



Facts About...

Stansbury Park
(State Master List Site MD-265)

Site Location

Stansbury Park is a 35 acre recreational facility in Dundalk, Baltimore County, Maryland. The park is located at the intersection of Stansbury Park and Hydrangea Roads. The northern portion of the park consists of a nine-acre pond that empties into Lynch Cove.

Site History

Baltimore County established Stansbury Park in 1974. Before the County acquired the land, the property was used as a horse farm and a riding academy. An old quarry, which later became Stansbury Pond, was located on the property. It has been alleged that paint wastes were once disposed in this quarry but there is no concrete evidence that such activities occurred. Contamination at the park was first identified in October 1986. Yellow stained soils were discovered at Swan Point, approximately seven miles from the site. An investigation traced the origin of the soil back to the park. Later that month, Baltimore County sampled the soils from the park and found chromium at levels up to 11,000 parts per million (ppm). This soil contamination was found in three separate areas of the park: the entrance berm area, the football field, and an area southeast of the pond. Based on the analysis of the soil, the material appears to be Chrome Ore Process Residue (COPR). COPR was a byproduct of chrome ore processing and was widely used as fill in the Baltimore area prior to regulation in the late 1970s. After the discovery of the contamination, Baltimore County hired EA Engineering to perform a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). As a result of the RI/FS, the County removed a portion of the contaminated surface soil and backfilled and seeded other areas to eliminate contact with contaminated soil until a remediation plan was designated and implemented.

Environmental Investigations

NUS Corporation, a contractor working for the Environmental Protection Agency, conducted a Site Inspection in February 1991 in which five groundwater samples, four surface water samples, six sediment samples, and 11 soil samples were collected. Chromium levels of 3,200 ppm, 14 ppm, 0.0074 ppm, and 2,180 ppm were found in soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediments, respectively. In February 1994, MDE conducted an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) to further evaluate the release via the various media and to determine if human health or sensitive environments were impacted. The ESI concluded that there was an increased potential risk of non-carcinogenic adverse effects to children as a result of exposure to on-site contamination in subsurface soil.

In 1997, Century Engineering collected 90 surface and subsurface soils to determine the lateral extent of chromium contamination in preparation of developing a proposal for removal of contaminated soil in two areas and the design of the remedial cap in a third area to the southeast of the pond. In 1999, the County implemented the approved remedial plan, removing contaminated soil and installing an impervious cap in the pond area. As part of a Consent Order with MDE in 2000, the County agreed to continue to sample the groundwater, surface and sediments to verify the remedy remained protective of human health and the environment. Routine sampling since that time has determined that the remedy remains protective.



In addition to the routine sampling of water and sediments in the pond, MDE has collected fish tissue samples from resident fish in the pond in 1992 and 1998. Results show no accumulation of contaminants of concern,. It should be noted that the hexavalent chromium does not accumulate in fish tissue and is converted to the less toxic and insoluble trivalent form in a reducing environment such as Stansbury Pond. As a result, contamination issues at the pond have no effect on the continued stocking of trout by the Department of Natural Resources and residents should not be concerned with the consumption of stocked fish. The next round of fish tissue testing is scheduled for the fall 2008.

Current Status

In response to requests from the Eastfield-Stanbrook Civic Association in the spring of 2008, MDE agreed to review the case and meet to discuss community concerns. MDE collected 6 sediment samples in April 2008 and had its contractor check the limits of the cap and collect samples on the bank between the cap and the pond. A toxicological review of the data collected indicates that the levels of contaminants in the sediment adjacent to the shore remain at acceptable levels. No contaminants above acceptable levels were detected in the samples collected on the bank of the pond. MDE expects to meet with the community on September 2, 2008 to review the new data and discuss future plans for the site.

Contact Person

Art O'Connell,
Chief

Maryland Department of the Environment
CHS Enforcement/Fund Lead Site Assessment Division (410) 537-3493

Last Update: August, 2008

