



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: REEDBIRD LANDFILL SITE

Site Location

The Reedbird Landfill was located on a 118-acre site in south Baltimore at 701 Reedbird Avenue off Potee Street in what is now Cherry Hill Park. The site is bounded by Reedbird Avenue to the west, the B & O Railroad to the south, and Potee Street to the north and east. The Patapsco River bisects the property. The 28-acre eastern portion of the property is referred to as Reedbird Island. The coordinates for the geographic center of the site are latitude 39° 14.650' N and longitude 076° 36.884' W.

Site History

In the late 1890s, the area on which the landfill is sited was a waterway bounded by a reedy marsh. Baltimore City began to fill the marsh with incinerator ash and the by-products of combustion of municipal refuse. Land-filling of the property continued until 1977. Waste disposed included domestic trash, construction and demolition debris, and industrial wastes from the surrounding area.

Environmental Investigation and Action

In 1981, Ecology & Environment, Inc (E&E) conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Reedbird site. At the time of the PA, monitoring wells were scheduled to be installed and the groundwater monitored to determine the nature and extent of contamination resulting from landfill activities. E&E recommended that EPA take no immediate action and continue to monitor the State's action.

In 1983, NUS Corporation (NUS) conducted a Site Inspection of the Reedbird Landfill. Samples of groundwater were collected and it was determined that there were elevated levels of lead in the groundwater. Sediment samples indicated lead contamination of site sediments.

In 1992 MDE conducted a Level I Site Inspection Prioritization using NUS data. The conclusion was that site soil had low levels of PCBs, and site surface water and groundwater contained detectable levels of diethylphthalate.

MDE conducted a Site Survey of Reedbird Landfill in June 1999. Based on available information, MDE had no further requirements related to the investigation of hazardous waste and recommended that EPA archive the site.

Current Status

The landfill now comprises Cherry Hill Park.



Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718 | www.mde.state.md.us
410-537-3000 | 800-633-6101 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258

Williams/LRP/December/2014