

Kenilworth Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



District of Columbia

SITE HISTORY

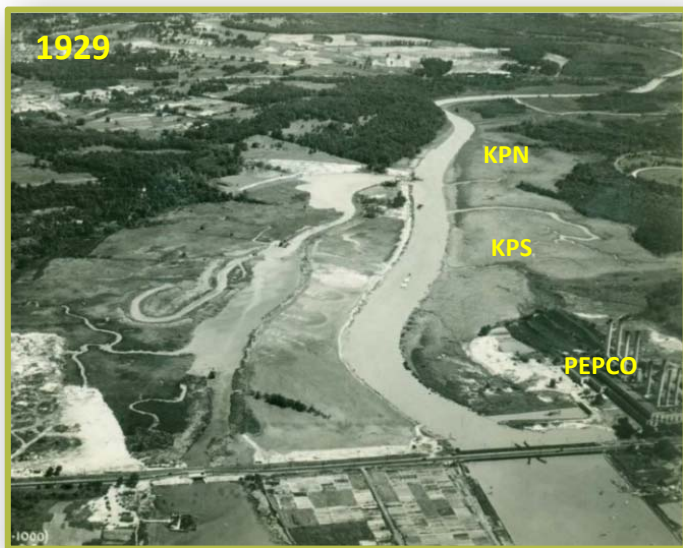


1900

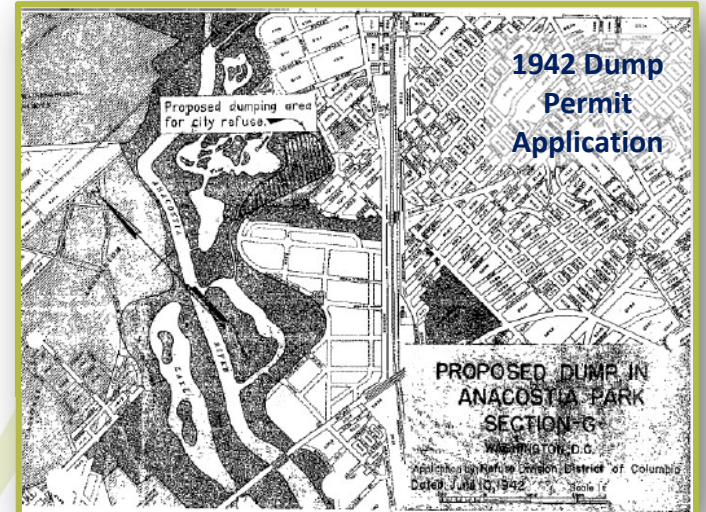
1900s: The Site was previously a low-lying wet area through which tributary streams discharged to the Anacostia River. Upland areas were located to the south and east of the landfill and included an oval horse racing track.



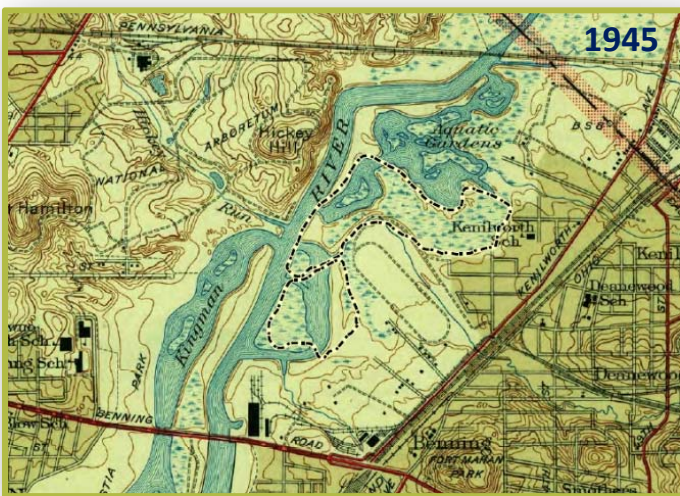
Kenilworth Park Landfill Area Features



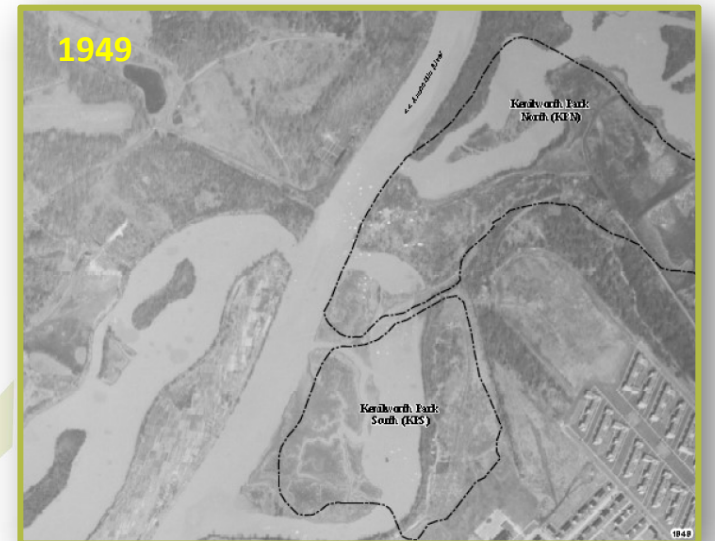
1920s: The low-lying areas consisted primarily of mud flats (the end of the former race track can be seen in the eastern edge of the 1929 photo and the Peppo coal-fired power plant can be seen to the south).



In June 1942, the District applied for a Dump Permit from the War Department and began using the eastern portion of Kenilworth Park North as a burning dump.



1930s-1940s: Recreational lakes were excavated by the US Army Corps of Engineers within the mud flats/alluvium in the late 1930s, and within the footprint of the landfill.



Aerial photographs taken between 1949 and 1970 show successive filling activities over the life of the landfill. Areas filled included the recreational lakes that were excavated in the 1930s and appeared to include areas of open water along the bank of the Anacostia River and next to Kenilworth Marsh.

WHAT FILL MATERIALS WERE DISPOSED IN THE LANDFILL?

- Municipal wastes were reduced to ash by open burning (1942 to 1968)
- Incinerator ash (1942 to 1970)
- Municipal solid waste (1968 to 1970)
- Original soil cover: 3 to 15 feet (1970)
- Construction debris: 2 to 20 feet (1997 to 1998)

1950s



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1960

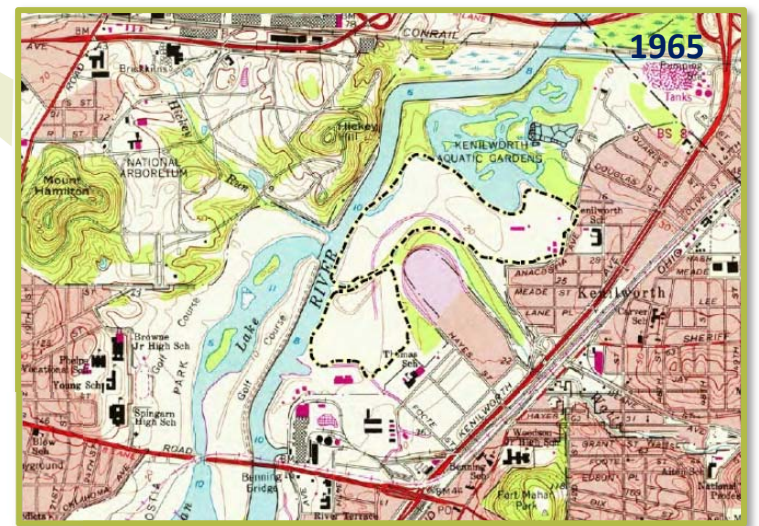
Aerial photographs taken between 1949 and 1970 show successive filling activities over the life of the landfill. Additional permits for the dump were obtained in the 1950s & 1960s, expanding the footprint of the facility westward to the Anacostia River and ultimately to the footprint outlined on the figures.



Kenilworth Park Landfill Area Features



In addition to burned refuse, the facility received ash from several incinerators located within the District. In 1968, open burning was discontinued, but municipal solid waste and ash from off-site incinerators continued to be disposed on the site until 1970.



Historical photographs showing active filling activities at Kenilworth Park North.

1970s: All landfill operations ended in January 1970. The landfill was capped with 3 to 15 feet of soil and portions of the former landfill were redeveloped for recreational use.



1990s: Following a 1996 soil grading and drainage plan, NPS arranged for fill material to be placed over Kenilworth Park South with the goal of constructing athletic fields for soccer and ultimate frisbee. The filling started in 1997 and was discontinued in 1998 before the final design grades were reached.

2018



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Today: A large portion of Kenilworth Park North is used for public recreation (e.g., soccer fields, a football field, tennis courts, basketball courts, Anacostia River Trail). Kenilworth Park South is undeveloped land that is covered with vegetation including grass, shrubs, and trees.