SPAR Programs

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Riverbend/Dimond Properties

Summary Date: September 2008

Status: Active

Location: Riverside Drive, Juneau, AK

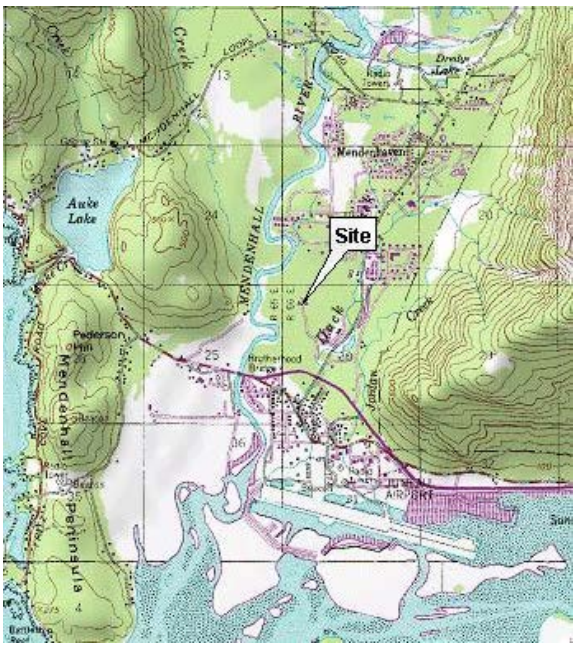
View detailed information from database on this site.

Database Name: Riverbend/Dimond Properties

Latitude/Longitude: See database entry

DEC Contaminated Sites Contact: William Janes, Project Manager – 907-465-5208

Description



The site was used by Red Samm Construction, a gravel mining, construction and asphalt production business that operated in Juneau during the 1970s and 1980s. Residential and light commercial development is predominant in the general vicinity at this time.

In 1985, the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) purchased the property and began developing the area as a recreational complex. In addition to these facilities, the Riverbend Elementary School was later constructed and a new high school is planned in the future.

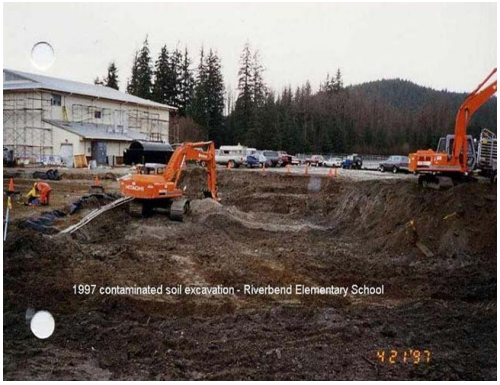
Public Health and Environmental Concerns

Construction debris, automobile parts and potentially hazardous substances were allegedly buried at the site. Detected contamination has primarily been petroleum hydrocarbons. Petroleum chemicals have been detected in a groundwater well at one area of the property as well (monitoring well 11).

Current Status

Extensive cleanup of petroleum-contaminated soil was conducted in 1997 in conjunction with the construction of Riverbend Elementary School. Although sampling between 1999 and 2002 indicate low levels of petroleum may still be present in groundwater, there are no drinking water wells in the vicinity. The nearby Mendenhall River does not appear to be impacted.

Additional groundwater sampling conducted in 2003 and 2004. Buried woodwaste in the area may be responsible for the apparent petroleum contamination. This is termed "biogenic interference" and is very common in highly organic soils. DEC approved conditional closure for this site in 2003. Details of closure can be found in the "Institutional Controls Report" within the database entry (see link above).



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