



Athlone Park Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is happening in Athlone Park?

- A. As part of the City's commitment to environmental management, soil testing is routinely conducted. During testing in Athlone Park, levels of contaminants exceeding human health guidelines were identified.

Q. What type of contaminants were found?

- A. Contamination includes lead, copper, arsenic and other metals.

Q. Where did the contamination come from?

- A. Prior to the 1950s, Athlone Park used to be a landfill and debris remains in the area. Landfill debris often contains contaminants. Since the landfill closed so long ago, it's hard to say exactly where it was located. Archival records and air photos were used to estimate the boundaries.

Q. What is the risk to nearby residents or people who use Athlone Park?

- A. The risk is low for a number of reasons:
- The debris and contamination are beneath the grass and other ground coverings. This means contact with contaminated soil through everyday use (ex. playing sports, walking through the park, playing with pets) is unlikely.
 - The contamination varies across the site - not every sample exceeds environmental guidelines. Soil structure is complex. It changes from one area to another, even within distances as close as a few centimetres apart, and different concentrations of contaminants can vary from one location to another. For example, if you compared two samples collected right beside each other, one could have no contaminants, while the other could have concentrations above guidelines.

Q. How do I find out if the soil on my property is contaminated?

- A. The City plans to conduct further investigative work across the suspected landfill footprint not yet assessed to form a more comprehensive picture of the locations and depth of possible contamination. This will include reaching out to the potentially affected property owners to discuss possible testing on their property. You can contact csmp@edmonton.ca or call 780-496-6770 if you have more questions.

Q. What is the City doing about the contaminated soil?

- A. The City plans to take remedial actions on the community league site and in Athlone Park in 2026. Surface soil will be removed and a brightly coloured landscape fabric will be placed on top of the debris that remains. The brightly coloured fabric alerts anyone doing future construction that contaminated soil is below. A minimum of 30 cm of clean soil will be placed on top of the landscape fabric. This will prevent accidental exposure to the debris and associated contaminated soil. The community league area will be restored to match current conditions and the park area will be developed as soccer fields, as per current development plans for the park.