

Dear Westland Resident,

In mid-January, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality - or MDEQ - called for further environmental testing at Central City Park. They also emphasized that any plans for remediation should be put off until the park has been thoroughly investigated because the extent of the contamination has not yet been fully identified.

The state is currently exercising a work plan that will include the next round of testing. That work plan includes the following:

#1 Geophysical Work - that includes a magnetometer survey and an EM 61 survey. This is a slow, tedious process where 2 or 3 employees will walk the site with metal detectors in a grid pattern across the site.

#2 A Geoprobe Study - this is a trailer or truck mounted device that drills a small 2 to 4 inch hole through the soil to approximately 10 feet - and can be used to extract soil and/or groundwater. The DEQ anticipates analyzing the soil for a full suite of chemicals - not just lead.

#3 A Methane Gas Study - This simple technique involves punching hollow point tubes into the top few feet of the soil from which gases are extracted and then analyzed. This type of testing is routinely done on sites where land filling had taken place.

The three steps of this work plan may take several weeks to complete before the results can be submitted for examination.

Furthermore, the Central City Park administrative task force, which was established to educate citizens on the closing of Central City Park, recently held their first meeting in City Hall. The group discussed the implementation of four key methods to keep residents updated including a toll-free information line that features updated information and allows residents to voice their questions or concerns, the placement of kiosks at city buildings which will contain information handouts, seminars to be held on location to educate Westland's senior community, and a mailing that will be sent to each Westland resident via postal mail. Work has already begun on the task force recommendations and the information line (888) 7CC-PARK is now available to take your call.

In closing, please note that the page will be updated as new information becomes available. Should you have any questions you may always call my office at (734) 467-3200.

Sincerely,



Mayor William R. Wild