

SOIL CONTAMINATION IN PARKS

East Durham, East End, Lyon Park, Northgate, and Walltown Parks

Updates - March 2025

BACKGROUND

Since Summer 2024, two types of testing have been going on:

- Playground soils (under 14-18" of mulch, liners, and gravel)
- Waste delineation (boundary of waste, how far it spreads)

Related reports we have:

- Playground soils reports for all 5 parks
- East Durham Park waste delineation report (remaining reports expected soon)

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PLAYGROUNDS

Summary

- Playgrounds in all 5 parks are closed.
- Soils under playgrounds have been tested for:
 - Volatile Organic Compounds
 - Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds
 - Metals
 - Mercury
 - Hexavalent Chromium
 - 1, 4-Dioxane
 - Ammonia
 - Nitrate-N & Sulfate

Results

- **Waste** (debris, such as brick, asphalt, glass, and plastic) was found underneath every location.
- Select each park to view individual results:
 - [East End Park](#)
 - [East Durham Park](#)
 - [Lyon Park](#)
 - [Northgate Park](#)
 - [Walltown Park](#)

What's Background Sampling?

Some metals and VOCs are naturally occurring. Background sampling helps provide a baseline of information to see what is natural to the environment at each site, and what is added contamination that needs to be addressed.

WASTE DELINEATION

What is Waste Delineation?

- The estimated boundary of the waste
- The thickness of the waste

Summary

- Waste delineation was assessed in all 5 parks
- East Durham Parks' delineation report has been completed. We expect the others soon.

Results (East Durham)

- Some previously identified risk areas showed no waste/lead exceedances or other risk factors.
- [Waste Delineation Assessment Maps](#)

NEXT STEPS

We still don't know enough about the sites for DEQ to recommend opening playgrounds or areas of the parks now.

Through the rest of the year - above and below the surface air, vapor and water monitoring analysis will take place (repeatedly) at each park, using gas probes and monitoring wells.

By June 2025, we will have some risk data for above or below ground air, vapor, or water concerns.

As we learn more this Summer, we will understand potential for re-opening areas of some of the parks or opening and/or relocating some playgrounds.