



## PUBLIC NOTICE

## State Superfund Program

Sign up to receive site updates by email: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

**Site Name:** William Street Park

**August 2022**

**Site No. 851055 Tax Map No. 317.07-01-086**

**Site Location:** 83 Hillvue Ave., Corning, NY 14830

### State Superfund Site Classification Notice

The Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Program is New York State's superfund program for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up sites where the disposal of hazardous waste may present a threat to public health and/or the environment. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintains a list of these sites in the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry). The site identified above, and located on a map on the reverse side of this page, has been added to the Registry as a Class 2 site that presents a significant threat to public health and/or the environment for the following reason(s):

- The site is currently utilized for passive and potentially active recreation. The site includes several buildings, a pavilion, a bike path, playground areas, a basketball court, horseshoe pit, grass lawn and picnic areas. Metals and semi-volatile organic compounds have been detected in soil at levels that exceed applicable standards, criteria and guidance. Waste material, including ash, brick, and glass, have also been observed at the site. Specifically, arsenic, barium, cadmium, lead and mercury were detected in sub-surface soils in concentrations as high as 139, 700, 197, 8870, and 4.9 parts per million, respectively and the potential exists for people that disturb soils to be exposed to site-related contaminants through direct contact.
- Additional investigation is recommended to further define the nature and extent of contamination on and off the site, as well as to evaluate associated current and potential human exposures.

DEC will keep you informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

**If you own property adjacent to this site and are renting or leasing your property to someone else, please share this information with them. If you no longer wish to be on the contact list for this site or otherwise need to correct our records, please contact DEC's Project Manager listed below.**

#### FOR MORE SITE INFORMATION

Additional information about this site can be found using DEC's "Environmental Site Remediation Database Search" engine which is located on the internet at:

[www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3](http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3)

Site specific documents may be found online through the DECinfo Locator at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/851055/>

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions

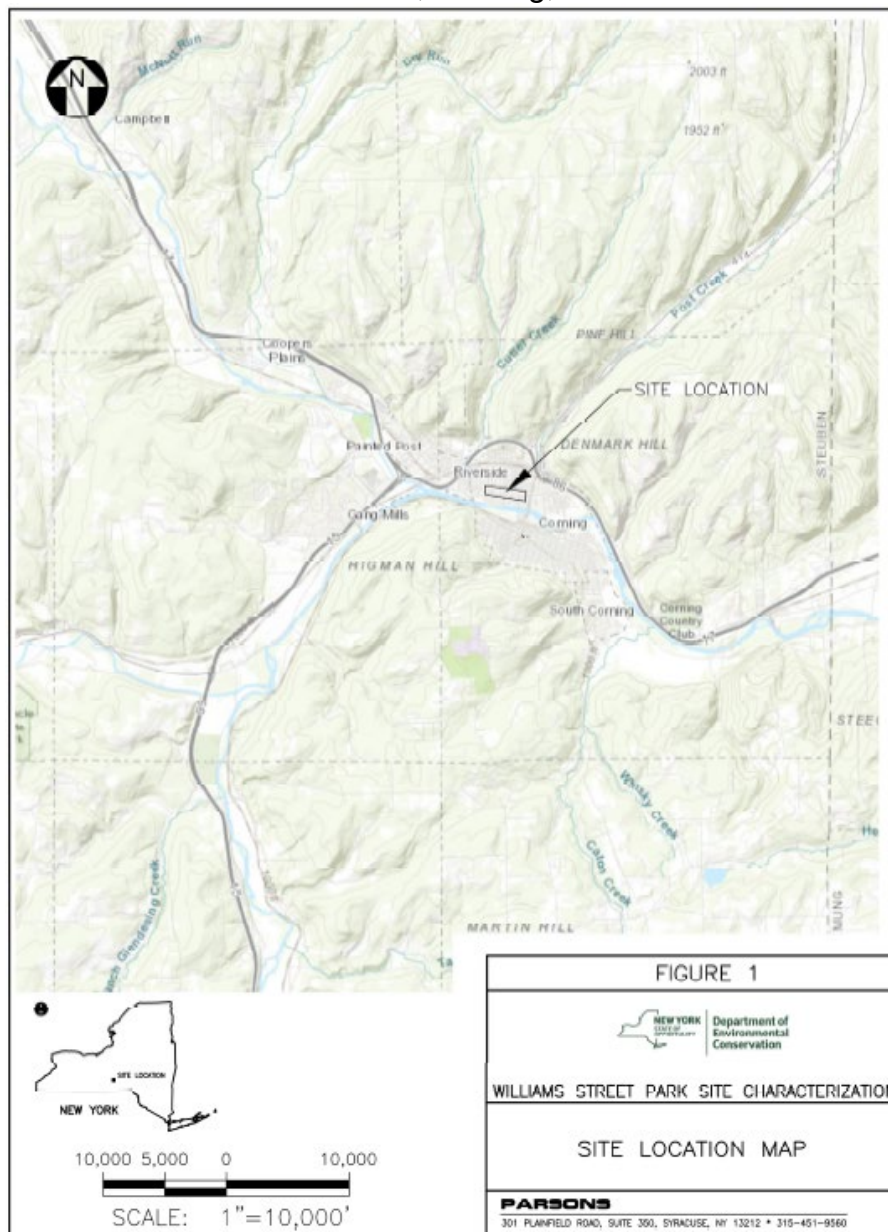
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Site Related Health Questions

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DEC is sending you this notice in accordance with Environmental Conservation Law Article 27, Title 13 and its companion regulation (6 NYCRR 375-2.7(b)(6)(ii)) which requires DEC to notify all parties on the contact list for this site of this recent action.

**Approximate Site Location**  
Site Name: William Street Park  
Site ID: 851055  
83 Hillvue Ave., Corning, NY 14830



**Stay Informed With DEC Delivers**

Sign up to receive site updates by email: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

**Note:** Please disregard if you received this notice by way of a county email listserv.

**DECinfo Locator**

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

**Electronic copies:**

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**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

# **Questions and Answers Fact Sheet for Listing McKinney and William Street Parks on the NYS Inactive Hazardous Waste Site Registry**

**City of Corning, Steuben County  
August 2022**

## **Background**

Site Characterization Investigations, including soil and groundwater sampling, were completed at both parks in Corning, New York. Site characterization efforts were completed to evaluate potential impacts to the parks as a result of the presence of historically imported fill material consisting of ash, brick, and glass (ABG) which was determined to be present at both of the properties. At that time, both parks were classified as Potential Sites or “P Sites”, meaning that additional information was needed to determine whether the site is eligible for placement on New York State’s Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (commonly referred to as the registry of State Superfund Sites)

## **What is a site characterization?**

A Site Characterization (SC) is DEC’s first investigation of a site where hazardous waste has or may have been disposed of illegally or improperly. The goal of the SC is to determine whether a site is eligible for placement on New York State’s Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites by confirming or denying the presence of hazardous waste and determining whether the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. The SC is performed by DEC or the potentially responsible party under DEC’s oversight.

## **What is meant by hazardous waste?**

The term hazardous waste is a regulatory designation. In New York State, hazardous wastes are defined by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NYSDEC regulations (see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/100401.html>), based on whether the materials have certain traits. Fill material at the Parks was tested to see if it should be designated hazardous waste by using a test known as the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). TCLP simulates leaching through a landfill to assess the potential for contamination in the material being tested (typically soil) to get into groundwater. Designation of the target fill materials at the Parks as hazardous waste is not directly related to the potential for human exposure or health risks;

rather, it tells us that the materials if removed require special handling and disposal in a hazardous waste landfill.

### **What were the results of the Site Characterization?**

Based upon the site characterization investigation that was conducted in 2020 there are exceedances for lead and cadmium as well as exceedances of other metals above the residential soil cleanup objectives. Waste material, including ash, brick, and glass, was also observed at the sites. Based upon this information, along with discussions with DOH and the site use as a recreational park, the presence of these contaminants represents a significant threat to public health and the environment and additional investigations are needed to define the nature and extent of contamination on and off of the site, as well as to evaluate associated current and potential human exposures.

### **Can we use McKinney and William Street Park?**

Yes. Based on the results of the surface soil samples collected at the parks, arsenic, cadmium, and lead did not exceed soil cleanup objective for residential use in the majority of the samples. While soil samples collected beneath the surface (sub-surface) found arsenic, cadmium, and lead above the SCOs for residential use, contact with contaminants in those soils is unlikely as they are generally only encountered by those that dig below the ground surface. People may contact contamination by digging or otherwise disturbing soils in areas of known soil contamination or in areas where visible fill containing ash, brick, or glass is present. Much of this public park is covered by grass and materials such as mulch or wood chips in the playground portions. Both grass and mulch/wood chips provide a cover that prevents contact with the soils beneath.

### **What are soil cleanup objectives or “SCOs”?**

SCOs are contaminant-specific soil concentrations that are protective of public health and the environment for specified uses of a property (e.g., residential, commercial). SCOs are set at a soil level at which health effects are unlikely to occur and are used, along with other considerations, to guide decisions about the need to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants. The SCOs are contained in NYSDEC’s Environmental Remediation Program regulations (see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/34189.html>).

An SCO is not a "bright line" between soil concentrations that will result in health effects and those that will not. Moreover, exceedance of the residential SCO at the parks does not represent an immediate health hazard but indicates a need to evaluate measures to reduce the contaminant levels. The degree of public health concern when an SCO is exceeded depends on several factors, including (among others) the extent to which the SCO is exceeded, the potential for human exposure, other sources of exposure to the chemical, and the strength and quality of the available toxicological information on the chemical.

### **How can I be exposed to contaminants in soil or fill material?**

People can be exposed to soil contaminants if they get soil particles on their hands and ingest the soil through hand-to-mouth activity. Some exposure may also occur when contaminated soil is tracked inside a building and becomes part of indoor dust. Other ways people could be exposed are by breathing windblown soil and dust particles, or by eating vegetables grown in contaminated soil. Young children have the greatest potential for exposure to soil contaminants because they often come into direct contact with the soil while playing or digging in the dirt, and may swallow the soil after putting their fingers, hands, or toys in their mouths.

### **Will my children get sick if they play in the parks? What measures should I take to protect them?**

We do not expect there to be any immediate health effects from exposure to arsenic, cadmium, lead or other contaminants in the soil through typical use of the parks. However, you can reduce the chances for exposure to these contaminants by taking reasonable and practical steps to minimize direct and repeated contact with bare soils (particularly by young children). Unnecessary digging in the dirt should be avoided, and children and adults should wash hands after outdoor activities. The use of doormats and periodic damp mopping of floors can help reduce exposure to outdoor soil that might be tracked indoors. It's important to note that all soils contain chemicals and microorganisms, and therefore it is always a good idea to minimize getting soil into the body whether it is contaminated or not.

### **What does it mean to reclassify a site?**

Reclassification to a Superfund Site list may be warranted for a Class P (Potential) site that has undergone a site characterization where contamination has been confirmed and threats to public health or the environment exist. In the case of McKinney and William Street Parks, a site characterization was conducted and based upon the data evaluation resulted in a proposed reclassification from Class P to Class 2. Due to the confirmation of the disposal of hazardous waste and the presence of such hazardous waste reclassification from Class P to Class 2 is proposed.

### **What happens next with the parks?**

Remedial Investigations (RI) will be performed.

Through extensive sampling and laboratory analyses, the RI identifies the length, depth and width of contamination, defines the pathways of migration and measures the degree of contamination in surface water, groundwater, soils, air, plants, and animals. Information gathered during the RI fully describes the hazardous waste problem at the site so that the

appropriate remedy can be selected DOH evaluates ways in which people may be exposed to hazardous waste. DOH reviews and recommends activities that will be performed during the RI to ensure that a complete picture of potential health impacts is understood. Such activities include identifying the ways contamination can reach people, such as through direct contact, eating, drinking, or breathing. Following the completion of the remedial investigation a report will be published and released to the public.

### **Who will pay for the investigations of the Parks?**

NYSDEC will pay for the investigations of the Parks under the State Superfund program, cost recovery may be sought from any potential responsible parties identified through remedial process.

### **Whom to Contact**

Comments and Questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

#### Project Related Questions

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#### Site Related Health Questions

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