

# Community Fact Sheet

## Kenilworth Park Landfill CERCLA Actions

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region  
National Capital Parks – East

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic  
Gardens

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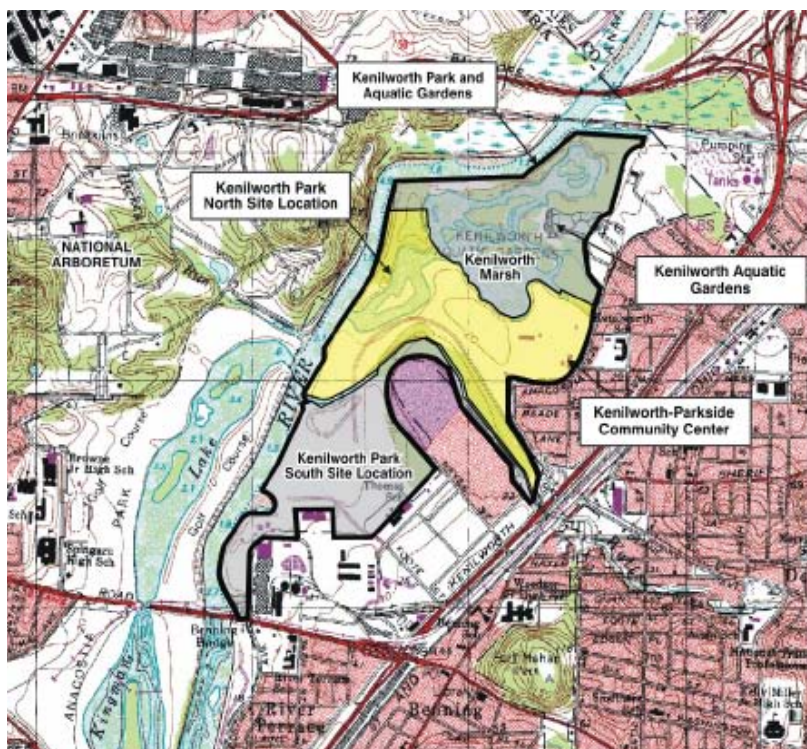
### A SITE HISTORY...

The Kenilworth Park Landfill Site is located within the 700-acre Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens (Park) on the east side of the Anacostia River in N.E. Washington, D.C. Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens is a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), National Capital Parks-East.

From 1942 until 1968, the District of Columbia (District) operated a landfill on the northern portion of the Park (Kenilworth Park North, or KPN), between Watts Branch (a tributary to the Anacostia River) and the Aquatic Gardens. During this period, the KPN Landfill received municipal waste and incinerator ash. Municipal waste was burned at the KPN Landfill until 1968, followed by a brief period of landfilling without open burning, before landfill operations moved south of Watts Branch to the southern portion of the Site (Kenilworth Park South, or KPS). By the 1970s, the entire landfill (KPN and KPS) had ceased operations, was covered with soil, revegetated, and reclaimed for recreational purposes.

In 1973, the District Department of Parks and Recreation opened the Kenilworth-Parkside Community Center in the northeast portion of KPN; playing fields also were built on the northern and southern portions of KPN. KPS is currently undeveloped and not used for active recreation.

### UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS...



Location map of the Kenilworth Park Landfill Site

In late 1998, NPS began conducting environmental investigations at the Site to determine what risks, if any, the former landfills may pose to human health or the environment. A number of studies have been conducted since that time by NPS, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the District to determine the nature and extent of potential contamination associated with past waste disposal activities. The most comprehensive of these studies are the Remedial Investigations (RIs) conducted by NPS pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The RI for the KPN Landfill was completed in November 2007 and the KPS Landfill RI was completed in June 2008. Both RIs concluded that there is insignificant movement of contamination from the historically deposited wastes to groundwater, surface water, or sediments. Contaminants of potential concern for human

health and the environment include: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dieldrin (a pesticide), arsenic, lead, and methane.

Methane is a colorless, odorless, flammable gas generated in landfills as the byproduct of the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter, such as yard waste, food waste, and paper. Consistent with ATSDR recommendations, supplemental sampling was performed in 2008 and 2009 to assess methane issues at the Site. Of the 28 sampling locations, methane was detected in only two shallow soil locations interior to the Site and two locations at the southern edge of the waste disposal area. Methane was not detected in indoor air in the Kenilworth-Parkside Community Center, nor was it detected in school yard soils behind Thomas Elementary School. Based on these findings, NPS has concluded that methane is not a risk to recreational users of the park and methane is not migrating beyond Site boundaries.

NPS is developing a Feasibility Study (FS) to identify and evaluate potential remedial alternatives to address contamination at the Site. The results from this study will be used to select the permanent remedy. Due to the similarity and proximity of the two landfills, and to make the process more efficient, a single FS will be completed that will address both KPN and KPS.

Completion of the FS is expected in 2011, followed by a Proposed Plan (for public review and comment) and a Record of Decision (ROD), which selects the course of action for the Site.



**Methane sampling at Kenilworth Park**

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT...**

Community involvement is an important part of the CERCLA process. Once the FS is complete and a Proposed Plan is published, NPS will host one or more public meetings to present the results of the study and to discuss the rationale for the Proposed Plan. This public meeting will provide the opportunity for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. There also will be a 30-day public comment period for the Proposed Plan. Comments received during this period will be very important to NPS as it selects a preferred course of action for the Site.

Information repositories have been established in the two locations identified below. These repositories house copies of the Site administrative record file. CERCLA administrative record files consist of those documents that will form the basis for the selection of the remedy. This includes all Site-related environmental investigations, ecological and human health risk assessments, community relations materials, public comments, and NPS responses to significant comments.

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If you have questions about any aspect of the Kenilworth Park Landfill cleanup process, please contact Greg Nottingham, NPS CERCLA project coordinator, at (303) 415-1483.