

Rhodia Site Cleanup

Frequently Asked Questions

Work will begin soon on cleanup of the former Rhodia chemical plant site between 7th, 11th and Hill Streets. This is the next step as community members lead a transformation that will return the property to a vibrant place at the heart of the neighborhood. The entire team is committed to keeping community at the front, involved and informed, so here are some answers to questions you may have.

What's happening?

In the next few weeks, you'll see construction trailers, fencing, and air monitoring stations go up on the 17-acre brownfield site. About a week later, crews will start removing dirt, concrete, and any buried equipment – down to about 10 feet below ground level. Everything will be hauled off site, mostly to the landfill on Outer Loop.

Why is this necessary?

Rhodia and other companies manufactured or used chemicals on the property for almost 80 years up until the mid-1990s, and tests show that some of those chemicals are still affecting the site. While the contamination is fairly low compared to similar sites, the property is an environmental injustice and needs to be cleaned up in order for it to benefit the community.

How do I know the cleanup will work?

Soil, water and air will be tested before, during and after the process, which is fully approved by the state. Contingency plans are in place to make sure contaminants are removed, even if crews find something they aren't expecting. The site will be filled with certified "clean" material from a local quarry. Once the cleanup is finished, the property will be restored for use as a live, work and play destination.

When will the work go on?

Crews will work Monday through Friday, generally from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. There's no work planned for weekends, but there might be some occasionally. The site should be cleaned up and filled back in within 4 to 5 months.

Will it be noisy?

There will be some noise when work is going on. The contractors understand that can be disruptive, so they're committed to minimizing the amount and timing of the noise as much as possible.

Should I worry about the air and soil?

Kentucky Division of Water and MSD have reviewed and approved plans for the site. Protections against water run-off will be in place and monitored. A Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) also will be in place. Air quality monitors will go up before the excavation begins and will provide real-time data and alerts if elevated levels of dust or contaminants are detected. Contractors will have processes in place to keep dust and odors from spreading beyond the site.

What about traffic?

Dump trucks will be going in and out of the 11th Street entrance to the site from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. every workday. Trucks won't be allowed to park or even line up along 11th Street, and they'll work around school bus schedules to keep from impacting school drop-off and pickup. To keep pedestrians safe, the sidewalk along the 11th Street side of the project and the parking lane will be closed for the duration of the project.

What will happen to the building on the site?

The existing building on the site is on Kentucky's National Register of Historic Places and is deemed worthy of preservation. Through the development period, community will help inform the building's new use.

Who's doing the work, and are they hiring?

EnviroForensics and O6 Environmental have more than 35 years combined experience in environmental remediation projects. O6 Environmental will post job opportunities during the remediation. Those opportunities will be prioritized for the neighborhood. You will be able to contact one of the community leads listed below to see where the postings will be located.

What if I have questions or a complaint?

The entire transformation of the Rhodia site is led by the community in partnership with the developer, Re:land Group. Bruce Sherrod, Nathan Gardner or Kathleen Parks, all part of the Park Hill/Algonquin Community of Opportunity Board, can provide their thoughts on the transformation.

Contact Information

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