

MABEL DAVIS PARK

Austin, TX
RLF Grant

Turning Trash into Treasures: A Former Landfill Becomes a Community Asset

ADDRESS: 3427 Parker Lane, Austin, TX 78741
PROPERTY SIZE: 50 acres
FORMER USE: Gravel quarry and landfill
CURRENT USE: Public park with basketball court, swimming pool, playscape, picnic area, skate park, and walking trails

For additional data and geographic information for this and other Brownfields Grants, please visit EPA's:
Envirofacts - www.epa.gov/enviro/html/bms/bms_query.html
Enviomapper - www.epa.gov/enviro/bf



EPA GRANT RECIPIENT:	PROJECT PARTNERS:
The Austin Brownfields Redevelopment Office provided \$500,000 in EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund funding to the City of Austin.	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, City of Austin Remediation Project

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Mabel Davis property operated as a gravel quarry until 1944; from 1944-1955, the site was used as a municipal waste landfill. It is suspected that illegal dumping occurred after the landfill's closure. In 1974, the City purchased the property in order to clean up and redevelop it into a park; after remediating the site, it formally opened as a park in 1979. Trouble began when a creek running through the park began eroding a portion of the former landfill area contained within the park. Maintenance work conducted in 2000, which aimed to rebuild the creek and prevent exposure of landfill contaminants, revealed elevated levels of lead in the soil. This prompted an immediate closure of the park to the public, and site sampling ensued to determine the scope of contamination. Assessments conducted in 2000 and 2002 further revealed pesticides in the soil from a spill in 1979 that was cleaned up to meet standards of that time, but not today's more stringent standards. In December 2003, the City of Austin approved a loan of \$488,566 for site cleanup, and the loan agreement was signed on May 31, 2004.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The park is home to Austin's first skate park
- Remediation provided 25 additional acres of greenspace
- Leveraged \$7,300,000 in cleanup funding from the City of Austin Remediation Project

OUTCOME:

Funded by the City of Austin Remediation Project, cleanup was completed in November of 2005. This included removing contaminated soil in some locations and capping soil in others. The creek was rebuilt and battery casings, the source of the lead-contaminated soil, were removed by hand. On December 3, 2005, Mabel Davis Park officially opened. The park includes a basketball court, Olympic-sized swimming pool, playscape, picnic area, skate park, and 30 acres of open greenspace.



Austin's new Skate Park.