



Former Chopawamsic Troop Training Site (Chopawamsic FUDS)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Introduction

The Chopawamsic Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) consists of the former Chopawamsic Troop Training Site and is 11,011 acres. The FUDS is located west of US Interstate 95 in Prince William County, Virginia, approximately 35 miles south of Washington, DC. The FUDS is located mostly within Prince William Forest Park, and is bordered to the south by the US Marine Corps Reservation, Quantico, and to the north by State Route 234. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is performing a Remedial Investigation at the Chopawamsic FUDS to determine if hazardous conditions exist to human health or the environment as a result of previous site activities.

Site History

The Chopawamsic Recreation Demonstration Area (RDA) was established from 1935-1936 under the “New Deal” program. In 1942, the National Park Service (NPS) granted the U.S. War Department a special use permit to convert the Chopawamsic RDA to the Chopawamsic Troop Training Site. From May 1942 through November 1944, the Office of Strategic Service (OSS) used the Chopawamsic Troop Training Site to conduct military weapons, tactical, and communications training. The Chopawamsic Troop Training Site was closed January 11, 1945 and the OSS removed all of its military training facilities (NPS, 2008). In 1945 Army Engineers from Fort Belvoir performed a “metal detector-aided decontamination” of UXO, booby traps, and other explosives (USACE, 2004).

Department of Defense Environmental Cleanup

The Corps of Engineers is conducting the work using the processes under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which was enacted by Congress in 1980. This law provides broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.

Previous Investigations and Studies

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has conducted several studies at the Chopawamsic FUDS. Archive Search Reports (ASR’s) were conducted in 1995 and 2004, which compiled historical records of the DOD operations at the site to determine potential munition related activities (use/storage) throughout the FUDS. A Site Inspection (SI) report was completed in 2007 which identified specific areas of the FUDS that should be investigated as part of the future Remedial Investigation (RI). Three Munitions Response Sites (MRSs) were identified as requiring a Remedial Investigation.

Remedial Investigation

The three MRSs that are being investigated include a total of 5,191 acres. The majority of these MRSs, 4,775 acres, are located on the Prince William Forest Park. There are 277 acres of the MRSs that extend beyond the FUDS boundary and encroach on the adjacent Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico. These MRSs also encompass 139 acres of privately owned parcels, most of which are used as private residences. The RI field effort will include metal detection surveys in areas where there is potential past military munition activities, digging of select detected metallic objects to determine if they are military munitions, and soil sampling to determine if there were any past releases of contamination into the soil.

For More Information

If you have questions, please contact the Baltimore District Corporate Communication Office at cenab-cc@usace.army.mil or 410-962-2809.