




General Services
Department

General Services Department
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Member Laticia Johnson

FROM:  Crystal Perkins, Director, General Services Department
City of Detroit

DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: AB Ford Park Questions

Please see response below to the request for information regarding AB Ford Park:

- 1. What is the planned process to remediate the contaminated soil, i.e. will any soil be removed?**
 - The plan does not require any soil to be removed from the site. The plan is to keep all soil on site and cap it. In some areas of the site, we will have the soil excavated, specifically around the perimeter of the park. The excavated soil will remain on site and will be used to even out the grade of the park by filling in some existing low spots. Then we will add the cap to ensure the proper barrier is met followed by the two (2) feet clean soil to the entire site.
- 2. If no soil is being removed, how can we ensure the added soil doesn't create topographical challenges where the soil may run into catch basins clogging them creating greater flooding issues?**
 - Our plan will require soil to be removed from certain areas of the park (i.e. perimeter) and redistributed to other areas of the park in an effort to grade low areas. We do not have any plans to remove soil from the site. The engineers have developed plans that will avoid having a negative impact on the park and neighborhood. For example, we will remove two (2) feet of soil along the northern edge of the park and replace with 2 feet of clean soil. The depth will go 20 feet into the into the park and about 1000 feet along the property line. We will ensure we have positive drainage coming to the city's draining system that is already in place. In addition, we will improve and clean up the drainage system.
- 3. Has GSD considered having soil brought in on a barge? Please provide the cost differential to do so.**
 - We did consider alternative ways to transport the soil to this area, including on a barge. Unfortunately, the shipping channel in the Detroit River is more central on the river and jogs towards the south side of Belle Isle, so the riverbed near the park is too shallow. It would likely require dredging the river along the seawall, which would require additional resources towards engineering and an U.S. Army Corps/EGLE permit and approval in order to do so. We do not have the cost differential numbers to do so; the engineers



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informed us that this consideration would be astronomically higher in cost and advised against this option.

4. Has GSD considered utilizing the wood from the removed trees as firewood or mulch for the community?

a. What is the likelihood that the wood is contaminated?

- We have been advised by the experts in this field of study to treat all material removed from the soil as hazardous and dispose accordingly. To understand the extent of the contamination of the tree wood more testing would need to be done. In addition, most of the trees in this park are cotton wood trees described as weak wooded trees. Meaning there isn't much use of the wood once the tree is no longer healthy.

Should you have additional questions, comments, and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Cc: Honorable City Council
Malik Washington, Government Affairs Assistant