

Willow Reserve Project Update



Project Background

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity (TCHFH) is planning to build 11 high-quality, single-family homes on Maryland Avenue at Willow Reserve over the next two years. The development will have a public alley and a storm water infiltration pond.

TCHFH acquired the land from the City of St. Paul's Planning and Economic Development Department on March 31, 2017. Work began on developing the land for the homes in mid-April. During that process, construction debris that had been buried for decades was uncovered, including wood, bricks, concrete, and asbestos. Historically, asbestos was used in siding and pipe insulation on homes. It is still in homes in the area today. Asbestos does not pose a health risk unless it is crushed up and the particles are inhaled. The asbestos discovered does not pose a current health risk to residents in the area.

What's happening now?

Once the construction debris was discovered, work on the land was suspended. Environmental engineers from American Engineering and Testing (AET) were hired to perform additional testing. Workers from AET and Veit will be conducting the tests throughout the summer.

The site has been secured and there is no exposed asbestos or other debris. A fence has been installed and erosion control measures have been taken. We request people do not trespass on the site to ensure the environmental testing can be conducted efficiently. Twin Cities Habitat and the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) will actively monitor the site during this period of construction inactivity.

What's happening next?

All of the environmental work will follow the strict guidelines of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to ensure the air, water, and soil in the area remain safe for residents. If AET determines more soil mitigation is necessary it will create a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) to be reviewed by the MPCA.

We will continue to update residents as new information becomes available.

If you have questions, please contact Matt Haugen at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Matt.haugen@tchabitat.org 612-305-7126