

THE ROUGE RIVER PROJECT
A WORLD CLASS EFFORT



BRINGING OUR RIVER BACK TO LIFE

Abandoned Dump Sites Evaluation and Guidance, Rouge River, Michigan

A publication of the Wayne County Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project
Information Date: March 2001

Objective

The Guidelines for Closure of Abandoned Dump Sites served the following objectives:

- Assemble a workgroup from a broad base of disciplines that is focused on community based environmental protection processes.
- Provide guidance for the investigation of abandoned dump sites.
- Provide guidance for the closure of abandoned dump sites.
- Demonstrate the potential for these sites to be used for recreational land use.

Owner

Wayne County, Michigan

Location

Rouge Watershed, Michigan

Dates

Start: 1995
Complete: January 2001

Total Project Cost

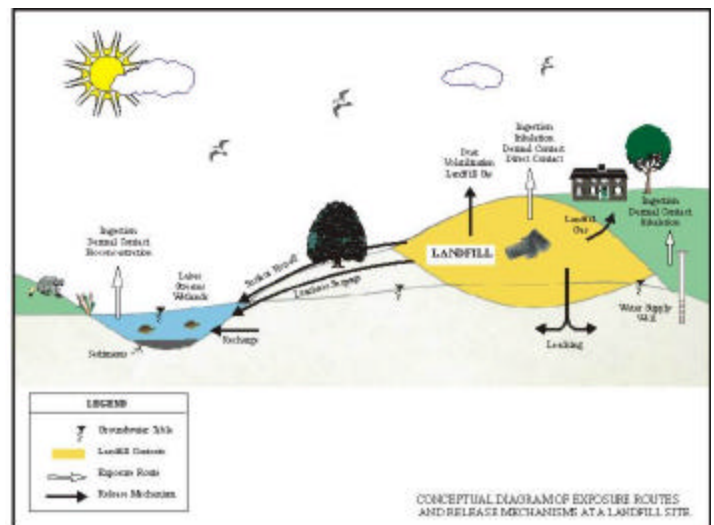
\$450,000

Demonstration Aspects

The guidelines demonstrated several aspects if abandoned dump remediations

- # Demonstrated to local communities and municipalities that there is a process to evaluate abandoned dump sites.
- # Demonstrated that there is a process to achieve closure of these sites.

- # Demonstrated that there are potential recreational uses of abandoned dump sites.
- # Demonstrated to local residents and municipalities that questions regarding the environmental and health risks of these sites can be adequately addressed.



Project Highlights

- Verifying basic assumptions-public involvement
- Overview of relevant environmental statuses
- Establishing & applying cleanup criteria
- Conducting background investigation
- Conducting initial site investigation
- Determination of nature & extent of the contamination
- Performing a risk evaluation
- Selecting remedial alternatives

Major Elements

- This guidance document will assist municipalities in the Rouge Watershed to answer fundamental questions concerning abandoned dumps, including contamination.
- The ultimate objective of this process is to attain site closure.
- To achieve closure a municipality must verify basic assumptions, establish cleanup criteria, complete a background study and comprehensive site investigation, assess risks and select a method of remediation.
- Determination of whether the method and cost of remediation can be reliably developed and planned to ensure water quality improvement, beneficial reuse, and compliance with federal and state regulations.



Project Results

USEPA initiatives such as the “brownfields” initiative focus on encouraging reuse and redevelopment of contaminated sites. In addition, recent changes in the Michigan Environmental Response Act (MERA) encourage reuse. Limited recreational risk-based closures for abandoned dump sites will focus on eliminating or minimizing the pathways for exposure to the public and the environment.

This document provides a generic process to move through site investigation and closure of abandoned dump sites resulting in recreational use of these sites.

To obtain further information on the Rouge Project, including documents, maps and general information, visit us at:

<http://www.rougeriver.com>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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