

Soil Cleanup at Jane Clark Park

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is cleaning up soil contamination at Jane Clark 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 soils 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 Jane Clark **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 the developing nervous system and lead to behavioral problems.

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

Soil cleanup will start around July of 2013

Surface soils at Jane Clark Park average 20-50 parts per million (ppm) arsenic. The state cleanup level for arsenic is 20 ppm. We plan to remove 12 inches of soil from 2.2 acres of mostly lawn area. We will then bring in clean topsoil and reseed the lawn.

The playground, baseball diamonds, and soccer field will reopen in the fall of 2013. The rest of park will reopen in the spring of 2014, once the grass is established.

Other Tacoma Park Cleanups

Ecology is working with Tacoma Metro Parks to clean up Titlow Park as part of a larger renovation project. Cleanup will finish at Titlow this summer. Over the next three years, Ecology plans to clean up play area soils at Point Defiance, Vassault, Baltimore, and Optimist parks.

What's in the soil in my yard?

If you live near Jane Clark Park, we may already have sampling results for your yard. To check, visit our online database: <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 Jill Jacobson at (360) 407-6245 or Jill.Jacobson@ecy.wa.gov.

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 Jane Clark Park

John Zinza, Department of Ecology
Phone: (360) 407-6249
E-mail: John.Zinza@ecy.wa.gov

Sheree Trefry, Tacoma Metro Parks
Phone: (253) 305-1092
E-mail: info@tacomaparks.com

Health Information

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.
Glenn Rollins
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

