

Metro Park East Landfill

January 2009

Metro Waste Authority's Metro Park East (MPE) Landfill is the largest public landfill in Iowa, managing 18 percent of the state's waste annually. The MPE Landfill accepts municipal and commercial solid waste, construction and demolition debris, as well as materials requiring special handling (special waste).



Yard waste, tires, electronics and appliances are accepted for reuse and/or recycling. There is also a public recycling drop-off area that accepts the same items accepted in MWA's curbside recycling program, Curb It!.

The landfill was recognized with the GOLD Award for Excellence in Landfill Management (2002) from the Solid Waste Association of North America.

Quick Facts

- Total area owned by MWA: 1,800 acres
- Phase 2 disposal area: 314 acres; opened to landfilling in 2007
- Phase 1 disposal area: 212 acres; opened to landfilling in 1972, closed in 2007
- Average tons per day: 1,900
- Average vehicles per day: 400
- Tons disposed annually in landfill: 552,000
- Total Tons disposed in landfill: 14.1 million
- 42 groundwater wells and surface points for monitoring water quality
- 75 percent of waste stream is from commercial/industrial sources; 25 percent is residential
- Tonnage fee (tax) paid in FY 07/08 to Iowa Department of Natural Resources: \$934,253



Highlighted in yellow is the boundary of the Conditional Use Permit granted to MWA in August 2005. This 314-acre area will be developed in 12 individual cells as part of MWA's Phase 2 disposal area. Landfilling began in 2007 and will continue through approximately 2048. The blue line represents the Polk and Jasper County line. Also indicated are the three closest residents to the new conditional use boundary.

Environmental Focus

- MWA's farm management program addresses the 800 acres of farmland it owns as part of the landfill site. MWA's efforts include developing specific written nutrient management and pest management plans and eliminating fall anhydrous.
- Working with other government agencies and non-profits, MWA is helping to clean up the Camp Creek Watershed through public education and research.
- Seventy-four acres of farmland at the landfill was converted to permanent, dedicated natural wetlands area on which no development will be permitted for the life of the property.
- MWA spends approximately \$80,000 per year to keep Highway 163 clear of litter.
- As part of MWA's Environmental Management System (EMS), landfill employees reduced air emissions from motorized equipment and vehicles by more than 1.2 billion pounds in FY 04-05 and continues practices to maintain this reduction.

MPE is about 1800 acres. MWA will only use about 500 acres for the actual landfill. About 800 of those acres are being farmed and about 500 acres are woods, prairie, and wetlands

Hours of operation:
Monday - Friday
6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturdays from April 4
through Oct. 31, 2009
7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

515-967-2076 (phone)
515-967-7965 (fax)

Director of Operations:
Jeff Dworek
515-333-4445

Operations Manager:
Mike Fairchild
515-333-4447

**Metro Waste Authority
Metro Park East**
12181 NE University Ave.
Mitchellville, IA 50169
515-244-0021
515-244-9477 fax
www.mwatoday.com

Mission Statement
Metro Waste Authority is the leader in environmental stewardship and cost-effective waste management.



Constructed Wetlands Leachate Treatment Facility

- Completed in June 2000
- First of its kind in the Midwest
- 13 million gallons of leachate collected in FY 07-08, enough to fill more than 19 Olympic size swimming pools; this amount was unusually high because of excessive rainfall in Central Iowa
- In FY 07-08, more than 1.6 million gallons were treated, 3 million gallons were recirculated and 7.3 million gallons were sent to the wastewater treatment facility
- The system spans 15 acres, including 6.9 acres of land application area (prairie)
- The facility received the 2000 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Award for Special Recognition in Water Quality

Leachate Recirculation

- Started in December 2007
- 6 million gallons of leachate recirculated in the first full year of operation (2008)
- First of its kind in the Midwest; benefits included increased rate of waste decomposition, increased methane production (for energy use) and increased compaction (more trash goes into the same space)

Metro Methane Recovery Facility

- Opened in 1994, this facility is operated by Waste Management through a partnership with MWA and Mid American Energy.
- More than 100 gas recovery wells collect the gases created by the decomposition process in the landfill.
- Ten miles of underground piping take the gas into the recovery facility, where the methane is burned to create electricity for more than 10,000 homes and businesses in Eastern Polk County.



Voluntary Host Fees

Since the landfill sits in two school districts, MWA has established a program to fund science programs and foster environmental education in both districts. Each year, MWA gives Prairie City/Monroe and Southeast Polk School Districts \$0.10 per ton of the total tonnage received at the landfill. MWA also provides \$0.05 per ton to the Camp Township Fire department, the volunteer unit that serves the landfill. MWA also pays, in lieu of taxes, voluntary host fees to the City of Des Moines for the Metro Transfer Station and \$0.25 per ton to the City of Des Moines for the Metro Compost Center, and to the City of Bondurant for the Regional Collection Center.

Voluntary Landfill Host Fees (07-08 and Total)			
	<u>Fire Dept.</u>	<u>S.E. Polk</u>	<u>PCM</u>
Host Fees Paid 07-08:	\$27,901	\$55,802	\$55,802
Total Paid (Each):	\$265,325	\$530,651	\$495,264
Total Voluntary Landfill Host Fees: More Than \$1.25 million			
Other voluntary host fees/payments in lieu of taxes paid to communities where MWA facilities are located: \$208,360 per year			

About Metro Waste Authority

MWA is a public agency providing landfill and recycling services to more than 17 communities in Central Iowa. Formed in 1969, the organization is governed by an elected official from each of its member communities. With annual operating expenses of approximately \$20 million, no tax dollars are used to finance any of its facilities or programs. MWA has 55 total employees; 28 of these are employed at the MPE Landfill.

For more information on MWA, visit www.mwatoday.com.

