

Fresh Kills

From Landfill to Parkland

Closing the Fresh Kills Landfill

Spring 2008



The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) is principally charged with the design, construction, post-closure care and in coordination with the Department of Parks and Recreation for end use development of the 2,200 acre Fresh Kills Landfill. In FY 2007, closure design and construction advanced at the landfill's two largest areas, Sections 1/9 and 6/7. Post-closure operations continued at Sections 2/8 and 3/4; closure construction for these two sections was completed in 1998. End use development for Fresh Kills Park moved ahead with the issuance of an Environmental Assessment Statement for the proposed park and the initiation of contracts for environmental review and design by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DSNY projected closure and post-closure care costs of the Fresh Kills Landfill at more than \$ 1.8 billion, with over \$ 420,000,000 of work already completed.

CLOSURE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Section 6/7



At the end of FY 2006, a construction contract was awarded to complete the closure construction of Section 6/7. The scope of work encompasses the furnishing and placement of final cover, the installation of drainage structures to control erosion and stormwater run-off, and modifications to the landfill gas collections system.

During this first year of the contract, the contractor developed working drawings for completion of the work in four construction phases. Each phase will be constructed sequentially over the calendar years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. In Fiscal Year 2007, the contractor completed approximately 55 percent of the estimated \$ 55,000,000 of construction work projected for the first phase.

Section 1/9

Construction at Section 1/9 has focused on preparing the site for final cover construction with work consisting of contouring and grading. More than 600,000 cubic yards of fill material was placed for this work. The sources for the material were the Inter-Agency Cover Soil Program and Processed Dredged Material (PDM).

Grading and contouring work in Section 1/9 continued to be restricted as a result of on-going litigation commenced on August 15, 2005 against the City of New York in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by the WTC Families for Proper Burial.

POST-CLOSURE CARE

Federal and State regulations stipulate strict standards to ensure that landfills are monitored and maintained for a minimum 30-year post-closure period upon cessation of waste disposal operations and closure construction. Post-closure care consists of the regular inspection, monitoring, operation, maintenance and reporting of the environmental control systems at the landfill. These include leachate controls, landfill gas controls, final cover, storm water controls, as well as groundwater, surface water and landfill gas monitoring.

In FY 2007, DSNY assumed full responsibility for the landfill gas control and purification system. Under a contract for the operation and maintenance of this system, DSNY collected and processed approximated 1,400,000 mm BTU's from the landfill gas. Gross revenues from the sale of the gas exceeded \$ 10,000,000; operation and maintenance costs were approximately \$ 4,700,000.00





END USE DEVELOPMENT

In FY 2007, the Department continued to coordinate the Fresh Kills' closure designs and post-closure care mandates with the End Use Master

Plan for the landfill to transform **most of** the 2,200-acre site to public parkland, an asset to Staten Island and the New York metropolitan area, **for a net increase in mapped parkland of approximately 1433 acres, while providing public access to other parkland that has lacked such access.** Building on the existing expanse of tidal marshes and creeks and other natural resources of the area, the plan interconnects the site with more than 40 miles of trails and pathways and a host of new recreational, cultural and educational activities. The Draft Master Plan outlines many varied uses for the park: open natural areas; picnic grounds and viewing platforms; sports facilities and playing fields; scenic trails for hiking and biking; waterfront activities; restaurants and other commercial venues. A proposed roadway system will traverse the park, providing access for users and visitors and relieving traffic congestion on Staten Island. **Presented here are certain renderings of the proposed park.**

Working with an inter-agency team that includes the Departments of Parks and Recreation (DPR), City Planning and Cultural Affairs, DSNY coordinated and provided information, analyzed data and reviewed designs for the environmental review process for Fresh Kills Park. DPR is the lead agency for preparing the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the park. **A Draft GEIS was completed and released for public comment on May 16, 2008 and is available at www.nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/fresh_kills_park/html/downloads.html.**

Among DSNY's roles in the conversion of Fresh Kills into a park is to ensure the integrity of the landfill's environmental control and monitoring systems. In FY 2007, language affirming this crucial role was incorporated into the Memorandum of Understanding that transferred land from DSNY to DPR for the development of the Owl Hollow soccer fields.



The agency assisted DPR in the organization of tours of Fresh Kills to introduce the site to the public. The tours are being conducted, free of charge, by the Parks Department Greenbelt Educators and New York City Urban Park Rangers. Participants travel through the landfill, learning about the history of the

site and the natural, technical and political processes of transforming it into a public park.