



CITY OF STAMFORD
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Office of Operations Announces Temporary Closure of Scofieldtown Park

This week the City of Stamford temporarily closed Scofieldtown Park because of test results indicating that some soil in the park area contains certain contaminants at levels that exceed the limits set by the State Department of Environmental Protection for residential or park uses. The exceeding chemicals include PCBs and semivolatile organic compounds.

The tests were completed by Weston Solutions, Inc, a contractor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under its Site Reassessment program. In addition to the soil testing, the EPA undertook water and sediment testing in areas in and around the former landfill site and Poorhouse Brook. That report is available on the City's webpage at www.cityofstamford.org.

Scofieldtown Park is located on a property that was formerly used as a landfill by the City of Stamford from the 1930s until the 1970s, when it was capped with clean material and closed as a landfill. Most of the landfill activities occurred in the area now used as a composting facility by the City. However, these latest test results indicate that contamination from the landfill may be impacting the park, prompting this decision to close the facility pending further evaluation.

Since the closure of the landfill, there has been repeated testing of the area by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the EPA and the Stamford Health Department. As recently as September, 2008, the City has undertaken remediation activities at the site in response to testing and evaluation by these agencies. In response to this latest report for the EPA, dated December 23, 2008, the City is taking the following actions:

- Performing supplemental soil testing at nearby areas with public access, including the community garden to the south of the site and the play areas at Scofieldtown Middle School to the east. These tests are being carried out in an abundance of caution, even though there is not documentation or information to suggest landfill activities in either area. Results from these supplemental tests should be available in June.

- Performing supplemental water quality tests at Smith House, Scofield Manor, and Scofieldtown Middle School to ensure that there is no impact on groundwater at those locations. Note that there is a monthly water quality monitoring program at the school already, and that additional testing is supplemental to that and will test for additional items. This testing will be undertaken by the Stamford Health Department.
- Retaining the services of a Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) to evaluate the EPA testing, recommend and carry out any additional investigation, and develop a plan for remediation and management of the site. We will schedule a public meeting to discuss this process once the LEP has an opportunity to review the site's history and develop an approach to this issue. It is expected to take up to a year to complete this plan.
- Recommending that residents avoid direct contact with Poorhouse Brook pending further evaluation.

Once this supplemental testing and remediation planning are complete, the City will evaluate what steps will be required to reopen the park. In the meantime, the latest EPA report and any other materials relevant to this site will be posted on the City's webpage at www.cityofstamford.org.

For more information, please call Ben Barnes, Director of Operations at (203) 977-4141. In addition, you may contact Doug Zimmerman of the Connecticut DEP at (860) 424-3800 or Gerardo Millán-Ramos of the EPA at (617) 918-1377.