

WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING AND REMEDIATION PLANNING UPDATE

Highlights:

- **The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has been approved by the regulators.** The RAP was submitted on August 1, 2022, detailing the proposed remediation and restoration for the fields. Following input from the public and the regulators, the RAP was approved by US EPA and CT DEEP in September and October 2023 respectively.
- **Cleanup activities are expected to commence in November 2023.** Charter, the same company that performed cleanup at the high school, has been selected as the construction contractor for the remediation and field restoration work. Mobilization is expected to begin November 2023.
- On October 30, 2023, temporary fencing and signage were installed to restrict access to the pedestrian pathway along the southeastern side of the fields. Following contractor mobilization, anticipated for mid-November, access to the entire work zone will be restricted with construction fencing.
- **Modified school bus routes will be in place to provide transportation to students who normally use the path through the fields to get to and from school.**
- Cleanup activities will be performed throughout the 2023-2024 school year, weather permitting, and restoration activities will begin immediately after.

Current Status

The environmental investigation and remediation activities that began at the Western Middle School Fields (the "Site") in 2016 are progressing to remediation under the Connecticut (CT) Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) (Remediation ID: 14385). At the request of the regulators Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) entered the Site into the VRP in 2020.

GPS submitted a RAP for the cleanup of the Site under the VRP on August 1, 2022. An addendum to the RAP was submitted on June 2, 2023 with modifications based on discussion with CT DEEP and EPA. The RAP was approved by US EPA on September 14, 2023 and by CT DEEP on October 26, 2023. The RAP and Addendum describe the planned cleanup activities to be conducted. The RAP focuses on protecting human health and the environment while accommodating school activities and other uses of the Site.

The cleanup plan includes:

- Excavating and disposing of approximately 31,000 tons of contaminated soil;
- Constructing synthetic turf athletic fields and surrounding concrete and asphalt areas, and grassed landscaped areas, which will serve as a cap for underlying soil;

- Long-term monitoring and maintenance of the cap.

Excavation will remove the most heavily contaminated soil at the Site. The synthetic turf athletic fields, asphalt and concrete areas, and landscaped areas will be used as a series of Engineered Controls to cap and prevent human contact with deeper, less contaminated soils. The areas of excavation and Engineered Control construction are depicted below.

Cleanup Plans for Fall 2023 and Beyond

Work is expected to begin in November. The first phase includes mobilization, tree clearing, establishing access from Muskrat Pond Drive, and excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil. During this time, the athletic fields at the Site will be unavailable for use, as will the pathway from Muskrat Pond Drive to the school. Following excavation and off-site disposal, import of clean material and site regrading will be followed by restoration and construction of the fields, path and surrounding areas. The restoration phase, including replanting, is targeted for Spring and Summer 2024. Much of the work is weather dependent and therefore unfavorable weather could impact the project timeline.

Site work will generally be performed Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 AM and ending at 6:00 PM and Saturday between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. A map showing the remediation work area is presented below.

Safety of Community

The health and safety of students, staff, neighbors, and the public is paramount during the performance of this work. To ensure public safety:

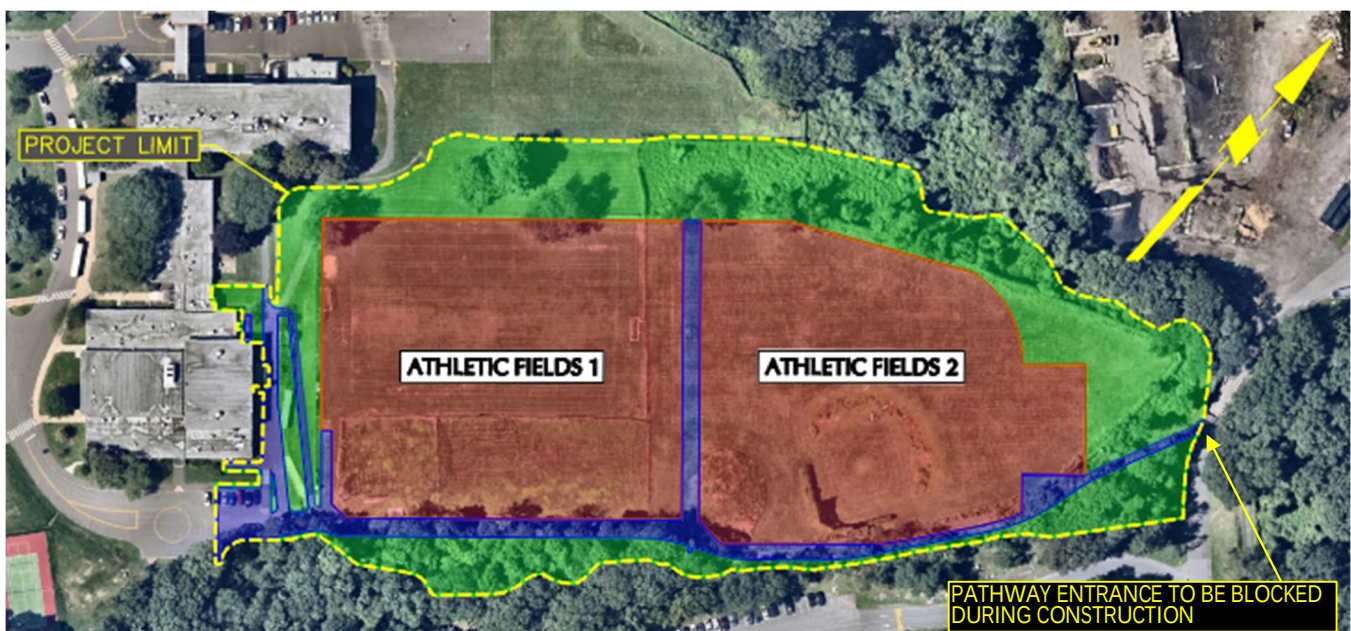
- Work areas will be demarcated with fencing. These work areas are shown as depicted by the “PROJECT LIMIT” line in the figure below. Access beyond the fencing will be prohibited for safety purposes.
- A dust monitoring and control plan will be implemented when earthwork is occurring.
- The majority of truck traffic and construction access will be from the back of the construction area through Muskrat Pond Drive to minimize construction traffic through the school driveway.
- Sediment and erosion controls will be installed, inspected, and maintained routinely to protect the wetland area to the northwest and other natural resources.

For all information requests, please contact:

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OR, please visit our website for further information:

<https://www.greenwichschools.org/departments/facilities-rentals/building-grounds-projects/western-middle-school-fields>



LEGEND

- PROJECT LIMIT
- PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL TURF ENGINEERED CONTROL APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS
- PROPOSED ASPHALT AND CONCRETE ENGINEERED CONTROL APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS
- PROPOSED CLEAN SOIL CAP ENGINEERED CONTROL APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS