

Neighborhood Soil Testing

for concerned residents near
Durham's Contaminated Parks



Bring a soil sample in a Ziplock plastic bag, and we will screen it for lead!

The public is invited to participate in soil testing at any of these locations:

Walltown Soil Shop

Saturday, Nov 1, 3–5 pm, 1308 W. Club Blvd.

Lyon Park Soil Shop

Saturday, Nov 15, 3–5 pm, 1309 Halley St.

Northgate Soil Shop

Wed, Nov 19, 5–7 pm, 400 W Club Blvd (Dinner served)

East Durham Soil Shop

Thursday, Dec 4, 5–7 pm, 401 N. Driver St. (Dinner served.)

East End Soil Shop

Spring 2026, details coming soon.

Lead and other contaminants have been found at unsafe levels at these five parks.

Our partners will be there to share info on:

Health risks and ways to reduce exposure during play and gardening.

Legal considerations for people who participate in soil testing.

Interpretation of soil screening results.

Park contamination testing results to date

The city's next steps and possibilities for remediation

**Snacks!
Activities
for kids!**

**Blood lead
testing
available!**



To sign up for info about events, scan code.

Collecting a Soil Sample

Step 1:

Identify an area of interest for your soil sample.

Step 2:

Collect Soil – For a large area, collect soil from 5–10 random spots in that area, and combine in a clean container. For a small area, collect soil from 3 random spots and combine in a clean container. (See table below for sampling depth per spot.)

Step 3:

Mix soil well in clean container.

Step 4:

Remove pebbles, rocks, and roots, and air dry. Do not use a flame, oven or hairdryer to dry the soil!

Step 5:

Transfer 1 – 2 cups of the mixed soil into a clean one-quart Ziplock bag.

Note: For more than one sample, repeat steps 1–5.

Rinse your container between samples. Wear gloves.

Area of Interest	Sampling Depth for Each Random Spot (inches)
Garden Area	Collect soil from the surface down to 6–8 inches deep
Play Area / non-garden area	Collect all soil from the surface down to 1–2 inches deep

Soil samples will be screened via a technique called X-ray fluorescence (XRF) for presence of lead and some other contaminants that may be present. Please note that homeowners may be required by law to disclose the results of this testing. Participants may choose to receive the results of their sample, or they may opt to submit an anonymized sample and receive back a snapshot of neighborhood results without details specific to any home address.

