



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: BUCK'S AUTO DUMP SITE

Site Location

The Buck's Auto Dump Site was a 17.757 acre parcel located at 2913 Waterview Avenue in the Westport section of Baltimore City, Maryland. The site is located on the northeast side of Waterview Avenue on the southern bank of the Middle Branch Patapsco River. The site is bounded by Waterview Avenue to the south, Middle Branch Patapsco River to the north, parkland to the east and vacant industrial property to the west. The southern side of Waterview Avenue is occupied by numerous commercial and light industrial properties. The geographic coordinates for the site are 39.2580748° North latitude by 076.6306055° West longitude.

Site History

The Buck's Auto Dump Site (MDN000306827) was one of a number of historical sites identified in the records search for the Historic Landfill Initiative (HLI). The site was a very large auto salvage yard located adjacent to the Baltimore Harbor and near residential and commercial/industrial properties. Aerial photographs document that the site had been used as an auto dump from at least 1966 to 1975 but probably has existed much longer than that. Historic aerial photography shows the dump as being located in what is now the western extension of Middle Branch Park. The aerial photos also show where site drainage was flowing into the Patapsco River/Baltimore Harbor creating a sediment plume.

Environmental Investigation and Action

MDE performed a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Buck's Auto Dump Site. The assessment's purpose is to determine the potential for the release of hazardous substances from the site by way of groundwater, surface water, soil exposure and air pathways on sites identified under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The scope of the PA included reviewing the available file information and site reconnaissance.

The eastern edge of the Buck's Auto Dump site was included in the MDE study of metals concentrations of soil in Middle Branch Park, Cherry Hill. Levels of metals in surface soil were assessed at ten locations across the park and analyzed for metals content using X-ray fluorescence (XRF) with laboratory verification. Arsenic and thallium were the only metals identified at levels above residential Risk Screening Levels.



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There are no records of other Phase I or II environmental studies having been done for Buck's Auto Dump. The total quantity of waste deposited at the dump is not referenced in the available information. There is no estimate of fill thickness for the dump. Rubble and clean fill were used during construction of the park to bring the level up above the normal flood zone. The historic surface of the dump is under several feet of modern fill material. The current surface of the property is landscaped and a portion of the Gwynn's Falls Trail transects the site.

Current Status

MDE does not believe that further investigation is needed for this property. There is no groundwater use and contact with the potential contamination is precluded by a layer of rubble and clean fill. MDE recommends that an environmental covenant be put in place restricting excavation within the bounds of the historic dump.



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