

Date: 8/3/23

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Wade Walcutt, Director – Parks and Recreation
Subject: Update on soil testing and analysis for Walltown, East End, East Durham, Lyon and Northgate parks.

This update builds upon the previous update provided and made public on July 17 via [DPR's website](#), which comprised of [Mid-Atlantic's Soil Assessment Work Plan](#) and [plain language summary](#), including a timeline and next steps.

Comprehensive soil collection began the week of July 17 and has been completed. The scope of their collection and analysis is outlined in the NCDEQ and EPA endorsed [Work Plan](#). Samples collected by Mid Atlantic Associates are now undergoing laboratory analysis to provide precise conclusions. The final report is expected to be completed by August 15.

While the collected samples are being analyzed, we have received preliminary information from Mid-Atlantic Associates today, August 3. These preliminary findings are below and detailed maps are attached.

- **Playground areas** – No preliminary soil samples taken from playgrounds identified any potential contaminant concerns.
- **Lyon Park** – No preliminary soil samples indicate a need for action or remediation. They measured below the 400 ppm threshold.
- **Northgate Park** – No preliminary soil samples indicate a need for action or remediation. They measured below the 400 ppm threshold.
- **East End Park** – No preliminary soil samples indicate a need for action or remediation. They measured below the 400 ppm threshold.
 - A separate fenced off portion of the property not accessible to the public, commonly known as the old Sign & Signal shop identified six (6) soil samples measuring greater than the EPA threshold 400 ppm
- **East Durham Park** – Preliminary sample results identified eight (8) soil samples measuring greater than the EPA threshold 400 ppm
- **Walltown Park** - Preliminary sample results identified seven (7) soil samples measuring greater than the EPA threshold 400 ppm

Next steps

- Based on the preliminary information from our consultant, the City has decided to prohibit access to any sampled area within a park measuring above 400 ppm. Fencing and detailed signs will be installed to mark the area and provide educational and health resources no later than Friday, August 4.
- Further analysis of each area above 400 ppm along with short and long term solutions in accordance with the EPA and NCDEQ will be provided in the final report.

- In-person community conversations and engagement opportunities will take place in three (3) intervals: 1) prior to August 15; 2) at the point of releasing the report and; 3) after the report is released. This detailed update and future updates will be provided through multiple communication channels including:
 - Direct contact neighborhood representatives and liaisons near the five parks
 - Neighborhood Improvement Services Department community engagement teams
 - Community partners and networks
 - DPR's Soil & Property Testing webpage
 - Social media posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Instagram Threads, and Nextdoor from @CityofDurhamNC and @dprplaymore channels