

Sampling Shows No Immediate Health Risk at LaSalle Park

Beck's Lake Site
South Bend, Indiana

August 2013

Public Meeting

The EPA along with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and other environmental and health officials will be holding a public meeting on August 27 to discuss the sampling results and the recent proposal of the Beck's Lake site to the Superfund list.

Tuesday, August 27, 4-6 p.m.
Charles Black Sr. Recreation Center
3419 W. Washington St., South Bend

For more information

For questions about the Beck's Lake site, or what happens when a site becomes a Superfund site, contact:

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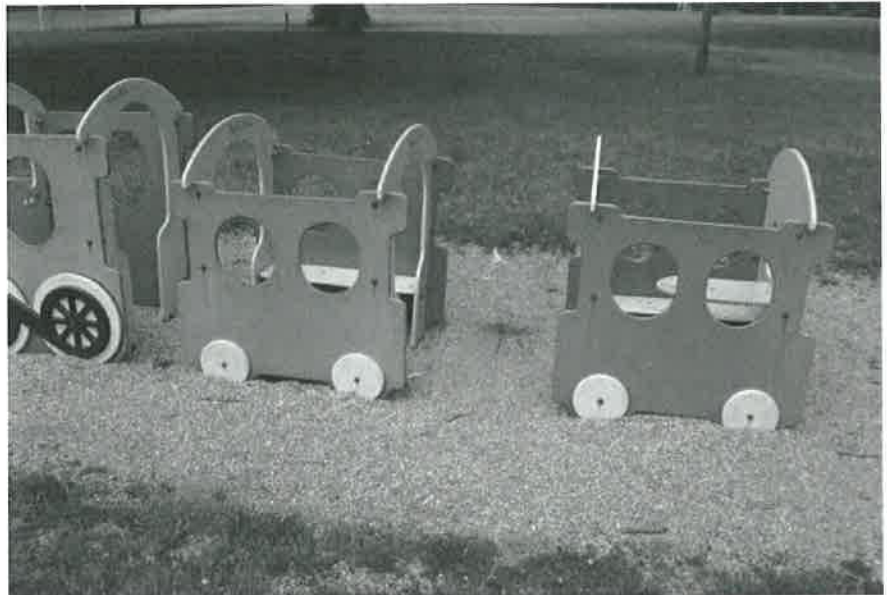
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On the Web

For general information about the site and updates you may visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/beckslake/>

Information Repository

Site documents can be found at:
St. Joseph County Public Library
304 S. Main St.
South Bend



Train set in the southwest playground.

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took soil samples at LaSalle Park in South Bend to find out if the park poses any potential health risks to residents. While low levels of arsenic were found, the levels are not high enough to pose any immediate health risk to people at the park. The June sampling showed that any arsenic found in the soil is within or below the EPA acceptable risk range for residential settings (exposure for 350 days per year for 30 years). This is a very conservative evaluation when being used to determine risk in a recreational setting. It is also important to note that these detections are within the normal background range for arsenic in soil for St. Joseph County.

The highest arsenic concentration found was near a train set with a treated wood base in the southwest playground area. The arsenic concentration appears to be associated with this treated wood. EPA does not consider this to be a problem in a recreational setting because the wood base is currently covered with pea gravel, which limits exposure.

A total of 66 samples were taken from 62 locations at four soccer fields, one baseball field, four playgrounds, and a fishing spot on the edge of Beck's Lake. (See *Sampling Location Map on back.*)

What's next?

The public comment period for placing the site on the National Priorities List ended on July 23 and EPA anticipates the site will be placed on the NPL in the fall. Placement on the NPL will allow for a more in-depth investigation and cleanup to be done under the Superfund law. Although the June sampling indicates that no immediate cleanup work needs to be completed, if the site is listed, EPA will do additional investigation in the surrounding neighborhood and likely the park to determine if any long-term cleanup is required.