

Student Sheet 4.1- Stakeholders

Country Club Creek Neighborhood Association

You live close to Mabel Davis Park and Country Club Creek. You, your children and your pets play and fish around the creek and will play in the park when it is finished. Some of you have elementary age children that attend Linder Elementary, which is located adjacent to the park. Mr. Orvil Newell is a member of the association and is particularly worried about the survival and health of fish in his pond just downstream of Mabel Davis Park.

Although you are concerned about possible damage to the environment, you worry primarily about the danger to humans, especially children, playing in the contaminated area and people consuming the fish from the creek. **You want the pesticide excavated and the contaminated soil removed from the area, regardless of the cost.** You are somewhat suspicious of the other methods, and would like to see proof that they are effective and safe. **You want the pesticide and contaminated soil removed quickly because of the danger posed to children who will often ignore fences and warning signs and play in the area.** You think that even if fences surrounding the contaminated area are put up, they will not cover enough of the area, and you doubt they will be maintained or monitored.

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Robstown Buena Vista Mobile Home Park Association

You are residents of the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in Robstown, TX. Most of you are retired and live on a low income. The mobile home park is close to the hazardous waste disposal site where the soil from Mabel Davis may be transported. **You are tired of worrying about the danger of accidents near your home from trucks carrying contaminated soil and possible leaks from the waste disposal site.** You are very concerned about the clean-up plan chosen for Mabel Davis even though you do not live in Austin.

You feel that the ethical thing to do is devise a plan that will provide for disposal of wastes in a safe place, but nearer to the area where the problem occurred. You do not think it is right for people of Austin to remove hazardous wastes from their area and transport it to Robstown. You feel that the citizens of Austin should apply for some state or federal assistance to deal with the problem, not just pass it on to someone else.

The Austin Travis County Health Department (ATCHD)

You work for an agency that protects the public health and the environment by providing investigations and enforcement of City Ordinances and State Laws. **You are in charge of coordinating and facilitating the clean-up at Mabel Davis Park.** Glenn Stahl, an ATCHD investigator, researched information about pesticides. In his research he found a publication of the 1976 California State Water Resource Control Board, which showed a short half-life for toxaphene (half life is the amount of time it takes for 50% of toxaphene to break down), the major chemical of the buried pesticides.

Having this background information, **you believe the only thing necessary is to excavate the pockets of pesticides.** You feel that when the pesticide at Mabel Davis Park is exposed to air, the diluted chlorinated hydrocarbons would pose little hazard to public health and the environment. Secondly, due to the massive dilution with surface soil, removal by physical means would not be cost effective.

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Girls' Little League softball team/athletic group representatives

You are parents of girls who participate in the South Austin Little League. The Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to relocate a Little League girls' softball diamond to Mabel Davis Park. **You have objected to the proposal to move games to Mabel Davis Park because of your concern about the safety of the park.** You fear the games will have to be played at Mabel Davis Park because of a shortage of other ball fields. You are aware that the parents of children in other youth groups have the same concerns about the park's safety.

You want the pesticide excavated and the contaminated soil removed from the area, regardless of the cost. You are concerned the ball field where the pesticides are buried will not be cleaned up enough for children to play ball and roll around in the dirt as they slide into the bases. You think the scientists that make decisions about allowable rates of contamination do not consider the developing bodies of young children, especially the long-term reproductive risks to developing girls, and children's greater proportion and risk of exposure.

Texas Department of Water Resources

You work for the head environmental agency for the state of Texas so you play the lead role in overseeing the clean-up of Mabel Davis Park. You make sure that the clean-up of soil and groundwater contamination from hazardous waste (in this case, pesticides) occurs, and at a level that protects human health and the environment. **Your goal is to ensure that the public is not exposed to hazardous levels of chemicals by requiring mitigation, and generally, the removal of the contamination to levels protective of human health and the environment.**

You believe containment will adequately protect human health and the environment, but you are prepared to enforce the clean-up plan decided upon at the meeting.

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The City of Austin

You are responsible for correcting the water pollution problem or threat posed by the pesticide waste at Mabel Davis Park. You have to make sure that the clean-up will bring the water quality in Country Club Creek back to levels that are safe for humans and aquatic life. The City will also have to pay for the clean up, so **you are also concerned about the cost of the plan.** You think that the City's limited budget may not entirely cover the costs of cleaning up this incident, let alone other problems that may arise in the future. There are many other pressing problems the city and region must face, all of which require an expense of some kind. You could apply for special funds from the state or federal government, but there is no guarantee the money is available or, if available, will be granted.

You realize that all the plans presented have advantages and disadvantages. You would like to recommend a plan that provides for the health and safety of the area residents and the aquatic life in the creek permanently, but keeps the clean up costs to a minimum so that funds are available for other uses. **When choosing a clean up plan, you have to consider that you will also incur the possible expenses of 1) monitoring the water supply to detect future contamination and 2) hiring consultants to advise clean up personnel about how to protect the water supply from future harm.**