

Councillor Request Inquiry

#29-2019

2019

Please provide information on the history of the Ardrossan dump site north of township 530 including current usage of the site.

Please note, this response has been compiled with input from Land Management Services, Environmental Planning, Utilities, and Transportation and Agriculture Services.

Legal: SE 5-53-21-4 (21436 Township Road 530)

Size: 158 acres

Current Zoning: PU (Public Utilities)

MDP: Beaver Hills Policy Area

This property is owned by Strathcona County (acquired in 1950 via tax recovery). It is currently being used for The Ardrossan Decommissioned Landfill which consists of approximately 50 acres. The landfill was in operation from the early 1960s until June 1991. The landfill was initially developed as a “nuisance ground” but, was enlarged in 1977 with the addition of excavated cells. The site was upgraded to meet sanitary landfill guidelines in 1978, and oil and liquid wastes were no longer accepted. A drainage ditch was constructed along the west border of the site to prevent the seepage of leachate onto the adjoining property. Site activities also included a compost site.

A monitoring program started in 1978 by Alberta Environment and continued until 1990. Stantec monitored the site from 2000 until 2015. WSP has monitored the site since 2016. Monitoring is captured under the Environmental Management Program, focussed on determining potential impacts to the groundwater from the historical landfill activities. An environmental site assessment (ESA) consisting of a geophysical survey, installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells, geodetic survey of monitoring wells and groundwater monitoring has also been conducted. The landfill cover has been assessed and improved. The groundwater monitoring network continues to be monitored and upgraded with various wells coming offline and online as well as adjusting testing parameters over the years. The groundwater is tested annually for routine water quality, dissolved metals and dissolved hydrocarbons in select locations across the historical use area.

This site is now used to temporarily store non-hazardous material resulting from various Strathcona County departments’ projects including:

- clean dirt fill
- clean hydro-vac debris from various emergent and scheduled water and storm system repairs
- rock and organic material such as straw
- drainage material & culverts
- concrete and asphalt
- temporary storage of air induction units

The north entrance, which was formerly the entrance to the septic hauler dump, is currently being used for the deposit of excavation material from various digs sites, primarily clean fill and clay etc.

Improvements have recently been made to the entrance gate and fencing; access of the use of this site is now controlled and the site conditions are regularly monitored. Use of this facility is not available to the general public.

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