



February 7, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

As promised, I will be sending periodic updates concerning the status of the Orchard School Soil Remediation project. We have been working diligently to address questions and concerns, and I would like to report that we have taken the following steps.

- Proper NJDEP signage has been posted by the Orchard field and at the back of the property by the two entrances. As shared in previous communications, the Orchard field and the grassy areas have been closed and secured with a fence.
- Additional mulch will be installed in the playground area on Saturday, February 8th as a precautionary measure and to alleviate concerns.
- The soil testing results and all documents associated with the Orchard project can be accessed by clicking on the following link [Orchard Remediation Plan](#) or by going to the district website and following the steps below:
 - a. www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us
 - b. Our District
 - c. Public Information
 - d. Orchard Remediation Plan
- I requested an earlier public meeting date from the New Jersey Department of Health. The original timeframe they provided for this meeting was between the end of February and the beginning of March. At this time, I do not have a specific date or confirmation that an earlier public meeting date is possible. A letter will be sent to the community with the meeting details as soon as I have that information.
- We have consulted with a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) at LAN Associates on the WSP Orchard soil remediation work. LAN has reviewed the work to date and will continue to provide consultation services through the completion of the project to ensure that we understand all phases of this project. Given scheduling constraints and prior work conducted by WSP for the Ridgewood Board of Education, LAN recommends maintaining the services of WSP for the remediation project. With the NJDEP mandatory remediation deadline of February 2021, it is impractical to secure a new LSRP when we must proceed with the required next steps to remedy this situation in the summer.

I hope you find this information helpful as we continue to work to bring the unfortunate issue to closure.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

C: Ridgewood Board of Education

