

Baltimore Park Soil Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology is cleaning up soil contamination at Baltimore 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 Baltimore **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.

Take **healthy actions** (see right) to lower your exposure.

Soil cleanup will likely start in August 2015

Surface soils at Baltimore Park have 20 - 223 parts per million (ppm) arsenic. The state cleanup level for arsenic is 20 ppm.

We plan to remove 12 inches of soil from inside the gravel trail 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.

The cleanup area will reopen in 2016 after grass has grown back. Other areas will reopen this fall after construction is finished.

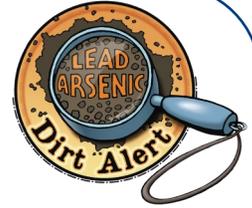
What's in the soil in my yard?

To find sampling results for yards near Baltimore Park, visit our online database at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/areispublic/>. If you do not find your results in the database, contact the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (see box at right).

Yard Program

The Yard Program provides free soil sampling and cleanup for residential properties in the Yard Program Area. To see if your yard is located in the Yard Program Area and qualifies for cleanup or soil sampling, go to <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/smeltersearch/>. If you have questions or would like to find out more information about the program call (360) 407-7688 and press 2 for Tacoma Smelter Plume.

Take Healthy Actions



Use these actions to protect your family from contaminated soil:



WASH YOUR HANDS
with soap and water



TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES
at the door



WASH CHILDREN'S TOYS & PACIFIERS
frequently



CLEAN YOUR PETS
before they enter your home

More Information

Questions about the cleanup:

Amy Hargrove, Dept. of Ecology
(360) 407-6262

Amy.Hargrove@ecy.wa.gov

Questions about Optimist Park:

Sarah Hamel, Metro Parks
(253) 305-1056

SarahH@tacomaparks.com

Health information and soil sampling:

Glenn Rollins, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

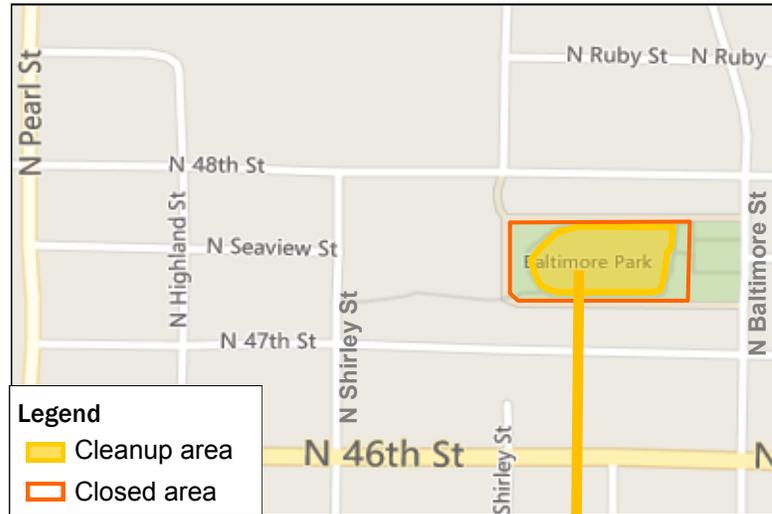
Phone: (253) 798-3503

E-mail: DirtAlert@tpchd.org

More information online at:

www.DirtAlert.info

Baltimore Park Cleanup located at 4716 N. Baltimore Street, Tacoma



Please Continue to Enjoy Your Parks

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 Kandle, Titlow, Jane Clark, and Vassault parks. Next year we plan to replace soil in a play area at Point Defiance Park.

¿Hablamos Español? Si necesita esta información en español, contáctenos a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

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