



MEMO

Date: May 20, 2015
To: City Council
From: Jesse Bridges, Director, Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront (BPRW)
Peter Owens, Director, Community Economic Development Office (CEDO)
Chapin Spencer, Director, Department of Public Works (DPW)
Re: City Project Soils

This memorandum responds to City Councilor questions concerning soils excavated during construction of city projects and stockpiled at sites around the City, including Leddy Park. The soils that are currently stockpiled have come from Waterfront Access North (WAN), Waterfront Park (Burlington Bike Path Rehabilitation), the Maple-King Street area (Burlington Bike Path), and Perkins Pier (sea wall repairs). The stockpiles at Leddy Park are from the Burlington Bike Path Rehabilitation project.

The soils stockpiled are either excess to individual project needs, or are waiting to be reused within the project, or their structural characteristics were not appropriate for use in the current phases of the various projects. At present, City staff are evaluating future uses and/or disposal methods for the soils.

The areas from which most of the soils were removed have previously been identified as sites that are regulated by Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Sites Management Section (SMS). The SMS regulates sites that have a known history of contamination, which includes many locations along Burlington's waterfront due to the area's industrial history. Thus, City projects that involve soil excavation in those locations are subject to the review and management of the (DEC) and environmental engineers under contract with the City. The soils from the WAN project are subject to an approved Corrective Action Plan (CAP), and all of the stockpiles are subject to Soil Management Plans coordinated with the SMS.

All Soil Management Plans contain measures to stockpile the soils in a manner that avoids risk to human health and the environment. In general, these soils are sampled, analyzed at a certified laboratory, posted, and monitored in accordance with the applicable Soil Management Plan and as-directed by the SMS. To date, the soil tests conducted on these stockpiles indicate that the soils contain contaminants that are commonly found in urban fill, but the tests also have indicated that none of the stockpiles contain hazardous waste. The City is working closely with DEC to find suitable, safe, responsible, and cost-effective options for the future disposition of these soils.