

**To:** ANC4A, SMD4A03

**From:** The Department of General Services (DGS)

**Date:** March 30, 2023

**Subject:** Fort Stevens Recreation Center: Environmental Safety Testing Result Notification

ANC 4A Commissioners:

The Department of General Services (DGS) takes our commitment to maintaining the health and safety of our residents seriously. One of our responsibilities is executing the Public Facilities Environmental Safety Amendment Act of 2020, which requires DGS to conduct proactive, routine lead testing of public recreation space with synthetic surfaces, including playgrounds. We write to you today about lead test results and related remediation at a playground in your Single Member District.

During routine testing at Fort Stevens Recreation Center, the playground area was found to have actionable lead test results on the Poured In Place (PIP) rubber-based material. As the Amendment Act requires, the site was closed at the end of the day on March 27, which was within 24 hours of receipt of the sample analysis. Remediation was conducted the same evening. Post-remediation retest results of the playground space were received the next day on March 28, showing lead levels below the 10-microgram per square foot threshold, and the playground was open for use on March 29.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Where did the lead come from?** The actionable test result came from the wipe sample, which tests for lead in settled dust on a PIP surface. The presence of lead found through a wipe sample test often indicates that the source of the lead is from the surrounding environment. For example, when it rains, a wide range of external chemicals may settle on the playground surface, including from cars, lead-based paint, nearby construction, and other sources.

**How did you test for lead at the playground?** On-site evaluations included the following:

- XRF samples: Lead screening with X-Ray Fluorescence on site
- Bulk samples: Lead screening by washing bulk rubber samples from the playgrounds, separating the rinsate (i.e., bulk wash water) from the cleaned bulk playground material to evaluate the playground material separately from external chemicals.
- Wipe samples: Lead screening to identify lead settled on the PIP surface. Only the wipe sample showed levels above the allowable threshold.

**How was it fixed?** DGS and its vendor pressure washed and HEPA vacuumed the playground surface using a Trisodium Phosphate (TSP) solution. Once the playground dried, it was retested and produced satisfactory test results below the allowable threshold of 10 micrograms per square foot.

**What are the next steps?** In accordance with the Public Facilities Environmental Safety Amendment Act of 2020, DGS will share environmental safety testing results with the community, including details about the environmental risks found, testing results and threshold levels for each risk, and remediation actions conducted at Fort Stevens Recreation Center. We will reach out to share specifics including the date, time, and location.

We appreciate your time and understanding of the work that we are doing to maintain the health and safety of those who use the playground at Fort Stevens Recreation Center. If you have questions, please contact Mike McLaughlin, DGS External Affairs at [Michael.mclaughlin@dc.gov](mailto:Michael.mclaughlin@dc.gov).