

# **Closed Landfill Report**

Hamilton County, Ohio

April 2024

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**PUBLIC HEALTH**

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## **Disclaimer**

**This report is generated based on a review of records and reflects limited environmental data collection by Hamilton County Public Health. This report is only a summary. The closed landfill files, in their entirety, are available for review at the offices of Hamilton County Public Health.**

**This report is not intended to serve as a detailed environmental site assessment, and should not be used as such. Hamilton County Public Health encourages property owners, prospective buyers, or other interested parties to rely upon detailed site assessments performed by qualified professionals. Although this report is complete to the best of our knowledge, the absence of a site from this report is not conclusive evidence that it was never a dumpsite or landfill.**



*Healthy choices. Healthy lives. Healthy communities.*

## **Table of Contents**

1.0	Introduction.....	1
2.0	2023 Sampling Summary.....	2
3.0	Closed Landfills.....	3
3.1.1	Alexander Sand and Gravel	
3.1.2	Allgeier C&DD	
3.1.3	Amberley Village	
3.1.4	Anderson Township	
3.1.5	Arlington Heights	
3.1.6	Aston Oaks	
3.2.1	Bass Island	
3.2.2	Bernard C&DD	
3.2.3	Bevis Towing C&DD	
3.2.4	Blue Ash	
3.3.1	Caravella	
3.3.2	Carmical	
3.3.3	Cheviot	
3.3.4	Church Street	
3.3.5	Cincinnati Millicron	
3.3.6	Clarke	
3.3.7	Crosby Twp Civic Association	
3.4.1	Debolt	
3.5.1	East Miami River Rd	
3.5.2	Elmwood Place	
3.5.3	Evans	
3.5.4	Evendale	
3.6.1	Fernald	
3.7.1	Geiler C&DD	
3.7.2	Glendale	
3.7.3	Glenway Crossing	
3.7.4	Golf Manor	
3.7.5	Greenhills	
3.8.1	Hamilton County Parks	
3.8.2	Harrison Avenue	
3.8.3	Harrison C&DD	
3.8.4	Harrison	

- 3.12.1 Little Dry Run
- 3.12.2 Lockland Incinerator
- 3.12.3 Lockland Shepherd Lane
- 3.12.4 Loveland Harper
  
- 3.13.1 Mariemont
- 3.13.2 Miamitown
- 3.13.3 Miamiview Road Ash
  
- 3.14.1 New Baltimore
  
- 3.15.1 Old Burkhard Gravel Pit
- 3.15.2 Old Galbraith Road
- 3.15.3 Old Newtown
- 3.15.4 Onsite Disposal
  
- 3.16.1 Paul Willis
  
- 3.18.1 Reading Incinerator
  
- 3.19.1 Schweitzer
- 3.19.2 St Bernard
- 3.19.3 St Bernard – Oak Street
- 3.19.4 Steelman C&DD
  
- 3.20.1 Terrace Park
  
- 3.22.1 Valley Junction
  
- 3.23.1 Wayne C&DD
- 3.23.2 Wolfer C&DD
- 3.23.3 Wurzelbacher
- 3.23.4 Wyoming

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Closed Landfill Surface Water Chemical Data
- Appendix B – Sampling and Inspection Methods
- Appendix C – Sampling and Inspection Schedule

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In June of 1988 House Bill 592 (HB 592) was signed into law and dramatically revised Ohio's outdated solid waste regulatory program. Prior to this bill Ohio lacked comprehensive regulations covering disposal of solid waste. Since HB 592, handling and disposal of solid waste has become increasingly regulated and complex. Modern landfills are now constructed with engineered liners, leachate collection systems, elaborate gas control systems, a multilayer cap, and requirements to maintain and monitor the landfill after closure. All of these controls and regulations are designed to protect human health and the environment.

Rules effective in September of 1996 required licensing of Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) landfills. The new regulations covered siting criteria, design, construction, operation, and final closure of these facilities. The law also established licensing and regular inspection of C&DD Landfills which were exempt from the solid waste rules.

By contrast, most of the disposal sites in this report were operated under standard practices at the time which included disposal into gravel pits, ravines, hillsides, and sometimes burning of refuse. As a result, these older landfills present a much higher risk of contaminating ground and/or surface water or methane gas migration onto neighboring properties.

Fifty-Four documented closed landfills are located in Hamilton County. Many of these sites operated and were closed prior to HB 592 when rules were adopted by the Ohio EPA to bring solid waste landfills in line with current location, design, operating, closure, and post closure requirements. Several others operated as C&DD Landfills that closed prior to 1997. WM Staff continues to expand our evaluation of the status of the landfills by performing surface water monitoring, biological monitoring, and methane gas monitoring at and around targeted landfills.

This report was generated to document completion of portions of the service agreement between the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County on behalf of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District and the Hamilton County General Health District. Portions of the agreement include:

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

#### VII. Surface Water Testing

D. Surface water testing for closed landfills shall be conducted once every two years at applicable landfills. Testing shall include water sampling for toxic compounds and contamination and macroinvertebrate assays in potentially affected streams. All surface water testing shall be conducted using Ohio EPA regulations contained in Chapter 3745—1-03 of the Ohio Administrative code as a guideline.

#### IX. Closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Inspection Program

The Health District shall conduct an annual inspection of all identified closed landfills. Gas monitoring shall be conducted at applicable landfills. Surface water testing shall be conducted as outlined in Section VII above. The Health District shall submit an annual report summarizing the closed landfill inspection program.

## **2.0 2023 SAMPLING AND INSPECTION SUMMARY**

Surface water sampling, involving water quality and biological sampling, was conducted at five of the closed landfills. The landfills monitored included Lockland Incinerator, Lockland Shepherd, Old Newtown, Schweitzer, and Wyoming. The results of the water quality monitoring are provided in Appendix A. According to the limited sampling, water quality was generally within the range of natural waters and historical values for all parameters.

Biological sampling generally confirmed the water quality sampling results. Results of the biological sampling are presented in the summaries of each respective landfill. Samples were taken in the same locations as the water quality samples.

Waste Management personnel conducted gas monitoring at six targeted closed landfills. These included punch bar sampling at Debolt, Glendale, Lockland (Incinerator), Old Newtown, and Wyoming Closed Landfills. Waste Management Staff monitored the venting system and storm sewer system of Cheviot landfill quarterly throughout the year. Some of the other closed landfills are also monitored routinely by owners or their consultants. These include the Loveland Harper Avenue, Harrison, Anderson, and St Bernard landfills. Results of this year's monitoring indicate that some of the old landfills are still producing methane gas due to the anaerobic decomposition of the wastes present in those landfills. The data is presented in the summaries of each respective landfill.

Waste Management staff also conduct periodic visual inspections of closed landfills. 30 landfills were visually inspected during 2023. See individual landfill summaries for results of visual inspections.