



Ross Park Playfields Environmental Investigation Update

August 19, 2010



This status report is being issued on behalf of the Office of Mayor William (Bill) C. Burkhardt and the St. Bernard City Council regarding environmental sampling recently completed at the Ross Park Playfields. This environmental investigation program is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. EPA.

On August 2, 2010, a small area of “tar-like” material was reported seeping from the surface of a Playfield baseball diamond. The report was issued by Park maintenance personnel under the recently initiated environmental monitoring program. The City immediately contacted an environmental engineering firm to conduct an assessment of the area including sampling and removal. Sampling and removal of the seep area was completed on August 3rd. Final laboratory data was reported on August 18th. Repair of the area consisted of excavation to a depth of approximately 12 inches followed by backfill with clean soil.

The results of laboratory analyses indicate the seep material is consistent with asphalt-related products. A variety of petroleum derivatives were detected, however only one Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) was reported (Phenanthrene). It is important to note that PAHs include a wide variety of more than 100 compounds which are quite different in terms of their potential health impacts. Phenanthrene, although member of the PAH family, is distinctly different from the more significant PAH compounds such as Benzo (a) pyrene which is routinely identified as the most harmful of the PAH group.

All compounds detected in the seep were found in concentrations less than limits published by the Ohio EPA for unrestricted direct contact with soil. Commonly referred to as the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) Generic Numeric Standards, these limits establish maximum concentrations of compounds in soil deemed acceptable for a residential or recreational setting.

The City appreciates the ongoing support and cooperation of residents using the Ross Park Playfield facility and assures all residents that we will continue to address these issues in a safe, cost effective and environmentally sound manner.

Thank You