



# HLRA Update

October, 2020

Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority  
1025 Horsham Road Horsham, PA 19044 p 215.643.3131 www.hlra.org mail @hlra.org

## HLRA EXECUTIVE BOARD

- William Whiteside III  
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- Joanna Furia, Esquire  
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- Mark McCouch  
Member
- Joseph Wade  
Member

## HLRA STAFF

- Michael J. McGee  
Executive Director
- Tom Ames, P.E.  
Deputy Director
- Larry Burns  
Deputy Director

## UPCOMING HLRA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

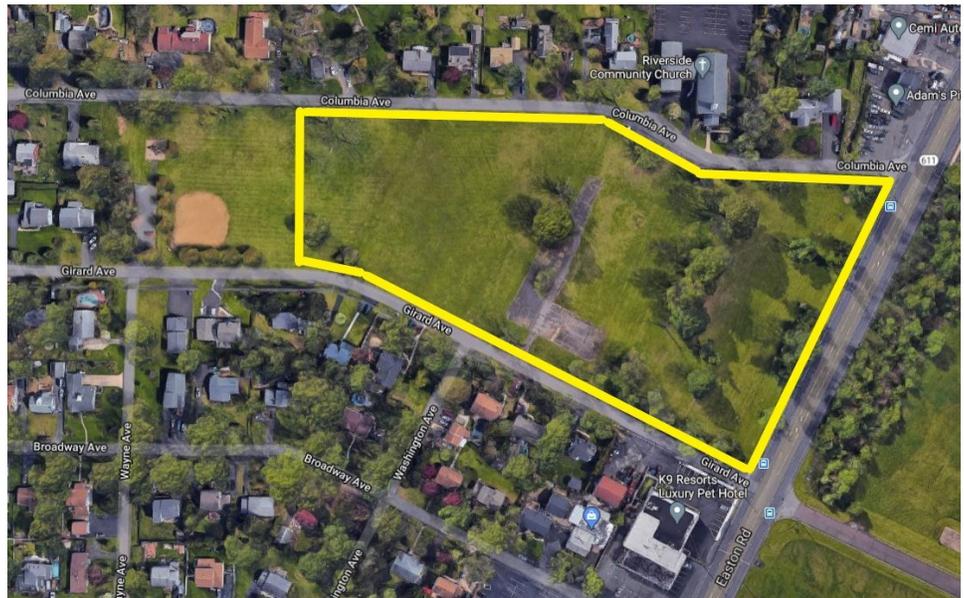
All meetings are at 3:30pm and are open to the public.

- October 21, 2020
- January 20, 2021

The meeting location will be at the Horsham Township Municipal Building at 1025 Horsham Road.

## SE Clear Zone Parcel Transfer Moves Forward

The first transfer of property from the former Naval Air Station – Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove is moving forward. On September 30, 2020, the Navy assigned an 8.05 acre parcel, known as the SE Clear Zone parcel, to the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service. Horsham Township has requested that parcel under the National Park Service’s Federal Lands to Parks Program. The parcel will be transferred to Horsham Township as a ‘public benefit conveyance’ for a nominal \$1 fee.



The HLRA’s Redevelopment Plan designates this parcel for open space/park and the HLRA wholeheartedly supported Horsham Township’s request in 2018.

The Navy acquired the SE Clear Zone parcel in 1982 from the Hatboro- Horsham School District as the parcel was in the Navy’s “Clear Zone”; areas at the ends of runways which historically have higher rates of aircraft accidents. The property used to house the old Horsham Elementary School which had been closed due to declining enrollment at the time. The Navy had the old school building demolished and has kept the parcel as open space ever since. The parcel is on the east side of Easton Road (State Route 611) between Columbia and Girard Avenues. The Navy completed a Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) on the parcel in September 2020 which detailed past uses and compliance with current environmental laws and regulations.

According to Horsham Township Manager, Bill Gildea-Walker, the parcel will be a welcome addition to the extensive inventory of parks and open space owned by the Township.

## Navy Details Recommendations for former landfills (Sites 3 and 12)

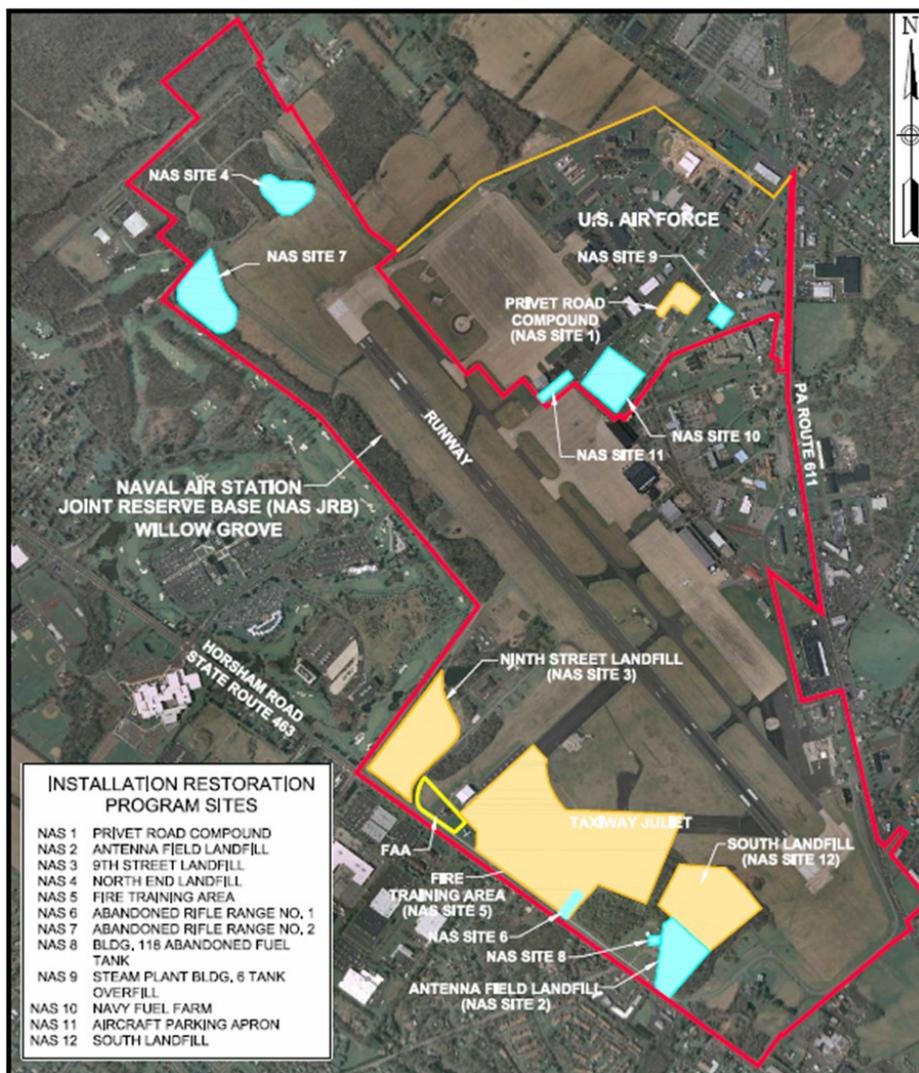
In a virtual public meeting held on September 23, 2020, the U.S. Navy detailed its proposed alternatives for two former landfills located at the base.

For Site 3, located near the FAA Radar Tower along Horsham Road, the Navy is proposing to use containment and land use controls to achieve remedial action objectives. A two-foot thick soil cover would be placed over the landfill areas. Several 'hot spots' discovered during the investigations would be removed and placed under the soil cover system. Land use controls would be put in place to prevent damage of or intrusion into the cover system and to prevent disturbance of subsurface soils.

For Site 12, also located on the Horsham Road side of the base, the Navy is proposing to use containment and land use controls to achieve soil remedial action objectives. A two-foot thick soil cover would be placed over all areas with unacceptable soil risks to prevent exposure of human and ecological receptors. Several 'hot spots' discovered during the investigations would be removed and placed under one of the two soil cover systems. Land use controls would be put in place to prevent damage of or intrusion into the cover system and to prevent disturbance of subsurface soils.

The Navy also considered other alternatives to meet the remedial action objectives at each landfill site. A total of four alternatives were reviewed at Site 3 and five alternatives at Site 12. Details of the proposed remedial action plans are available at:

[https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac\\_bases/northeast/reserve\\_base\\_willow\\_grove/public\\_notices/notice\\_of\\_Comprehensive\\_environmental\\_response\\_compensation\\_and\\_liability\\_act\\_CERCLA1.html](https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac_bases/northeast/reserve_base_willow_grove/public_notices/notice_of_Comprehensive_environmental_response_compensation_and_liability_act_CERCLA1.html)



Horsham Township Council, at its September 29, 2020 public meeting, is recommending that the Navy select a different alternative at each site. Horsham Township is asking that the Navy select the alternatives that include complete removal of the contaminated soils and landfill waste materials with off-site disposal.

**All members of the public are encouraged to submit comments to the Navy regarding the selection of an alternative for each site.**

Comments must be postmarked or emailed by October 25, 2020 to:

Mr. Willington Lin, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, Base Closure and Realignment Program Management Office Northeast, 4911 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19112-1303 (email: [willie.lin@navy.mil](mailto:willie.lin@navy.mil))