

FACT SHEET

November 2003



Brownfields Site Investigation Franczyk Park - 564 Babcock Street Project No. B00174-9



CHANGES TO INVESTIGATIVE WORK PLAN AS A RESULT OF COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PUBLIC MEETING ON OCTOBER 23, 2003

INTRODUCTION

A public meeting was held at the D.J. Dulski Community Center on October 23, 2003 to discuss the environmental investigation to be performed at Franczyk Park. It is being conducted by the City of Buffalo's Office of Strategic Planning, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. A final report discussing the results of the investigation is should be completed by late in the spring, 2004. The work will be done under New York State's 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act "Brownfields" program.

A number of concerns were raised during the meeting. In response to these concerns a number of changes have been made to in the investigation's work plan. The concerns and changes include:

Comment: It was reported that a former stream (Little Buffalo Creek) ran through the park area. It should be located and determined if it provides a pathway for off-site movement of contaminants.

Response: Historical maps showing the location of the former stream indicate that it was filled in during the late 1800's. As part of the investigation, several sampling locations and one groundwater well will be installed in the area where the stream was once located. The results from groundwater monitoring wells, combined with stream location information, should be sufficient to determine if the stream is effecting groundwater flow through the area and indicate if it is providing a pathway for off-site movement of contaminants. This information will be included in the final report.

Comment: Low levels of pesticides were detected in soils during past sampling events. Why wasn't testing for pesticides included as part of the groundwater sampling during this investigation?

Response: The groundwater samples will be analyzed for pesticides during the investigation. This will be in addition to metals, and volatile and semi-volatile compounds, as originally proposed.

Comment: Residents have noted that drums have been buried in the fill material in an area north of the parking lot on Fleming Street. Concerns were also raised that unknown multi-colored liquids had been seen in this general area prior to the Park's construction.

Response: To address residents concerns, the geophysical survey will be expanded to include the area where drums are suspected to have been buried. Several soil borings and a groundwater monitoring well will also be installed and sampled in this area.

Comment: The Dulski Community Center was never provided copies of the results of the surface soil sampling conducted by the City and the French Drain Construction Completion Report.

Response: The City has provided the Surface Soil Sampling and French Drain Construction Completion Reports to the Dulski Community Center.

- Comment:** There have been several incidents of sewer back ups since the City installed the french drain system along Fleming Street and at the corner of Fleming & Lewis Streets. The residents also said that the french drain discharges a solid material into the sewer system which is causing the sewer back ups.
- Response:** Information from the Buffalo Sewer Authority indicates sewer cleaning activities have taken place in the Franczyk Park area since the french drain was installed. Initial discussions suggest that the sewer back ups were not in the area of the french drain but instead are part of routine problems encountered in this area. The City will further investigate the back ups and deposits in the sewer since the installation of the french drain.
- Comment:** Include analysis of two (2) leachate samples for metals & cyanide from the discharges to the sewer manholes from the french drain systems.
- Response:** The Buffalo Sewer Authority samples and analyzes the french drain discharge water for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver and zinc. This is done once a year as part of their routine discharge monitoring program. The results for the sample analysis for the past three years will be included in the investigation's report and evaluated.
- Comment:** The City needs to address exposed subsurface soil near the playground and, the corner of Fleming and Lewis streets. A site walkover should be done to identify any eroded areas and any areas of exposed fill should be backfilled with stone or other suitable material.
- Response:** On October 25, 2003 City staff did a site walkover and found two areas where surface soil was eroded and another area where it appears previous fill had settled and created a low spot. A memo was sent to the Public Works Department, requesting their assistance to maintain proper cover in those areas discussed. The Office of Strategic Planning will follow-up to insure that proper cover is maintained.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FRANCZYK PARK SITE?

Project related questions

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Environmental related questions

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DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York Brownfields program. To keep you informed, the City of Buffalo and NYSDEC distributes fact sheets, like this one. We also place site documents for your review at a local repository. The document repositories for this site investigation are established at:

Buffalo & Erie Co. Central Library
Science and Technology Area
Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203; or,

by appointment only
NYSDEC's Buffalo Office
270 Michigan Avenue
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