

3.20.1 Terrace Park Landfill

Facility Name: Terrace Park Landfill

A.K.A.: Bird Sanctuary

Location: 428 Elm Avenue
Terrace Park, OH 45174

Parcel(s): 52100010196

Lat, Long: 39.160367 -84.310869

Region: Terrace Park

Owner: Village of Terrace Park

Operation (yrs): Unknown – mid 1970's



Facility Overview

Hamilton County Public Health records for this landfill are limited. Therefore, the exact location of disposal is unknown. Activity at the site is evident in aerials dating back to the 1930's; however, the first documented mention is found in a May 1969 news article. The article refers to the site as "the bird sanctuary" and discusses possibly developing it as a recreation center. Aerials from 1960 and 1970 (Figure 3.20.1-A) show that filling is occurring in various areas of the property.

In April 1972 the village council proposed an ordinance to govern individual dumping at the landfill. The ordinance allows residents to dispose of "trash, limbs, stumps, glass, rubber, wood, and stone or concrete" with

a permit obtainable from the police. The ordinance prohibited “edible, highly toxic or dangerous material or highly flammable material, odorous material or poisons”. The ordinance was not passed and eventually a new policy was enacted in 1973 due to the landfill getting full. It is clear at this point that regular garbage pickup for the village is completed by an outside contractor and not disposed of at the landfill. It is not clear when this began or if this was always the case. The new policy allowed decomposable items (grass, brush) to be dumped for free while fees were charged for non-decomposable items (metal, glass, plastic appliances). The location of the former landfill is described in a 1974 newspaper article as “bordered by the Penn Central Railroad, Elm Avenue and Douglass Avenue”.

FIGURE 3.20.1-A



By 1975 the landfill was no longer accepting waste materials. Hamilton County Board of Health inspected the site on December 12, 1975, in response to a complaint forwarded from the Ohio EPA. The letter indicates that the inspector “found many items dumped there contrary to Ohio’s Solid Waste Law.” The letter further explains “When Ohio adopted a Solid Waste Law you were operating a noncomplying landfill and after one year decided the cost of complying with the sections of the law and regulations would be excessive, so the operation was closed.” The letter indicates that the village shall cover the landfill and clean up the area as well as restrict the area to leaves, wood chips, and other exempt items.

The village operated a Class IV Compost facility at the site from 1993 to 2014. Leaves and other yard waste were collected from village residents and brought to the site. Finished compost was available for residents and village staff use.

SITE INSPECTIONS

The site was inspected by HCPH on January 3, 2024. No violations or nuisance conditions were observed on the site.

SITE PRESENT DAY

The village maintains a garage on the property for equipment storage. The village also operates a yard waste transfer station on the property. Additionally, brush and logs are temporarily stored at the site and clean hard fill is occasionally placed on the property as well.