

THERE'S MORE TO **LOVE** AT TINLEY PARK - PARK DISTRICT



FAQ: Water Management on Former Tinley Park Mental Health Center Site

Why is the water accumulating on site?

Prior to the Tinley Park-Park District (TPPD) taking ownership of the property, the site was owned by the State of Illinois and was the location of the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (TPMHC). In 2012, TPMHC was closed and responsibility for site maintenance was taken on by the Illinois Central Management Services (CMS). The site has been in a state of disrepair, and the TPPD began working in earnest to clean up the site as soon as it took ownership in February 2024.

CMS turned off the site's electricity in October 2023, before the property was acquired by the TPPD, which resulted in the shutdown of pumps that were used to control stormwater. Since that time, the pump that previously discharged stormwater from the area that is currently flooded to the ditch along 183rd Street has not been operational. As a result, a roughly 2-acre low lying portion of the southeast side of the site became flooded due to heavy rains.

How will you get the water off site and discharge it safely?

A pump will be set up on site to pump the accumulated stormwater. The stormwater will first be pumped through a sediment filtration bag. This bag will capture material like silt, sand, gravel and plant material that can cloud the water. The filtered stormwater will then be discharged to a vegetated area to reduce the turbidity of the water, which can then be discharged to the stormwater ditches along 183rd Street and Harlem Avenue, which run parallel to the site.

Is the water just stormwater?

Yes. However, because the site houses abandoned buildings and structures where asbestos and oil and grease may be present, samples of the water were analyzed for asbestos, oil and grease and other hazardous compounds. The results of the June 18,

2024, sampling revealed no presence of hazardous compounds, asbestos or oil and grease. In addition to the testing, the TPPD through its expert Tetra Tech has developed another layer of proactive management practices if oil and grease and asbestos fibers are detected as being present in the water.

What steps will you take to try to keep the asbestos material and petroleum products located on site from being discharged with the stormwater?

Sampling conducted on the accumulated stormwater showed no asbestos or petroleum compounds in the water sample. Steps will be taken to safely filter the water before discharge, including the use of filters and daily observation of discharge water and the area around the pump intake. If evidence of asbestos debris or petroleum sheen is noted, then steps will be taken to prevent the discharge of these materials; this can include relocating the pump intake, protecting the intake, placing containment booms, providing additional filtration media, reducing flow, or testing of the effluent for asbestos or petroleum compounds. The spent filter media will be managed in accordance with all federal, state, and local regulations. If these preventive measures are not working as planned, then pumping will be stopped until additional protective measures can be taken. For example, if petroleum sheen is observed in the sediment filter bag discharge, the stormwater pump will be stopped and additional measures such use of filter dikes or additional

filtration media can be implemented to filter the potential contamination. Similarly, if there is evidence of asbestos in the discharge or in samples obtained of discharge, then the pumping will cease until appropriate protective measures can be taken to modify the filtration procedure and address this concern.

Is an Illinois EPA permit required before the discharge of the stormwater can begin?

TPPD has elected to seek coverage under Illinois EPA's general stormwater permitting by submitting a Notice of Intent to be covered by the Illinois EPA's general permit ILR10 for construction site activities. Included with the Notice of Intent is [TPPD's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan](#).