

Soil Assessment Report

Walltown, East End, East Durham, Lyon, and Northgate Parks



DPRPlaymore.org/516

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.
- February 2024** → **The City is arranging for in-person, public engagement to discuss recent findings by mid-February.**
- 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.

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

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.