



## **Sedgwick Park Environmental Remediation and Park Improvements - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why is remediation work being done at Sedgwick Park?**

Environmental testing conducted after the referendum was approved for the Sedgwick Park renovation identified contamination in a portion of the northeast area of the park. To address this properly and ensure the park meets current environmental standards, the Park District enrolled in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Site Remediation Program.

### **Is the park safe?**

Yes. The park has remained safe for normal recreational use. The remediation work is being completed to ensure the site meets current environmental standards and long-term regulatory requirements.

### **What is the Illinois EPA Site Remediation Program?**

The IEPA Site Remediation Program (SRP) is a voluntary program that allows property owners to investigate and remediate environmental contamination under IEPA oversight. The program ensures that sites are addressed according to state environmental standards.

### **What does a “No Further Remediation” letter mean?**

A No Further Remediation (NFR) letter is issued by the IEPA after remediation work is completed and the site meets the applicable environmental standards. The letter confirms that the required remediation has been completed and that no additional cleanup is necessary under the approved conditions.

### **What environmental standards will the remediation meet?**

The remediation at Sedgwick Park will meet residential exposure standards, which are among the most stringent environmental cleanup standards.

Residential standards are designed for the most sensitive land uses, including homes, parks, and areas where children may play. By remediating the site to residential standards, the Park District is ensuring the highest level of protection for public use.



### **What remediation work will occur?**

The remediation will involve excavating soils, relocating soils where required, and installing a protective cap over the affected area. This process ensures that the contaminated soil is properly managed and the site meets IEPA requirements.

### **Why are trees being removed?**

The original Sedgwick Park plans did not intend to remove a large number of trees. The initial design only included removing a small number of trees that were in poor condition.

However, after contamination was identified and the Park District enrolled in the IEPA Site Remediation Program, the plans had to be adjusted to comply with remediation requirements. The contamination also required the layout to be modified, which resulted in additional tree removals beyond what was originally anticipated.

Trees located within the remediation zone cannot be preserved because their root systems would be affected by the required work. Soil would also be placed several feet above the existing grade, which would prevent trees from surviving.

### **Will the trees be replaced?**

Yes. Trees removed during construction will be replaced as part of the park restoration plan. The Park District will plant approximately 1.5 trees for every tree removed to help restore and enhance the park's tree canopy.

The current landscape plan includes 108 new trees, consisting of:

- 12 shade trees at 5-inch caliper
- 29 shade trees at 4-inch caliper
- 47 shade trees at 3-inch caliper
- 5 shade trees at 2.5-inch caliper (species not available in larger sizes)
- 6 ornamental trees at 3-inch caliper
- 9 ornamental trees at approximately 8 feet in height

Several of the replacement trees will be larger caliper trees (4–5 inches) that are approximately 15–25 feet tall at the time of planting, which will help the canopy recover more quickly. A variety of tree species will also be planted to support the long-term health and resilience of the park's urban forest.

### **Does the Park District have an Urban Forestry Management Plan?**

Yes. The Park District follows an [Urban Forestry Management Plan](#) that guides how trees are planted, maintained, and replaced across the park system. The plan focuses on maintaining a healthy and resilient tree canopy by increasing species diversity, replacing aging or declining trees, and planting the right tree species in appropriate locations.

The Park District's commitment to responsible tree management is also reflected in its participation in the [ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program](#), an internationally recognized program that supports professional standards for tree collections and urban forestry practices. This designation recognizes the Park District's efforts to manage and care for trees using best practices.

The new tree plantings at Sedgwick Park are consistent with this plan and are designed to strengthen the long-term health of the park's urban forest while restoring canopy lost during construction.

### **How is stormwater being managed as part of the project?**

Stormwater management for the project has been designed to comply with the requirements of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and the Village of La Grange. The plans have been prepared in accordance with these standards and have been submitted as part of the permitting process. Final approval will be provided by the permitting agencies following their review.

### **Will drainage patterns change?**

The remediation work is not expected to significantly change drainage patterns in the surrounding neighborhood. While the grade in certain areas of the park will be increased as part of the remediation, the overall drainage patterns are expected to remain consistent with existing conditions.

### **Is stormwater runoff from the site safe?**

Yes. Based on the investigation completed at the site, there is no evidence that contaminants are migrating through surface water or runoff. Historical records indicate that the contaminated material identified in the northeast portion of the park was brought to the site and covered with a soil cap around the early 1950s. Since that time, the park has been regularly used, maintained, redeveloped, and exposed to rain and other weather conditions. Despite these factors, sampling shows that the contaminants have remained in the same general area and at the same depths where they were originally deposited.

Soil samples collected from the surface soil cap within the remediation area did not show elevated levels of contaminants, which indicates that contaminants are not migrating upward to the surface. In addition, soil samples were collected throughout the park to evaluate whether contaminants had spread beyond the remediation area. Those samples showed that contaminants were not present outside of the established remediation area.

Groundwater monitoring wells were also installed to bedrock to determine whether contaminants were present in shallow groundwater. All of the wells remained dry, and published information shows the groundwater table is more than 70 feet below the ground surface due to the neighboring quarry.

Given the absence of contaminants in the surface soil cap, the lack of contaminants in soils outside the remediation area, and the absence of shallow groundwater at the site and surrounding properties, there is no evidence of contaminant migration through soil, surface water, or groundwater at this site.

### **How long will Sedgwick Project take?**

Remediation will occur as part of the overall Sedgwick Park construction project. The timeline may vary depending on weather and construction conditions but is anticipated to begin approximately April 2026 and be completed by late fall 2026.

### **What will the park look like after the project is complete?**

Once remediation is complete, the park will be restored with new landscaping, trees, and park improvements as part of the Sedgwick Park renovation project. Visit our website [HERE](#).

### **Where can residents get updates?**

Updates will be posted on the Park District website as the project progresses. ([Click here to access page](#)) Residents are also welcome to contact the Park District with questions.