

Collection #432 Butterworth Landfill Files

Collection 432

Finding aid prepared by Robert McVay

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	United States. Environmental Protection Agency.
Title	Butterworth Landfill Files
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1988-1993
Date [inclusive]	1976 - August, 1999
Extent	5.0 Linear feet 5 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Located in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, the Butterworth #2 Landfill Site was owned operated by the city of Grand Rapids as an open dump from 1950-1967. The area that it encompasses is approximately 180 acres and borders the Grand River on it's south side. Before the landfill itself was operational the land it would eventually cover, as well as the surrounding areas, had been used for industrial purpose for at least one hundred years. This caused the land to be polluted with heavy metals and other industrial wastes. These documents are mostly comprised of files that the United States Eviornmental Protection Agency had produced before, during, and after their suit against the City of Grand Rapids. They contain information of their legal actions against the city as well as the steps they took to reclaim the property for public use.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Located in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, the Butterworth #2 Landfill Site was owned operated by the city of Grand Rapids as an open dump from 1950-1967. The area that it encompasses is approximately 180 acres and borders the Grand River on its south side. Before the landfill itself was operational the land it would eventually cover, as well as the surrounding areas, had been used for industrial purpose for at least one hundred years. This caused the land to be polluted with heavy metals and other industrial wastes.

The United States Environment Protection Agency was called in to assess the possibility of reclaiming the site for public use. The site itself and several surrounding areas were surveyed in 1990 by Fred C. Hart Associates, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, for a study of the surrounding areas that had long been in contact with some of the materials present at the landfill. Their findings showed that even though the site itself would have to be worked extensively to be reclaimed, the areas outside of it where pollutants were present fell within acceptable ranges for human contact.

Scope and Contents note

The Butterworth Landfill Files are mostly composed of files from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, from when they had taken over jurisdiction of the landfill from the city after a civil suit. The documents show both the legal proceedings against the city, the reclamation of the landfill for public use, as well as the plans the the agency had for the site.

The main series that the collection is divided into is based upon the types of documents within the collection and the frequency in which they appear. There is also a sub-series within the Administrative Records series as it is the largest series and there are several documents that occur many times.

Many of the documents contained within the collection are the documents produced and sought after by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. In 19[8]7 the US Government sued the city of Grand Rapids for their role in allowing the unrestricted dumping of pollutants into the dump and thus requiring an extensive clean up operation to take place in order for the area to be reclaimed.

The documents span the period after the dump had ceased to operate, and therefore are almost entirely comprised of documents pertaining to the lawsuit that was brought against Grand Rapids, the decisions and building plans that would be made about the land itself as a result.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department July 2015

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Accession number 2014.002

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 20th Century
- Kent County (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Environmental protection
- Pollution
- Refuse and refuse disposal

Administrative Records

Collection Inventory

Administrative Records 1990-2013

Scope and Contents note

This series is composed of files generated by the EPA during their management and reclamation of the Butterworth Landfill Site. These administrative files are governmental files that detail their operations plans, as well as the changes and amendments that were made to them.

	Box	Folder
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991 Part 2 of 2 EMPTY 1991	2	1
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991, Part 1 of 2 1991	2	3
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991, Part 1 of 2, Record of Communication 1991	2	10
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991, Part 1 of 2, Reports/Studies 1991	2	11 – 14
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update #2, Butterworth Landfill, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1993, Vol. 1 of 2 1993	2	15 – 18

Administrative Records

U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update #2, Butterworth Landfill, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1993, Vol. 2 of 2 1993	2	19 – 21
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 3 of 9 1990	2	27 – 31
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 2B of 9, Continuation 1990	2	32 – 35
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 2A of 9, Continuation 1990	2	36 – 40
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9 1990	2	41
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, Fact Sheet 1990	2	44
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, Meeting Notes 1990	2	45
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, News Release 1990	2	47
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, Report/Studies 1990	2	50

Administrative Records

U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 2 of 9 1990	2	58 – 61
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 9 of 9 1990	5	14 – 18
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 9(A) of 9, Continuation 1990	5	19 – 23
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 7 of 9 1990	5	24 – 29
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 8 of 9 1990	5	30 – 33
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 5 of 9 1990	5	34 – 36
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 6 of 9 1990	5	37 – 40
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 4 of 9 1990	5	41 – 44
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Administrative Record for the Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Released: December 2, 2013 (Computer Disks) x2 2013		
	Box	Folder

Administrative Records

U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 8 of 8 1992	4	1
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 7 of 8 1992	4	2 – 6
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 6 of 8 1992	4	7 – 11
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 5 of 8 1992	4	12 – 16
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 4 of 8 1992	4	17 – 20
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 3 of 8 1992	4	21 – 23
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 2 of 8 1992	4	24 – 27
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill, Update #1, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 1992, Vol. 1 of 8 1992	4	28 – 31
Superfund Information Repositories and Administrative Records (August 1992) 1992	3	58
Chemcentral Site Papers 2000	5	1 – 2

Correspondence

Section 106 Administrative Record Index for Chemcentral 1992	5	10 – 11
Section 106 Administrative Record Index Update # 1, Chemcentral 1992	5	12 – 13
Correspondence 1990-1991		
	Box	Folder
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991, Part 1 of 2, Correspondence 1991	2	4
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, Correspondence 1990	2	42 – 43
Memorandums 1990-1991		
	Box	Folder
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991, Part 1 of 2, Memorandum 1991	2	5
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, Memorandum 1990	2	46
Other 1990-1991		
	Box	Folder
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991, Part 1 of 2, Other 1991	2	6

Pleadings/Orders

U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, Other 1990	2	48
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Pleadings/Orders 1990-1991

	Box	Folder
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Chemcentral, Grand Rapids, MI, November 1990, Part 1 of 9, Pleading/Orders 1990	2	49

U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 1991, Part 1 of 2, Pleadings/Orders 1991	2	7 – 8
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Remedial Action Updates 1991-1999

Scope and Contents note

These files are those that the EPA had produced when their plans had been forced to change. This could have been because of financial constraints, unforeseen obstacles in construction, or changes in regulations.

	Box	Folder
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Remedial Action Administrative Record for Butterworth Landfill Site, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, Update #3, July 1999, Volume 1 of 1 1999	2	22 – 26
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update no. 3, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 1991, Volume 2 of 2, Memorandum 1991	2	51

Remedial Action Updates

U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update no. 3, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 1991, Volume 2 of 2, Public Comments 1991	2	52
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update no. 3, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 1991, Volume 2 of 2, Reports/Studies 1991	2	53
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update no. 3, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 1991, Volume 2 of 2, Transcript 1991	2	54
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update no. 4, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Volume 1 of 1, November 1991 1991	2	55
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update no. 4, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Volume 1 of 1, November 1991, Correspondence 1991	2	56
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update no. 4, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Volume 1 of 1, November 1991, Report/Studies 1991	2	57
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update #3, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 1991, Vol. 1 of 2 1991	5	3
U.S. EPA Administrative Record: Remedial Action Update #3, Chem Central Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 1991, Vol. 1 of 2, Correspondence 1991	5	4 – 9

EPA Public Resources

Final Remedial Action Work Plan (August 1999) 1999	1	1 – 4
Butterworth Landfill Final Remedial (100%) Design (Amended Version) 1999	1	5 – 7
Final Amended Remedial Design Project Plan: Volume 1, (June 1999) 1999	1	20 – 23
Final Amended Remedial Design Project Plan: Volume 2 (Revised June 1999) 1999	1	24 – 26
Revised Final Design Remedial Design Project Plan: Volume 1 (February 1998) 1998	4	34 – 36
Revised Final Design Remedial Design Project Plan: Volume 2 (February 1998) 1998	4	37 – 38

EPA Public Resources 1980-1997**Scope and Contents note**

These documents are also produced by the EPA, but in a different fashion than those formal administrative records they had produced. The booklets, files, and directories were produced in order to be distributed to the public. This was done in an attempt to educate them on what the general EPA policies are as well as what they had planned on doing to the Butterworth Landfill site.

Directories 1988-1990**Box****Folder**

Chemical Information

Environmental Hotline Directory (November 1988) 1988	3	32 – 33
Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Hotline Flyer [sic] (1990) 1990	3	34
Guide to EPA Hotlines, Clearinghouses, Libraries, and Dockets (June 1990) 1990	3	41
Chemical Information 1985-1994		
	Box	Folder
Chemicals In Your Community: A Guide to the EPCRA (September 1988) 1988	3	25
Common Chemicals Found at Superfund Sites (August 1994) 1994	3	26
Common Cleanup Methods at Superfund Sites (August 1994) 1994	3	27
EPA Region 5 Hazardous Waste and Toxic Substances (Summer 1985) 1985	3	47
Public Notices 1980-1997		
	Box	Folder
Protecting our Groundwater: A Grower's Guide	3	8
Challenge of Superfund [The] (November 1990) 1990	3	24

Public Notices

Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) at Superfund Sites (August 1996) 1996	3	28
Community Advisory Groups: Partners in Decisions at Hazardous Waste Sites: Case Studies (Winter 1996) 1996	3	29 – 30
EPA Preserving Our Future Today (April 1991) 1991	3	35
Community Right-To-Know and Small Business (September 1988) 1988	3	36
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) (December 11, 1980) 1980	3	37
Conducting Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions Under CERCLA: Fact Sheet (December 1993) 1993	3	38
Conducting Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions Under CERCLA [Guidance on] (August 1993) 1993	3	39
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (October 17, 1986) 1986	3	40
Homeowners Exempted From Superfund Cleanup Costs (November 1991) 1991	3	42
How to Obtain Superfund Information (January 1990) 1990	3	43

Public Notices

Guidance for Community Advisory Groups at Superfund Sites (December 1995) 1995	3	48
Guide to Environmental Issues (September 1996) 1996	3	50
Superfund Program: Ten Years of Progress [The] (June 1991) 1991	3	51
Superfund Emergency Response Program: Over a Decade of Protecting Human Health and the Environment [The] (August 1994) 1994	3	55
Superfund: Environmental Progress (November 1990) 1990	3	56
Superfund: Focusing on the Nation at Large – A Decade of Progress at the NPL Sites (September 1990) 1990	3	57
Our Air, Our Land, Our Water (September 1988) 1988	3	59
Superfund at Work: Hazardous Waste Cleanup Efforts Nationwide (Fall 1993) 1993	3	62
Superfund at Work: Hazardous Waste Cleanup Efforts Nationwide (Summer 1993) 1993	3	63
Terms of Environment: Glossary, Abbreviations, and Acronyms (December 1997) 1997	3	65
This is Superfund: A Citizen's Guide to EPA's Superfund Program (March 1994) 1994	3	66

Fact Sheets

Your Guide to EPA (Undated)	3	70
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Fact Sheets 1988-1999

	Box	Folder
Toxic Substances Fact Sheets	1	15

Fact Sheet: Proposed Plan for the Butterworth Landfill Superfund Site (May 1992) EMPTY 1992	1	16
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Fact Sheet: Cleanup Design Work Plans Near Completion (November 1993) 1993	1	17
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Fact Sheet (June 1999) 1999	1	18
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EPA Region 5 NPL Fact Sheet, Butterworth #2 Landfill, Michigan	2	2
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EPA Quick Reference Fact Sheet: Streamlining the RI/FS for CERCLA Municipal Landfill Sites (September 1990) 1990	3	47
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Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) Fact Sheet (undated)	3	64
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Title III Fact Sheet: Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know (April 1988) 1988	3	67
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Legal Documents 1976-1996

Project Plans

Scope and Contents note

These are files and laws that were produced by the US government. In regards to the Butterworth Landfill site, they are regulations that the EPA have to follow as well as legal documents that have been produced by the public in regards to the site itself.

	Box	Folder
Transmittal for May 1987 Construction Permit Application for Kent County MBI Project Hydrogeological Study (January 1991) 1991	1	12
Memorandum Re: Request for Certification and Transmittal of Federal Register Notice That a Consent Decree Has Been Lodged (February 1987) 1987	1	19
Notice of Consent Decree Lodged with U.S. District Court for Western District of Michigan (February 1987) 1987	3	7
Record of Decision (September 1992) 1992	3	11
Consent Decree (January 1991) 1991	3	15 – 18
Title III List of Lists (December 1996) 1996	3	68
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (October 1976) 1976	3	60

Project Plans 1987-1998**Scope and Contents note**

Project Plans

These files are the project plans for the Butterworth Landfill site. These are building plans that the EPA produced, as well as contingency plans if the site had an emergency or if the site had unforeseen difficulties.

	Box	Folder
Site Operations Plan: Addendum 1 (September 1988) 1988	1	8
Site Operations Plan: Appendix A – Field Laboratory Methodology for Metals Screening of Soil Samples (October 1987) 1987	1	9 – 11
Explanation of Significant Differences (October 1998) 1998	4	40
Explanation of Significant Differences: Amendment (December 1998) 1998	4	39
Site Operations Plan Revision 1 (September 1987) 1987	3	1 – 2
Site Operations Plan Revision 2 (October 1987) 1987	3	3 – 4
Remedial Investigation: Quality Assurance Project Plan (December 1987) 1987	4	33
Remedial Investigation Report (December 1989) 1989	4	41 – 44
Hydro geological Work Plan: Addendum 2 (January 1991) 1991	3	5
Quality Assurance Project Plan (September 1987) 1987	3	9

Assessments

Sediment Sampling Work Plan: Addendum 3 (February 1991) 1991	3	10
Final Revised Community Relations Plan (October 1991) 1991	3	71
National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan: Final Rule; 40 CFR Part 300 (March 8, 1990) 1990	3	45 – 46

Assessments 1989-1992**Scope and Contents note**

These are assessments were done by the EPA in various instances at the Butterworth Landfill site. Some of the things of interest to them were the toxicity of the groundwater or the health risk that the site posed to nearby residents.

	Box	Folder
Wetlands Assessment (August 1991) 1991	1	13
John Ball Park Community Association Comments on the Remedial Investigation and Endangerment Assessment (June 1990) 1990	3	6
Understanding Superfund Risk Assessment (July 1992) 1992	3	69
Human Health Risk Assessment (May 1991) 1991	3	73 – 74
Preliminary Health Assessment 1989	3	75

Other Documents 1896-2000

Other Documents

Scope and Contents note

The other documents are still of importance to the Butterworth Landfill site, but do not have any discernible connection to the rest of the collection.

	Box	Folder
EPA News Release: EPA Seeks Public Comments on the Proposed Consent Decree for Butterworth Landfill (March 1987) 1987	1	14
EPA News Release: EPA Seeks Public Comments on the Proposed Consent Decree for Butterworth Landfill (March 1987) 1987	2	9
Alternatives Array Document (March 1991) 1991	4	32
Draft Report of Findings Sediment Sampling: Addendum 3 (May 1991) 1991	3	12 – 13
Final Draft Feasibility Study (October 1991) 1991	3	14
Draft Evaluation of the Potential for Adverse Ecological Impacts of Chemicals in the Grand River Surface Water and Sediment (January 1991) 1991	3	20 – 23
Butterworth Landfill Information Repository Outline February 2000 Update 2000	3	31
Identifying Superfund Sites: National Priorities List (NPL) and Hazard Ranking System (HRS) (Spring 1986) 1986	3	44
Guide to Addressing Pre-ROD and Post-ROD Changes (April 1991) 1991	3	49

Other Documents

Superfund: Progress at National Priorities List Sites: Michigan 1996 Update (April 1997) 1997	3	52
Superfund TAG Program: Regional Guidance Manual (July 1988) 1988	3	53
Superfund Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) (September 1993) 1993	3	54
Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Bulletin: Presumptive Remedies for Municipal Landfill Sites (February 1993) 1993	3	61
Understanding Superfund Risk Assessment (July 1992) 1992	3	69
John Ball Park Community Association Request for a Superfund Technical Assistance Grant (April 1989) 1989	3	72
Soil Survey, Kent County, Michigan	3	19