



Sites in Reuse

NW 58th Street Landfill Superfund Site

Northwest 58th Street, Hialeah, Miami-Dade County, Florida



Views of the northern portion of the Northwest 58th Street Landfill Superfund site and access road to new habitat area

Site Size: Approximately 660 acres

Site Reuses: Wildlife habitat and future soccer complex



On approximately 70 acres of the 660-acre Northwest 58th Street Landfill Superfund site in Hialeah, Florida, native plant and animal species are thriving in new wildlife habitat created by a system of storm water management ponds and restored wetlands. This new plant and wildlife habitat has resulted from innovative stormwater management and wetland restoration regulations governing the landfill's remediation and closure.

Completed in the mid-1990s, the new stormwater system mimics the habitat characteristics of the larger Big Cypress Everglades ecosystem, which has been significantly reduced by new development in southern Florida. While the system has encouraged the growth of native plants, Miami-Dade County biologists have also documented the return of numerous rare animal species, including the flamingo, wood stork, and Florida alligator.

Located in a largely industrial area of Hialeah, Florida, the Northwest 58th Street Landfill is almost one square mile in size. The site was the location of a municipal landfill from 1952 to 1982 and consists of a former garbage incineration area and several landfill areas. In the 1960s, the extreme southern portion of the landfill (the former incineration area) was reclaimed by Miami-Dade County

for use by their maintenance department, as well as by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Additionally, a Florida Power and Light power line easement crosses the lower-third of site from east to west.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD: THE REUSE PLANNING PROCESS

From the outset, Miami-Dade County officials focused on the proper remediation and closure of the Northwest 58th Street Landfill. Though aware of the potential for habitat creation due to the ongoing restoration of wetlands at another nearby facility, local officials did not set out to design a wildlife park or habitat restoration at the site. Instead, the new habitat was the outcome of regulations requiring the County to manage stormwater on-site and protect existing wetlands.

In order to comply with regulations, the County actively worked to develop a high-quality stormwater management system for the site, which included the extensive restoration of existing wetlands. This effort required the County to take on several additional (and more costly) tasks, including working with existing environmental

conditions to manage stormwater and implementing an ongoing program to control non-native invasive plant species such as torpedo grass, brazilian pepper, and melaleuca, which has allowed native Everglade species to thrive at the site. According to Lee Casey, Chief of Environmental Compliance at the County's Department of Solid Waste Management, the County understood the importance and benefits of the environmental regulations governing the site's closure and was therefore willing to go beyond a minimum-cost approach to implementation.

Miami-Dade County received guidance from EPA, the Florida Department of Environmental Resources Management, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection throughout the remediation and closure of the Northwest 58th Street Landfill. Additionally, County officials worked with the SFWMD, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers while developing the site's stormwater management system.

Though the Northwest 58th Street Landfill is fenced and generally closed to the public, the County has begun allowing school groups, bird watchers, and other visitors on-site (with advanced notice) to view the new wildlife habitat. Visitors can walk along a crushed-stone trail/access road that extends along most of the southern shore of the stormwater management/restored wetland area. The County does not currently offer educational programming at the site or educational signage about the habitat area.

FUTURE PLANS

Miami-Dade County is in the process of determining the reuse potential for another portion of the Northwest 58th Street Landfill. The Park and Recreation Department is interested in developing a 15-field soccer complex on the southwest corner of the landfill, between the existing County and SFWMD buildings and the Florida Power and Light easement. The new soccer complex would help satisfy a growing demand for new soccer facilities in the County.



FP&L powerline easement with County buildings in background

According to Kevin Asher, Property Management Supervisor at the County's Park and Recreation Department, the interest in reusing a portion of the Northwest 58th Landfill for soccer fields is part of a larger County-wide effort to reuse former landfills for recreational purposes. The Department, for example, has developed Ives Estate Park, another large recreational facility, at a former (non-Superfund) landfill in Miami-Dade County.

The Park and Recreation Department is currently developing a feasibility study to determine the recreational reuse potential of the southwest portion of the Northwest 58th Street Landfill. Department officials are also working with officials from the Department of Solid Waste Management and EPA to determine how the soccer complex could be developed without negatively impacting the site's remedy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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