



RIDGEWOOD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Orchard School Soil Remediation Update

# Orchard School Soil Remediation

- **Wednesday, January 22nd - Meeting at Orchard School to discuss site soil remediation.**
  - Friday, January 24th - Letter went out to school community closing Orchard field and grassy areas as a precaution based on parent concern. Fencing was also installed. Signage should be installed this week.
- **Historical Background**
  - 1910-1950's - Property was used as a community coal ash dump.
  - 1950-early 1960's - Coal ash was covered with community debris, i.e. street sweepings and other historical fill.
  - 1964 - Orchard School built
  - 1992 - NJDEP does soil sampling and finds that the ash is 0.5 to 3 feet below grade
  - 2000 - 2001 - District had contractors used soil from on site and certified clean sand to be mixed in to to have 1.5 ft of soil over the ash. The soil that was used came from the site.
  - 2007 - RBOE had soil analysis conducted based on soil issue in neighboring district
  - 2014-Remedial Action Report submitted to NJDEP
  - March 2019 - Alternative Soil Remediation Standard Application submitted for recreation use versus home use
  - May 2019 - Application for Alternative Standard denied

# Orchard School Soil Remediation - Cont.

- **Remedial soil work needs to be under the supervision of a LSRP (Licensed Site Remediation Professional) who is licensed through the NJDEP**
- **Additional actions taken beside closing field and communication with parents**
  - Web-site developed to provide information to parents
  - Public meeting with NJ Department of Health will be scheduled as soon as they have gone through our reports and have administrative approval to present to Ridgewood Community.
  - Will seek second opinion on current remediation plan. It is important to note that this work needs to be done by February 2021 and this summer is our last opportunity to do it.
  - Currently submitting our remediation plan for DEP approval and end of February bidding. Work (45 days) to commence as soon as school is out to be completed for the start of school.
  - Field and grass will be open when grass and landscaping is established.

# Orchard School Soil Remediation - Cont.

- **Questions:**

- Why was Alternative Remediation Standard requested?
  - *It was denied due to the use of a home standard versus a recreational space standard. This was discuss with the DEP as an option to pursue.*
- Why weren't field and grassy areas closed earlier?
  - *Fields were closed as a precaution. I looked at historical information.*
- Why do we add mulch to playgrounds yearly?
  - *Mulch is used for fall safety. The certified wood mulch decomposes over the year into soil and therefore we continue to add mulch. This is considered clean fill and is helpful to this situation.*
- Why not just turf the entire field?
  - *We still have to remediate the other grassy areas. We would have to build up or dig down to do it and both options are restricted due to the ash or floodplain issues.*

# Orchard School Soil Remediation - Cont.

- **Concerns about vapors and airborne material.**
  - *There are no vapor contaminants associated with this type of remediation. The concern during remediation is dust. That is why they will use water to keep the dust down.*