



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM MATERIALS FOR LOWRY LANDFILL

LOWRY SITE COMPARISON – KNOW YOUR LOWRYS

Introduction

Denver native and World War I aviator Francis Brown Lowry died September 26, 1918, when his plane was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire. Though he probably would have been honored by the extensive use his name was given in identifying local landmarks, even the heroic Second Lieutenant might have had a hard time distinguishing among the various “Lowry” locations that dot the present-day metropolitan area. Though connected by a common heritage, the “Lowrys” are vastly different areas. It is important to understand those differences.

Lowry Landfill Superfund Site

The 508-acre Lowry Landfill is located near the intersection of Quincy Avenue and Gun Club Road, 15 miles southeast of downtown Denver in Arapahoe County. Formerly a municipal and industrial waste disposal site for Denver and the surrounding areas, the landfill was added to the National Priorities List for cleanup under the Superfund Act in 1984. The listing was due to groundwater contamination that resulted from the legal disposal at the site of municipal waste and an estimated 138 million gallons of liquid waste, and to the potential for that contamination to leave the site. Since 1984, Denver and Waste Management have been implementing and fine-tuning protective measures designed to keep contamination above certain carefully established standards onsite and out of potential contact with the surrounding environment and community.

Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range

The 92-square-mile Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR) is located in Arapahoe County, about 20 miles southeast of Denver. The FLBGR opened in 1942 as an Army Airfield, and was part of the Army Air Corp’s Western Technical Training Command during World War II, when it was used to conduct armament and bombing training. From 1942 through 1963, the Air Force, Army, Navy and Air National Guard used the range for various training exercises. It was also used to support training exercises during the Korean and Vietnam wars. In June of 1991, the FLBGR was designated as a Formerly Used Defense Site, a federal program designed to address risks to human health and the environment due to past military activities in an area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently addressing contamination issues at the site, and commercial and residential development is underway in and around the FLBGR. For more information, visit the FLBGR website at www.flbgr.org/project/project.html#01.

Lowry Redevelopment Area

Located on the site of the former Lowry Air Force Base, the Lowry Redevelopment Area is a developing mixed-use, master-planned community. It is located about 15 minutes from downtown Denver and bounded generally by Quebec Street on the west, Eleventh Avenue on the north, Dayton Street on the east and Alameda Avenue on the south. Lowry Vista, a former landfill at the Air Force base located on the southern border of the Redevelopment Area at Alameda, was closed in 1986. It has been covered with a low-permeability soil cap and is currently being redeveloped by its private-sector owners. Approximately 89 percent of the Lowry Redevelopment Area is in the City of Denver, and 11 percent is in the City of Aurora. Neither the Air Force Base when it was active nor the current Lowry Redevelopment Area nor Lowry Vista have any relation to the Lowry Landfill or the FLBGR, both of which are located about 15 miles away from the community.

For more information on the Lowry Redevelopment Area, visit lowryredevelopment.org.

For more information on Lowry Vista, visit www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/HM_lafb-140415-LowryVistaLLC-FactSheet-envandeng.pdf

Denver Arapahoe Disposal Site (DADS)

DADS is the *active* waste disposal facility serving Denver and surrounding areas. Owned by the City and County of Denver and operated by Waste Management of Colorado, Inc., the 2,500-acre facility is state-of-the-art and operated in full compliance with all local, state and national environmental regulations. It is one of the nation's largest landfills in terms of disposal capacity and daily tonnage received. Though it does not share the Lowry name, DADS is often mentioned in conjunction with the Lowry Landfill because it is located less than a mile away. For more information on DADS, please contact Waste Management at (720) 876-2620 or through the company website at www.wmdisposal.com/facilities/results.asp?state=CO.