

**MD-183
Prince Georges County**

From 1957 until 1978, the Laurel City Department of Public Works operated a landfill at the site.

In 1983, industrial waste contaminated with elevated levels of chromium and lead was discovered.

In 1984, over 200 tons of material was removed from the landfill and a soil cap placed over the fill area.

In 1986, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene completed a Preliminary Assessment that recommended further investigations.

In May 1990, the NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection and found that the contamination detected at the landfill would not pose significant health effects. As a result, the EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

**LAUREL CITY LANDFILL
Laurel, Maryland**

Site Location

The 22-acre former Laurel City Landfill is located southeast of Route 198, approximately ¼ mile east of Laurel in Prince George's County, Maryland. The Patuxent River forms the eastern border and Route 198 forms the northern border of the site. Woodlands surround the remainder of the property and provide a buffer to commercial sites found to the west and residential areas to the east.

The former Laurel City Landfill is now known as the Patuxent River Recreational Complex. The site is comprised of a softball field and batting cages, golf driving range and miniature golf course, an office building maintenance shed, and parking lot. An access road off of Route 198 allows unimpeded access to the property.

Site History

The Laurel City Department of Public Works operated the permitted Laurel City Landfill from 1957 until 1978, when the landfill was voluntarily closed due to its proximity to the Patuxent River. Closure procedures were approved by the Waste Management Administration of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and began in 1982. Wastes disposed at the site during the operation include industrial waste containing lead and chromium, sludge from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's Patuxent Treatment Plant, and commercial and municipal waste from the City of Laurel.

Environmental Investigations

During closure activities in 1982, waste paint pigment sludge was discovered at the landfill. Analyses of samples revealed elevated concentrations of chromium and lead, however, EPA toxicity analysis indicated the material was not a hazardous waste and could remain in the landfill. In October 1983, more chromium and lead was discovered, and EPA toxicity analysis revealed levels of lead at three times the acceptable level established by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Total metals analysis revealed levels of chromium present up to 72,000 parts per million (ppm), and lead up to 20,000 ppm. As a result, the Waste Management Administration directed the City of Laurel to conduct a study to determine the full extent of industrial waste contamination. Greenman Pederson, Incorporated (GPI) was contracted to conduct the study.

In May 1984, after conducting soil borings, GPI was issued a waterway construction permit by the Water Resources Administration of the Department of Natural Resources for the removal of over 200 tons of contaminated soil from the flood plain portion of the landfill. Ventura Company, Inc. was contracted to perform the removal, which began in August 1984. A total of 208.3 tons of material was removed and hauled to the American Recovery Company. However, during removal activities, it became apparent that a much greater quantity of industrial waste existed at the landfill. To address the remaining contamination, a soil cap was completed over the fill area in 1984.

In January 1986, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene completed a Preliminary Assessment indicating that due to known disposal of industrial wastes containing levels of lead above EPA toxicity limits, and the subsequent discovery of additional industrial wastes present, further investigations of the landfill was recommended.

In May 1990, the NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection of the Laurel City Landfill. Groundwater, surface water, sediment, leachate, leachate sediment, and surface soil samples were collected and analyses revealed a wide range of contamination in all media. The toxicological evaluation of the contamination detected at the landfill indicated that no significant health effects for short term contact would be expected.

Current Status

For the 1999 Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is conducting a site survey of the Laurel City Landfill. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site, and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by the EPA, oversight by the State and no further investigation by the EPA or no further action be taken by the EPA or the State and the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

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