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FAIRVIEW
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Marsh Run Park Site Restoration

Background

The Department of Defense (DoD) is required to identify, investigate and cleanup environmental issues that resulted from past DoD practices on property it previously owned or leased. Such properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). The Marsh Run Park property is one of 2,700 FUDS across the U.S. where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for cleanup. Marsh Run Park is located adjacent to Mifflin Ave. and Marsh Run Rd. in Fairview Township.

The Corps of Engineers has completed environmental cleanup at the Mark Run Park site, and will continue monitoring every 5 years. Marsh Run Park is safe for public use as recreational fields.

History

The land that is now Marsh Run Park was used in the past (1918-1950) as a landfill for the nearby New Cumberland Army Depot, now known as Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna. Household waste and construction debris generated by the Depot were placed in the 5-acre landfill. Landfill use ceased in 1950 and approximately 1 – 2 feet of fill was used to “cap” the landfill.

The property was transferred to Fairview Township in April 1976, for recreational use only. Additional fill dirt was used to create the soccer fields at the former landfill site.

In 1986, Marsh Run Park was identified as a FUDS. Shortly thereafter, the Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began a series of investigations to evaluate the soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment. After receiving data from the first (1987) investigation, Fairview Township closed the park.

A Public Health Evaluation was performed in 1988. This evaluation confirmed that the prior recreational use of the property did not present risks or health hazards to the children who may have been in contact with the surface soils at Marsh Run Park.

Environmental Investigations

The Corps of Engineers performed additional investigations in accordance with the CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) process. The data indicated the chemicals in the landfill were present in groundwater; therefore, the site required cleanup.

The main chemical identified at the site was trichloroethene – a commercially available chlorinated solvent used as a degreaser. Trichloroethene is one of the most commonly found chemicals at cleanup sites.



Marsh Run Park is located in Fairview Township, York County, PA.

The Corps of Engineers removed approximately 200 pounds of chlorinated solvents during the cleanup effort, which spanned from the 1990s through 2004. This effort removed the majority of the contaminants from the landfill and upper groundwater table.

Evaluation of Health Effects

A recent evaluation of risks, using both historical and current measurements of chemicals present at Marsh Run Park, confirmed that the area is still safe for recreational users (including children) in contact with soil, sediment, or surface water. The air at Marsh Run Park was measured in 2011, and there was no evidence of any chlorinated solvents present. Groundwater in the deeper aquifer should not be used.

Site Restoration

The Corps of Engineers plans to fully restore the Marsh Run Park site for safe use as recreational soccer fields.

The site restoration will involve:

- Removal of remaining environmental equipment
- Construction of 3 soccer fields with a 1-2 foot thick layer of new clean fill
- Re-vegetation of the park area
- Construction of a parking lot
- Replacement of the Mifflin Avenue Bridge over Marsh Run
- Restoration of Mifflin Avenue



The Corps of Engineer's restoration of Marsh Run Park is being completed in coordination with officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and Fairview Township. The Corps of Engineers, Fairview Township and PADEP are all committed to returning Marsh Run Park FUDS to the citizens of Fairview Township as soon as possible.

CERCLA Process

CERCLA is the EPA process under which FUDS sites, such as Marsh Run Park, undergo investigation and cleanup. The CERCLA process will be complete when all cleanup levels are met at the FUDS. The Marsh Run Park surface soils and shallow groundwater have completed the CERCLA cleanup phase and now allow return of safe and usable land to Fairview Township.

The Army Corps will continue long term monitoring of the deep groundwater contaminant levels until the cleanup goals are met.

Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)

Over the course of time, changes in site conditions require a modification to the cleanup decision. This is called an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The following describes the current cleanup decision that will continue at Marsh Run Park and is presented in the ESD. For the deep groundwater (> 60ft) at Marsh Run Park, which is not yet suitable for use, access will be permanently restricted by an environmental covenant (deed restriction) on the property. No one will be allowed to drink the water nor dig into the landfill area. The Corps of Engineers will continue to measure the chlorinated solvents in the deep groundwater every five years to make sure that the chemicals in the deep water are continuing to decrease naturally over time.

Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program (Act 2)

Act 2 is an environmental program used by PADEP to evaluate whether a site is safe for reuse. Using the Act 2 process, PADEP determines whether the site can be reused, whether more work must be done, and/or whether use restrictions must be placed. PADEP has agreed the site is safe for recreational use.

Return of Marsh Run Park to Fairview Township

The Corps of Engineers plans to return the property to Fairview Township after completing construction of the soccer fields, which is anticipated between spring and summer 2014.

Information Repository

A repository of project related documents has been established at:

Fairview Township Municipal Building,
599 Lewisberry Road
New Cumberland, PA 17070
www.twp.fairview.pa.us

New Cumberland Public Library
1 Benjamin Plaza
New Cumberland, PA 17070

Point of Contact

If you have any questions please contact Liza Finley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager, at 410-962-2683 or liza.finley@usace.army.mil.