



East Trenton Parks

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is addressing lead contamination at three public parks in the East Trenton neighborhood. In January 2024, the EPA coordinated with the City of Trenton to collect and analyze soil samples at the Sony Vereen Playground, Breunig Avenue Park, and Grant Avenue Playground. The EPA found elevated levels of lead in the soil at all three of the parks.

The EPA is now working with the city to develop a plan that would protect community members from lead contamination. Some areas of the parks will be closed, and others will remain open as EPA works to cover areas of soil and grass that are contaminated to prevent people from being exposed to lead in each park. Until the EPA has completed its work, park visitors should pay attention to signage and fenced off areas where EPA work is ongoing to avoid being exposed to lead in the soil at the parks.

Because some exposure is always possible, people visiting parks should take the simple steps below.

Protecting Yourself From Lead

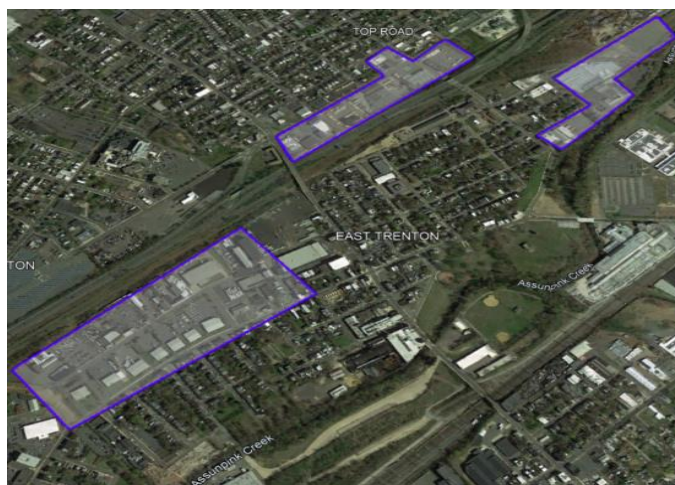
We advise all park visitors to follow these steps to limit potential exposure to contaminated soil until the protective measures are completed:

- Avoid digging or disturbing the soil.
- Wash hands thoroughly after visiting the parks, especially before eating.
- Remove shoes before entering homes and buildings to avoid tracking in contaminated soil.
- Supervise children closely and prevent them from putting dirt in their mouth.

East Trenton Lead Investigation

In 2020, the EPA began investigating the pottery industry as a potential source of lead contamination in the soil in East Trenton. The EPA continued sampling residential properties, public schools, and parks in the East Trenton neighborhood in 2023 and 2024. So far, the EPA has sampled over 130 residential properties in East Trenton and discovered many with elevated concentrations of lead in the soil. Over the next several months, the EPA will be installing protective measures at impacted residential properties to reduce lead exposure to vulnerable populations such as young children and pregnant women.

The EPA will continue to offer free soil testing to residential property owners inside the East Trenton Study Area in the Spring and Summer of 2024.



Areas where historic potteries operated around East Trenton.



Lead is a natural metal that can be found in air, water, and soil. When lead is released into the air, it may be transported long distances before it lands and stays on the ground. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body, particularly the nervous system. For more information about lead, visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags/tfacts13.pdf

Residential Property Soil Testing

The EPA is also testing soil at residential properties in East Trenton for **free**.

If you would like the EPA to test the soil at your own property for free, please call Jonathan Byk at (347) 899-6210.

Local Lead Resources in Trenton

Blood Testing

Children under the age of 7 are most vulnerable to the impacts of lead. The Henry J. Austin Health Center offers healthcare including blood lead level testing for children in Trenton. For more information on their services, please contact the Henry J. Austin Health Center directly.

Henry J. Austin Health Center

321 N. Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

<https://henryjalexton.org/>

Phone: (609) 278-5900

Email: info@henryjalexton.org

City of Trenton Health Department

218 North Broad Street

Trenton, NJ 08608

Phone: (609) 989-3242

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response.epa.gov/Historic_Potteries

The National Lead Information Center provides information about lead, lead hazards, and their prevention. You can call and speak with a specialist Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time (except federal holidays) at 1 (800) 424-LEAD [5323].

For more information about getting your child tested for lead in NJ, visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml>

For general information or questions about EPA's Superfund program, please contact [Jim Haklar](mailto:Jim.Haklar@epa.gov) of EPA's Regional Public Liaison Office, at Haklar.james@epa.gov, or (732) 906-6817 or toll free at (888) 283-7626.