WORKING TOWARD REMEDIATION

**November 2023**
All 5 parks qualify for opportunity to receive additional resources and funding for remediation through state’s Pre-Regulatory Landfill Program (PRLP).

**December 2023 to January 2024**
NCDEQ surveyed each park’s entire footprint through 0.25-acre grids to examine the top 12 inches of soil. This was a critical step to determine the comprehensive risk analysis of each park. The samples are currently being analyzed and a report is being prepared by NCDEQ, with an estimated completion date being April 2024.

**January 2024**
- EPA lowered recommended screening levels and strengthened guidance for cleaning up lead-contaminated soil in areas where children live, learn, and play. 200 PPM is now EPA threshold for lead in bare soils in play areas (previously 400 PPM).
- In response to new EPA standards, Durham Parks and Recreation restricting access to additional portions of park originally assessed over 200 PPM by Mid-Atlantic Associates.
- The City is arranging for in-person, public engagement to discuss recent findings by mid-February.

**February 2024**
- DPR has submitted a funding request to assist with solutions for these parks as part of the City’s FY24-25 budget process.
- The City has shared with the Durham County Department of Public Health that a request has been made for the department to provide additional blood lead testing.

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**NCDEQ Risk Scores**
Durham’s five parks are now in NCDEQ’s database with the associated risk scores as follows:

- Lyon Park: 274
- East End Park: 173
- Walltown Park: 173
- East Durham Park: 83
- Northgate Park: 83

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**Understanding Risk Score**
NCDEQ has 700 sites in the PRLP. To help prioritize response and remediation, they evaluate the sites and assign risk scores.

- Risk scores do NOT necessarily reflect the amount of lead or hazardous materials at the site.
- NCDEQ establishes risk score by evaluating items such as:
  - Potable drinking wells on site within 1000 feet of contamination
  - Schools and churches on site or within 1000 feet of contamination

- The risk score will help NCDEQ prioritize funding and recommend risk-based remediation goals.