

Soil Cleanup at Optimist Park

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is cleaning up soil contamination at Optimist Park in Tacoma. This is part of Ecology's ongoing work to clean up arsenic and lead. These toxic metals were carried by the wind from the former Asarco copper smelter and contaminated soil over a large area of Puget Sound.

The **Soil Safety Program** provides free soil sampling and cleanup for play areas at schools, childcares, parks, and camps. A \$94.6 million settlement from Asarco funds this work.

What are the health risks?

Contamination levels at Optimist **do not pose an immediate health threat**. However, long-term exposure to **arsenic** can contribute to heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers. **Lead** is especially harmful for young children. It can damage developing nervous systems and lead to behavioral problems.

We recommend taking **healthy actions** (above right) to lower your exposure.

Soil cleanup will likely start in July 2015

Surface soils at Optimist Park have 25 - 79 parts per million (ppm) arsenic. The state cleanup level for arsenic is 20 ppm.

We plan to remove 6 inches of soil from the ball field and a small play area (see map on back). We are working with Metro Parks Tacoma to protect the trees in the cleanup area. We will replace the contaminated soil with a sports field soil mix and grass seed and sod.

The cleanup area will reopen in 2016 after grass has grown back. Other areas will reopen this fall after construction is finished. You can learn more at our **June 11 neighborhood meeting** (see back).

Other Tacoma park cleanups

This year we will also clean up soil in a play area at Baltimore Park. We previously worked with Tacoma Metro Parks to clean up soil at Titlow, Jane Clark, and Vassault parks. Next year we plan to replace soil in a play area at Point Defiance Park.

What's in the soil in my yard?

If you live near Optimist Park, we may already have sampling results for your yard. To check, visit our online database at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/areispublic/>. If you do not find results on the database, you can sign up for free soil sampling by contacting the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (see box at right).

Healthy Actions



Please continue to enjoy your parks! You can use Healthy Actions to protect your family from contaminated soil:

- Wash hands after working or playing outside.
- Take off shoes or use a doormat.
- Vacuum and damp dust regularly.
- Keep children's toys free of dirt.
- Wash fruits and vegetables from your garden.

More Information

Questions or concerns about cleanup at Optimist Park

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(360) 407-6262

Amy.Hargrove@ecy.wa.gov

Sarah Hamel, Metro Parks
(253) 305-1056

SarahH@tacomaparks.com

Health Information and Soil Sampling

Glenn Rollins, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

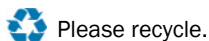
Phone: (253) 798-3503

E-mail: DirtAlert@tpchd.org

Department of Ecology's Tacoma Smelter Plume website

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/tacoma-smelter.html>

Facility Site ID #: 89267963



Tacoma Smelter Plume Soil Safety Program Pierce County, WA

Arsenic and lead soil cleanup at Optimist Park

Neighborhood Meeting for Park Soil Cleanup

June 11, 2015

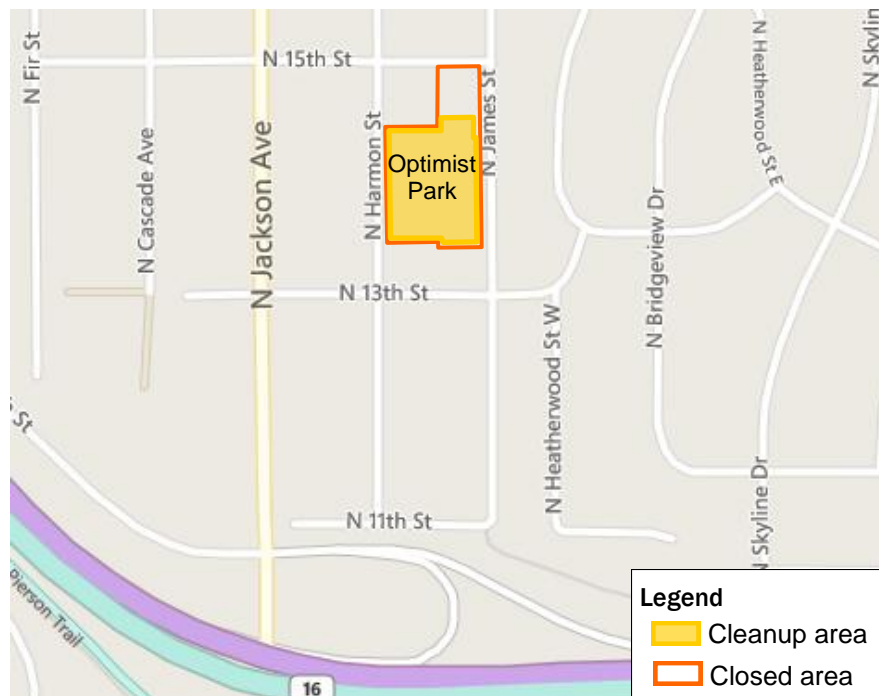
At Kandle Park Police Substation

5140 North 26th Street

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Learn more about the soil cleanups at Optimist and Baltimore parks, and share your questions and concerns. Light refreshments will be served.

Facility Site ID #: 89267963



Optimist Park, 1330 N. James Street, Tacoma

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-6300. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.