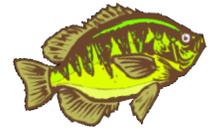


## Student Sheet 3.3-Mabel Davis Now



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following about Mabel Davis Park and answer the questions.



# Mabel Davis District Park



### Information

**Open Daily:** 5:00am - 10:00pm

At times access is limited or affected by events or maintenance issues.

To report any park non-emergency issue call 311. All park emergencies call 911.

3427 Parker Ln

22 acres - [Map](#)

### Description of Park

The park covers approximately 50 acres including 30 acres of beautiful open green space (doubling the acreage from the original 15). Other park amenities include a full length basketball court, an [olympic-size swimming pool](#), a playscape, covered picnic area and Austin's *first* skate park. The skate park includes a skate bowl, streetscape elements and a grass seating area for interested onlookers.

### History

Mabel Davis Park was originally leased and operated as a landfill by the City of Austin from 1944-1955. The City purchased the land in 1974 and completed the required land remediation to meet the environmental standards of that time. The park was ultimately developed and opened to the public in 1979.

### Why was Mabel Davis Park closed in 2000?

A central, remote portion of the park was initially closed to the public in April 2000 when high lead levels were found in the soil near broken automotive battery casings. The entire park was closed when screening samples in public areas

of the park indicated high pesticide levels in the soil in some areas. The City voluntarily closed the park for additional testing and investigation as a precautionary measure.

### **What pollutants were found?**

Lead and a number of pesticides were found in the park. Generally, only very low levels were found, but Toxaphene, Lindane, Aldrin, DDT, and Heptachlor Epoxide were found at levels high enough to cause concern. These chemicals were once widely used. For the most part, their use today in the United States has been either banned or restricted.

### **Where did the pollutants come from?**

A portion of Mabel Davis Park is over an old landfill where trash was dumped in the 1940's and 1950's. During construction of the park in 1979, pesticides were disturbed and released in the area. The cleanup in 1979 did not remove all of the pesticides. The lead found in the soil in the central part of the park is probably from the battery fragments that were found nearby.

### **How was the park cleaned up from 2000-2005?**

Hundreds of samples were taken to identify all areas of contamination in and around the park. Extensive analysis of the data was done to make sure that the extent of the contamination would be cleaned up. Contaminated soil was removed and replaced with new soil, the creek banks were re-stabilized with large rocks, and the area was re-vegetated with native plants.

### **Should people be concerned about their health as a frequent visitor to Mabel Davis Park?**

Scientists have reviewed the available information and have concluded that there should not be any significant health risk for children or adults who have been frequent visitors to Mabel Davis Park.

### **What environmental problems can these pollutants cause?**

The pesticides found in the park can be very toxic to aquatic life. As sampling continues, the City will be evaluating the potential risk to the environment as well as to the public.

### **When was the project completed?**

The City designed and implemented a \$7.3 million assessment and remediation project which was completed in November 2005. The newly renovated park includes Austin's first skateboard park, newly planted trees, a wildflower meadow, and creek renovations.

### **Answer the following questions.**

1. Why was Mabel Davis Park closed in April 2000?
2. What pollutants were found?
3. How was the pollution at Mabel Davis in 2000 discovered?

4. Where were the pollutants located?
  
5. Where did the pollution come from?
  
6. How was the pollution taken care of?
  
7. What is the present status of the Park?