EPA placed the site on the NPL.

1996-1998
U.S. EPA and FPD put the site's remedy in place.

2012
The Urban Stream Research Center and a recreation complex opened at the Blackwell Forest Preserve.

2018
The site remains in continued recreational and educational use.

History and Cleanup

Innovative and forward thinking on the part of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPD) has resulted in recreation opportunities as well as conservation efforts and education programs at the DuPage County Landfill/Blackwell Forest Preserve Superfund site in Warrenville, Illinois. In the 1960s, FPD identified space for a county landfill in the 1,200-acre Blackwell Forest Preserve. At the same time, FPD took the long view, envisioning the future reuse of the landfill and forest preserve as a multi-purpose recreation area. FPD's long-term planning demonstrated its commitment to making sure free, publicly accessible recreation and education facilities remain available to the community.

The 40-acre landfill operated from 1965 to 1973. In 1981, FPD, Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA found that toxic chemicals from the landfill had leaked into groundwater at the site. U.S. EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990. U.S. EPA required that FPD take measures to update the landfill cover and collect and treat chemicals and gas coming from the landfill. After these measures, the landfill, known as Mt. Hoy, was ready to support planned recreational uses. FPD worked with U.S. EPA throughout the cleanup process to maintain public access to areas where cleanup actions had finished.

Redevelopment

Thanks to long-standing cooperation between the FDP, U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA, local residents now enjoy year-round recreation activities at the site, including hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing and winter tubing. There are also ecological restoration and environmental education areas on site. FPD replaced vegetation on the landfill cover with prairie grass indigenous to the region. An observation area and interpretive exhibits provide information on the area's ecology as well as the site's remedial technologies.

FPD continues to expand facilities at the site and in the Blackwell Forest Preserve. In 2012, the Urban Stream Research Center and a recreation complex opened in the forest preserve. The Urban Stream Research Center, the only research facility of its kind in Illinois, focuses on the study of the DuPage River watershed as well as a variety of other waterway projects. The recreation complex includes an archery facility with beginner, advanced and intermediate ranges, a wheelchair-accessible fishing pier, a picnic area, a new trailhead, which connects to the existing trail system, and parking. Working closely with U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA, FPD has upheld its commitments to public access, a cost-effective cleanup, ecosystem restoration, and education and recreation opportunities.



The view from Mt. Hoy, looking out over parking areas at the site.

“We wanted the ‘hill’ to fit in with the native landscape. We didn’t want a green dome that you see at typical landfills.”

Joe Benedict
Director of Environmental Services
Forest Preserve District



A picnic shelter on site.



A picnic shelter on site.



Entrance to trails on site.

Contacts

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For more information see: www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment



Trails on Mt. Hoy.

