

Bozeman Old City Landfill Site Summary

Written by Rick Woodfork, GLWQD Water Quality Intern – 2015-16

The Old Bozeman City Landfill, located north of Griffin Drive in Bozeman, was a 30-acre municipal landfill which operated from 1962 to 1970. In 1983, the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (now MTDEQ or Montana Department of Environmental Quality) determined that the contamination potential from landfill leachate warranted a site investigation. During the investigation, consultants from the EPA sampled soils, sediments, surface water from Glen Lake and the East Gallatin River, and groundwater from nearby domestic wells. No contamination was detected with the exception of some surface water and sediment samples containing very low levels of a few organic and inorganic compounds, so the EPA declared the area “No Further Action” under CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act of 1980).

From 1988-89, the Gallatin Conservation District applied for and received a grant to do the following: cover, contour and revegetate the old landfill to reduce dust, infiltration, and direct contact hazard; stabilize the East Gallatin river banks to reduce erosion in the landfill vicinity; conduct weed control, and perform water quality monitoring of groundwater and the lake. In 1991 contractors for the District completed this work.

Also during this time period from 1988-89, MDHES conducted annual sampling of the lake and groundwater via a network of monitoring wells installed around the old landfill. The majority of the organic compounds found in 1983 were not detected in these more recent samples. Occasionally very low levels of a few organic compounds were found in some of the wells. This is not unusual due to the urban setting and nearby industrial areas along Rouse and Griffin Drives. No exceedances of primary drinking water standards were found.

As a result of this monitoring, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality CERCLA program ranked the site as a low priority and as of December 2015 it is still listed on their website. Although continued lake and groundwater sampling would help to ensure public health and safety, CERCLA plans no other actions.

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Access

Manley Rd.

East Gallatin Recreation Area

Old Landfill Area

Glen Lake

Author: Rick Woodfork, Gallatin Local Water Quality District
Sources: Sunrise Rotary Improvement Project
Environmental Assessment Draft (2007) and
Montana State Library (Color NAIP Image 2013)
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