FACT SHEET

December 2006

Franczyk Park
Cleanup Activities Update

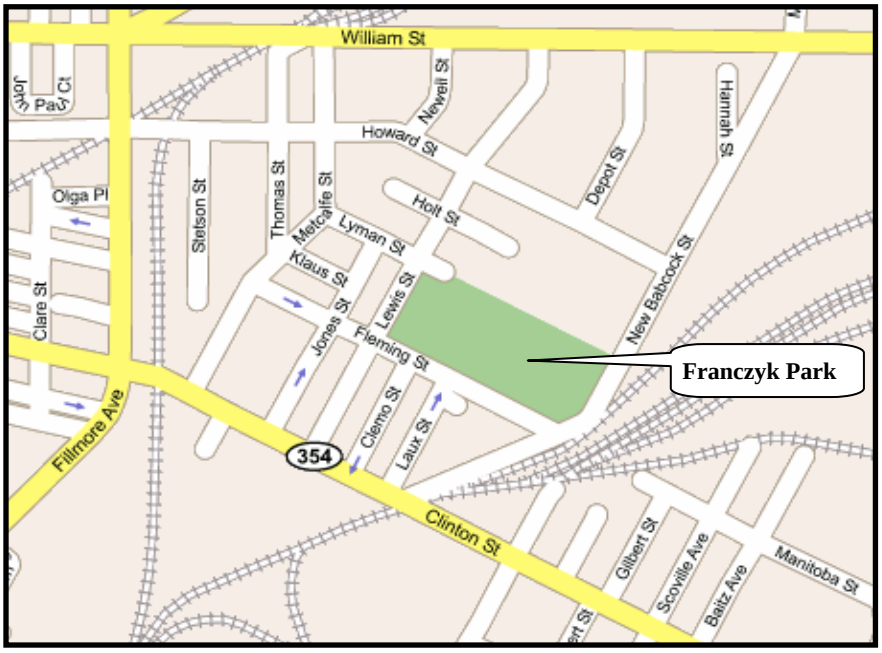
Environmental Restoration Program **Project No. B00174-9**

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet is being provided to update you on the status of planned cleanup activities at Franczyk Park through the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP).

As you may know, a cleanup plan has been selected for Franczyk Park by the City of Buffalo's Department of Public Works, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

A public meeting was held on January 12, 2006, at the T.J. Dulski Community Center to discuss the proposed cleanup and restoration activities for the park, and to gather public input on the recreational design for the park.



PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

The design of the park has been completed, however, due to unanticipated delays in securing project funding, cleanup construction was not able to begin this year, as planned in the original project schedule. Now that funding has been successfully secured, the project will continue with its original cleanup goals, but with a revised schedule. Since winter is not an ideal season for construction, cleanup activities are now scheduled to begin in the spring of 2007 and will continue through the summer of 2007. Planned cleanup activities for the park will remain the same, and are described in greater detail below.

We have appreciated your input and involvement in this project, and look forward to its successful completion. If you have any questions regarding this project or the revised schedule, please feel welcome to contact the representatives identified on the back of this page. Thank you for your patience as we work towards our common goal of improving and restoring Franczyk Park. Fact sheets, such as this one, will be sent to keep you updated throughout the duration of this project.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

To eliminate or reduce human health and environmental threats associated with potential exposure to contaminants, and to allow continued use of the site as a City park, the City and DEC are proposing the following cleanup activities:

- Implement a remedial design program to provide details necessary for the construction, maintenance, and monitoring of the cleanup program;
- Excavate soil or fill determined to be hazardous and dispose of off-site;
- Increase existing soil cover through the placement of at least 18 inches of clean fill in all park areas;
- Place at least six inches of topsoil and establish a vegetative cover in all green space areas, or place at least six inches of concrete or asphalt paving in non-vegetated areas;

- Install geo-textile and place at least six inches of pea gravel (or other suitable material) in playground areas;
- Install a groundwater interceptor trench along Fleming Street;
- Demolish and replace all athletic facilities and playground equipment in order to install the cover system;
- Impose an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement to ensure that the property always remains a park;
- Develop a Site Management Plan for implementation of the institutional and engineering controls including soil management, groundwater monitoring, and site use restrictions; and
- Provide periodic certification to DEC that all institutional or engineering controls remain in place and are being maintained.

The goal of the proposed cleanup activities is to restore Franczyk Park to a condition suitable for public recreational use and enjoyment.

SITE BACKGROUND

Franczyk Park is a 16.5 acre public park located at 564 Babcock Street in the City of Buffalo, Erie County. (See site map above.) The site was first developed in the late 1800's as an agricultural fertilizer manufacturing facility where operations continued for nearly a century. In the late 1930's the southeast corner of the site was sold to rendering and soap manufacturers. In 1977, an automobile salvage yard purchased the site. When the automobile salvage yard went bankrupt in 1981, a real estate company acquired the site and later sold it to the City of Buffalo in 1984.

An environmental investigation conducted by the City in 1985 found contamination of soils at the site. The City used additional off-site soil, fill and topsoil during the construction of the public park in 1987. In 1998, the City discovered ponded water at the site containing elevated levels of arsenic. The City took measures to properly drain the water and remove the source of the contamination. This work led to a comprehensive investigation of the entire park in 2004. In March 2005, DEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) that required additional cleanup activities to ensure that the park is suitable for future public use.

Cleanup activities at Franczyk Park will be performed under the New York State 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act "Environmental Restoration Program" (ERP). Through the ERP, DEC provides financial assistance to local governments for the cleanup and restoration of brownfield sites. A brownfield is a site that is un-used or underused due to real or perceived environmental contamination.

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

<u>Project-Related Questions</u>
Edward Porter
City Dept. of Public Works
612 City Hall
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 851-5014

<u>Environmental-Related questions</u>
Thomas Biel
NYSDEC
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220

<u>Health-Related questions</u>
Cameron O'Connor
NYS Department of Health
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-4385

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT RELATED DOCUMENTS

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of the ERP program. To keep you informed, the City of Buffalo and DEC have established two locations at which you can view site-related project documents. These locations include:

T.J. Dulski Community Center
129 Lewis Street
Buffalo, NY 14206
(716) 847-2860

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
(Please call for an appointment.)