



505 Barton Springs Road Austin, Texas 78704 (512) 974-2550

Rosewood Site Improvement Project Fact Sheet

- This is an environmental remediation project in the Homewood Heights neighborhood involving a 2.3 acre property located behind 32 private residences and lots on Ridgeway Drive, Sol Wilson Avenue and Pandora Street. The property is owned by the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department. There is a commercially zoned private property to the south. The plat maps indicate the site is designated for stormwater drainage purposes and for park use.
- In April 2007, based on a citizen request to keep the area cleaned and better maintained for citizen use, the City found and removed 25 truckloads of household trash and construction/demolition debris from the city property. Through removal of the trash and debris, City staff uncovered burned material and ash including broken glass and pieces of melted metal which indicated an old dump site existed on the property. This finding raised environmental and health concerns.
- The property was immediately fenced to prohibit public access. Initial cursory testing showed elevated lead and arsenic levels. The pesticide DDT was also detected. The neighborhood was notified of these initial findings via public notices and presentations at neighborhood association meetings.
- The burned material could have originated from a variety of sources including, individuals burning household trash or from a larger scale incinerators. This type dump site is commonly found in areas such as this, which were at one time, long ago, outside of the City limits.
- In 2008, an environmental assessment was completed and sampling results verified elevated levels of lead, arsenic and pesticides. The assessment also revealed the waste material was not only dispersed and buried on City property, but on 13 surrounding private properties. The ash material was found buried up to several feet deep in some areas and in one private lot it was 20 feet deep.

- In 2009, the City obtained an engineering firm to design a remediation plan and to develop bid specifications for a remediation contract. The plan includes the cleanup of the 13 affected private properties due to the potential of the waste material to runoff onto the City property.
- On March 3, 2011, City staff provided a project update to area residents at a Homewood Heights Neighborhood Association meeting.
- On November 1, 2012, a public meeting was held to provide citizens information about the project including a meet-and-greet with construction company personnel, remediation plan design engineers and city staff and inspectors.
- Funding for this project comes from the Abandoned Landfills Remediation Fund. This fund was created to investigate and remediate closed and abandoned landfills that the City owned, operated, or disposed of waste at the site or where waste is found on City-owned property. Contributions to the fund come from Austin Resource Recovery, Austin Water Utility and Watershed Protection Department.
- On September 2012 City Council approved and awarded the project contract.
- The project is scheduled to start in November 2012 and be completed by February 2013.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Oscar Garza, at 974-1893