



Facts About...

MIDDLE BRANCH PARK PROPERTY (DICKMAN STREET PROPERTY) (VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM)

Site Location

This inactive 7.031-acre relatively flat, heavily vegetated property is located at 101 West Cromwell Street in a commercial-industrial area of southern Baltimore City. The property lies adjacent to the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River and is bordered to the north by the Baltimore City Department of Public Works Central Maintenance Garage, and to the east by Hanover Street. A 300' rip-rap drainage ditch bisects the property into western and eastern sections. The property is accessible from West Cromwell Street by a gravel path that follows the shoreline perimeter of the property.

Built on industrial fill material, the property is located within the 100-year flood plain. Five wetlands have been delineated on the property, two are tidally influenced and three are non-tidal. Stormwater run-off from the property discharges directly to the Middle Branch Patapsco River and the drainage ditch also captures stormwater overland flow from the Central Maintenance Garage. Groundwater beneath the property occurs in shallow aquifers under perched and unconfined conditions. Currently, there are no utility lines, municipal water or sanitary sewer service to the property.

Site History

In 1926, Baltimore City assumed ownership of the property. Originally open water, the property was extended southward into the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. The property was filled between 1977 and 1986 under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Fill placement accommodated the disposal of construction debris from the Baltimore Subway excavations and other sites around Baltimore City. Currently, the property is not used by Baltimore City for any operations and it is unclear what type of operations, if any, were performed at the site in the past. The property is currently administered by the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

The property receives overland flow via a drainage ditch that originates at the Central Maintenance Garage property. Activities at the maintenance garage include servicing and repair of light and heavy-duty municipal vehicles. Several documented petroleum releases have occurred at this facility. In 1991, a leaking underground storage tank (UST) was identified and the Department's Oil Control Program (OCP) oversaw the cleanup and the case was subsequently closed. In 1995, 300 gallons of diesel fuel were released from an UST followed by another release in 1996 involving 60 gallons of oil. In 1997, another leaking UST was identified at the Central Maintenance Garage. This is an ongoing case with the MDE's OCP and a ground water monitoring program was implemented at the facility.

In December 1999, a site investigation was performed for the Maryland Port Authority to determine the suitability of the property as a wetland mitigation area to make up for the impacts projected by a nearby dredging containment facility.



In April 2000, a Phase I environmental assessment of the property was completed.

In May 2001, MDE's Waste Management Administration completed a Phase II environmental assessment, which focused on sampling for potential environmental impacts from the Central Maintenance Garage and conducted a risk evaluation. The principal contaminants identified were metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the soil and groundwater.

Current Status

On August 8, 2001, the National Aquarium at Baltimore submitted a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application for the property seeking a Certificate of Completion as an inculpable person. The Department accepted the property into the VCP on September 5, 2003 and the participant was requested to develop a proposed response action plan (RAP) to address soil and groundwater contamination at the property. An application has also been submitted to the VCP for several adjacent parcels including the Baltimore Department of Public Works Central Maintenance Garage property. The Department is awaiting submission of the RAP.

Contact

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