



National Park Service's Krejci Dump Site Cuyahoga Valley National Park



Site Background

The Krejci Dump Site (Site) was a salvage yard and dump that operated from the mid-1940s to the late 1970s. In 1980, the site became a part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Park), though control was not transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) until 1985. Shortly after NPS took over control of the site, NPS determined that the site constituted a threat to human health and the environment and initiated Site response activities.

During the years of operation as a salvage yard and dump, solid and liquid waste materials were sorted, salvage, stored, disposed and/or burned at the Site. Contaminants identified at the Site included polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxin/furan, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, benzene, and numerous metals including cadmium, copper and lead.

The rigorous cleanup goals set for the Site's soil remediation were attained in the summer of 2012, and NPS has begun final revegetation actions. To achieve these goals, the excavation and removal of approximately 375,000 tons of contaminated soils and debris have been completed. Comprehensive post-excavation soil sampling has confirmed that established remediation goals across the 48 acre Site have been met.

The Department of the Interior's Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF) has provided NPS approximately \$14.9 million dollars from FY 1994 through FY 2013 to perform work at the Site. To ensure that those parties responsible for the contamination bore the costs of their waste disposal practices the federal government filed suit in 1997 pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) against companies that had arranged for disposal of wastes at the site.

The litigation was successful and, combined with subsequent negotiations, resulted in the recovery of approximately \$24 million from the responsible parties. This funding paid back the money provided by the CHF, along with additional funding expended by the NPS on the Site's cleanup. Not only was the litigation successful in recovering past costs, the responsible parties agreed to perform the remedial action, valued at \$30 million, and pay over \$2 million in natural resource damages. The remediation of the Krejci Dump Site has benefitted the Park by taking a contaminated inholding and transforming it into "recreational open space necessary for the urban environment," the purpose for the Park's existence. It has facilitated the enhancement of habitat, including the creation of three acres of wetland and wet meadow habitats.

NPS continues to monitor ground water and surface water, and focuses on ensuring that erosion and invasive plants are controlled until the revegetation performance standards are met. For more information about the site and cleanup status, please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/parknews/krejci.htm>

A short distance from the urban areas of Cleveland and Akron, the 33,000 acres of Cuyahoga Valley National Park seems worlds away. The park is a refuge for native plants and wildlife, and escape from the urban environment.

Accomplishments

- Excavation and removal of approximately 375,000 tons of contaminated soils and debris
- Achievement of rigorous soil remediation goals
- Recovery of approximately \$24 million from responsible parties, and cost avoidance of approximately \$30 million

The Department's Central Hazardous Materials Fund

The CHF is the Department's principal source of funds for the cleanup of the most highly contaminated sites located within national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other Department-managed lands.

For more information on the CHF, please visit: <http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepc/eclm/index.cfm>



Photo on the left is from the dump and salvage yard when it was transferred to NPS and the photo on the right is after completion of contaminant excavation and initial revegetation of the Site