



## Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site Cleanup Status Update

### EPA DISCOVERS SOIL CONTAMINATION IN RESIDENTIAL YARDS No IMMEDIATE HEALTH THREAT. EPA TO EXPAND TESTING.

Since November 2015, EPA has been conducting tests on and around the **Clearview Landfill** and Eastwick neighborhood as part of the Remedial Design (RD) for the landfill cleanup. The Clearview Landfill is part of the **Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site**. These tests are needed to determine the extent of contaminated soil.

Seven residential yards had the top two feet of their soil tested in Spring 2016. EPA recently received the results from these tests. In most yards tested, one or more contaminants, called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), are **above** EPA's cleanup levels for the Clearview Landfill.

In nearly all instances, heavy metals, such as **lead**, as well as **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** were **below** EPA's cleanup levels. One sample from one yard found lead above EPA's national default lead cleanup level. A cleanup level is the concentration of each contaminant that EPA has determined is protective of your health.

#### IS THERE AN IMMEDIATE HEALTH RISK?

The levels of PAHs found do not pose an immediate health threat to the residents. Long-term exposure to PAHs over an extended period (30-70 years) may increase potential cancer risks. Additional information about PAHs is included on the next page.

#### ON THE HORIZON

The Remedial Design (RD) for the Clearview Landfill cleanup will be 60% complete in August 2016. EPA will provide a copy of this document to the CAG and TAG recipient for input. The RD is scheduled to be completed in March 2017. The cleanup phase follows the RD.

#### WHAT IS EPA DOING NEXT?

EPA has reached out to these residents to discuss the test results and next steps. We are also moving quickly to conduct more tests to identify additional properties impacted by the contamination. EPA is also determining if the PAHs are from the Clearview Landfill or another source of pollution. EPA will use the information from these additional tests to determine the next steps. This process will take several months to complete.

#### WHERE DID EPA TEST?

Based on historic soil test results, EPA conducted additional testing in the northern and southern ends of the Eastwick Regional Park ("the Park") in November 2015. These test results showed that there are additional areas in the Park that are above cleanup levels for PAHs.

Since that time, EPA has been methodically expanding its soil testing, moving away from the landfill and into the Eastwick neighborhood with each new round of testing. Most recently, testing took place around Angelo Place, southern portions of Buist Avenue, and north of Saturn Place. Soil testing will continue to expand as necessary, until soil contaminants are below EPA cleanup levels.

It is important to remember, if you are a resident or property owner and if you have NOT been contacted by EPA, your property has not been tested at this point in the process.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

##### EPA CONTACTS

##### *For Technical Questions:*

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##### *For General Questions:*

Community Involvement  
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Lower Darby Creek Area Website:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby>

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area  
Community Advisory Group  
(ELDCA CAG)

<http://www.eldcacag.org/>

Darby Creek Valley  
Association (DCVA)  
Technical Assistance Grant  
(TAG) Recipient

<http://www.dcva.org>

#### LDCA COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FAIR

Eastwick Park Recreation Center

S. 80th St. and Mars Place

July 9, 2016

10 AM—4 PM



## Questions About the Clearview Soil Contamination

### IS EPA GOING TO TEST MY PROPERTY?

We have identified several areas throughout Eastwick where we would like to conduct additional tests based on results already gathered. We are in the process of developing a sampling plan using that information. That plan and EPA's ability to obtain access agreements with each owner will determine the exact location of the next set of yards to be tested. Based on the sampling and the extent the contaminated area, EPA will decide how to address the problem. EPA will be contacting property owners in the coming weeks to ask for access for this critically important testing. The map on this page shows the general area where EPA is considering testing.

### WHAT ARE POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAHs)?

PAHs are found naturally in the environment but they can also be man-made. They are a group of chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, or other substances like tobacco or charbroiled meat.

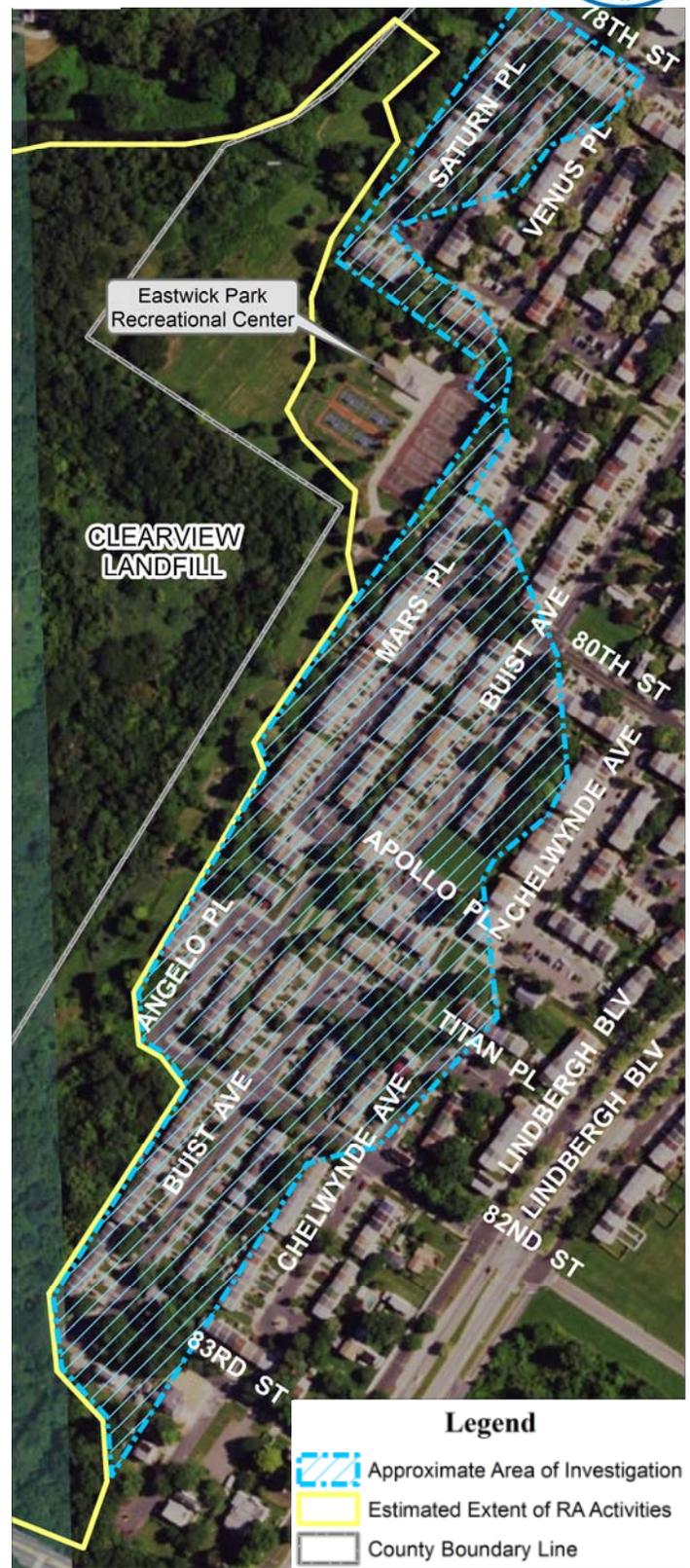
### ARE THE PAHs ABLE TO MOVE INTO MY HOME?

PAHs stick to soil particles and typically do not move unless the soil is disturbed. A yard that is covered well with grass or other vegetation will reduce or eliminate potential direct contact with any contaminated soil. Most of the contamination is well below the ground surface which also helps to keep the PAH contamination in place

### IF I AM CONCERNED ABOUT PAHs IN MY YARD, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

While EPA is developing its plan, our health experts recommend the following to limit any potential exposure to PAHs in your yard:

- Avoid disturbing the soil beneath the vegetated/grassy areas of your property
- Cover bare soil areas with compost or mulch
- Add additional compost to existing in-ground gardens
- Wash all produce, peel root crops, and remove outer leaves of leafy vegetables grown in a home garden before eating.
- Clean tools, gloves, and shoes before bringing them indoors
- Put very dirty clothes in a bag before bringing them in the house and wash them promptly in a separate load
- Wash your hands after contact with your yard's soils
- Prevent small children from eating soil through hand-to-mouth play and playing in exposed soil



*This map shows the approximate area where EPA is planning to conduct additional soil tests for contamination.*