



# Frequently asked questions about Trainsong Park and soil sampling

## **What areas of Trainsong Park in west Eugene will remain temporarily closed?**

The City of Eugene temporarily closed Trainsong Park on Jan. 13, 2022, after dioxins were unexpectedly identified in the park's soil. In February, the Department of Environmental Quality collected soil samples from seven areas of the park for further analysis. In April, the sample results revealed two small areas of the park that have elevated levels of dioxins and will need further analysis and possible remedial action to protect public health. Those areas will remain closed until further notice. Other parts of the park, including the skate park, ballfield and playground, are open.

The initial soil sampling was taken as part of a background sampling location for the cleanup of J.H. Baxter & Co.'s facility. It is unknown what caused the dioxins at Trainsong Park and DEQ doesn't believe Baxter is the source. DEQ is working with the City of Eugene to further sample the park as a separate investigation from the Baxter cleanup.

## **What areas of Trainsong Park were included in the most recent soil sample collection?**

The park was divided into seven different areas for the soil sample collection process in February 2022. The areas were defined based on their use and potential exposure to shallow soils. The hard, paved surface areas – such as the skate park, basketball courts and playground – were not included in the soil sample collections because of the surface cover and limited possibility of soil contact.

## **Will the soil at Trainsong Park be sampled further?**

DEQ and the City of Eugene are working closely to develop a plan to further sample soil in the park in a few areas, as well as some small areas near the park. DEQ and the City of Eugene are also discussing options, including possible remediation, needed to open all areas of the park.

## **Why are dioxins a concern in the first place?**

Dioxins are a class of toxic chemicals produced by industrial and natural sources. Depending on the level of exposure, dioxins can increase the risk of cancer and the risk of other health effects.

According to OHA, people are exposed to soil in parks less often than they are exposed to soil from their own yards, because they typically spend more time at home than they do in a park.

**I live near Trainsong Park, will DEQ come and sample my soil?**

The dioxins investigation at Trainsong Park began with a focus on the park itself, with DEQ sampling soil to better understand the level and extent of contamination within the park. DEQ has identified some small areas that may require testing within the park and near the park. DEQ will contact residential property owners if their lot falls within the area of investigation. Property owners may pay for their own soil sampling, but sampling for dioxins can be costly.