



**Britt Salen, Co-Chair**  
Neighborhood Planning Manager  
*West Side Grows Together*

**William Swiatek, Co-Chair**  
Principal Planner  
*Wilmington Area Planning Council*

**Ella Edwards,**  
Health Promotion Advocate  
*Henrietta Johnson Medical Center*

**Michelle Harlee,**  
4<sup>th</sup> District Councilwoman  
*City of Wilmington*

**John Harrod**  
Director  
*DuPont Envir. Education Center*

**Victor Perez,**  
Associate Professor  
*University of Delaware*

**Kate Dupont Phillips**  
Executive Director  
*Healthy Communities Delaware*

**Marie Reed,**  
Past President  
*Southbridge Civic Association*

**Hanifa Shabazz,**  
Executive Director  
*Southbridge Community  
Development Corporation*

**Travis Smith, Sr.,**  
President  
*Southbridge Connects*

**Alison Windle,**  
Executive Director  
*Neighborhood House*

**Russ Zerbo**  
Advocate  
*Clean Air Council*

**Jen Adkins**  
Executive Director  
*Delaware Nature Society*

# South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

April 21, 2023

Mr. Paul W. Will  
Program Manager, Remediation  
DNREC  
391 Lukens Drive,  
New Castle, DE 19720

RE: Hicks Park Soil Remediation

Dear Mr. Will,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.”

This public park was built on top of industrial fill that was left at the site between 1940 and 1965.

There is no specific remedial action in the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action. DNREC has considered possible remedial actions for the site, including “Placement of a one-foot soil, stone, or impervious cap/cover over impacted areas to restrict access to underlying soil, or excavation of soil with elevated concentrations of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) or metals and disposal off-site.”

Southbridge residents, as well as DNREC and the City of Wilmington, have voiced a clear preference for the specific remedial action of soil removal and the placement of soil and sod at the site. This measure would improve the use of the park by expanding greenspace and reduce the chance that children and adults are exposed to any remaining contaminants in soil at the park. This measure would also save the City of Wilmington time and money by not requiring the city to regularly inspect a potential cap at the site.

Additionally, because of the site’s status as a public park in need of several structural upgrades beyond land remediation, it must be considered how proposed remedial actions will complement additional, upcoming park upgrades. Currently, the City of Wilmington is both considering additional park amenities to replace the recently removed tennis court while also attempting to address the significant drainage issues at the park that create an overwhelming mosquito presence in warm weather. In order to make the park’s contamination remediation and overall upgrade as efficient as possible, these various construction activities must work in tandem to protect public health, encourage dynamic use of the park by all local residents, and create an innovative green space for the broader community.



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**Jen Adkins**  
Executive Director  
*Delaware Nature Society*

# South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please keep Councilmember Harlee abreast of your efforts, so she can follow-up with the community. Should you have any questions, please contact us at [SouthWilmingtonPlanningNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:SouthWilmingtonPlanningNetwork@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Britt Salen  
Co-Chair, South Wilmington Planning Network

**From:** [Rev. B. Ivan Broomer](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:23:16 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.” Please hold an in-person public hearing in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington so that public comments can be submitted regarding the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for Barbara Hicks Park. Given the nature of the contamination, specifically that a public park was contaminated with industrial fill between 1940 and 1965 in this historically African-American community, I believe that an in-person public hearing is absolutely necessary to engage the impacted community.

Further emphasizing the need for an in-person public hearing is the lack of a specific remedial action in the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action. DNREC has proposed various possible remedial actions for the site, including “Placement of a one-foot soil, stone, or impervious cap/cover over impacted areas to restrict access to underlying soil, or excavation of soil with elevated concentrations of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) or metals and disposal off-site.” Southbridge residents deserve an opportunity to voice their preference for a specific remedial action.

Additionally, because of the site’s status as a public park in need of several structural upgrades beyond land remediation, there must be a public venue to consider how proposed remedial actions will complement additional, upcoming park upgrades. Currently, the City of Wilmington is both considering additional park amenities to replace the recently removed tennis court while also attempting to address the significant drainage issues at the park that create an overwhelming mosquito presence in warm weather. In order to make the park’s contamination remediation and overall upgrade as efficient as possible, these various construction activities must work in tandem to protect public health, encourage dynamic use of the park by all local residents, and create an innovative green space for the broader community.

Please extend hold an in-person public hearing so that concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Rev. B. Ivan Broomer  
38 Bastille Loop  
Newark, DE 19702  
302-993-6475

**From:** [April Pagliassotti](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:47:56 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.” Please hold an in-person public hearing in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington so that public comments can be submitted regarding the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for Barbara Hicks Park. Given the nature of the contamination, specifically that a public park was contaminated with industrial fill between 1940 and 1965 in this historically African-American community, I believe that an in-person public hearing is absolutely necessary to engage the impacted community.

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Please extend hold an in-person public hearing so that concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
April Pagliassotti  
319 West Summit Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19804  
717-503-8672

**From:** [Britt Salen](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 11:09:39 AM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.” Please hold an in-person public hearing in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington so that public comments can be submitted regarding the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for Barbara Hicks Park. Given the nature of the contamination, specifically that a public park was contaminated with industrial fill between 1940 and 1965 in this historically African-American community, I believe that an in-person public hearing is absolutely necessary to engage the impacted community.

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Please extend hold an in-person public hearing so that concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Britt Salen  
710 N Lincoln St  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
302-888-5335

**From:** [laretta.wilson](mailto:laretta.wilson)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:14:33 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.” Please hold an in-person public hearing in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington so that public comments can be submitted regarding the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for Barbara Hicks Park. Given the nature of the contamination, specifically that a public park was contaminated with industrial fill between 1940 and 1965 in this historically African-American community, I believe that an in-person public hearing is absolutely necessary to engage the impacted community.

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Please extend hold an in-person public hearing so that concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
laretta wilson  
48 greenbridge dr  
newark, DE 19713  
302-437-5777

**From:** [Angelica Diaz](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:01:20 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Please extend hold an in-person public hearing so that concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Angelica Diaz  
2016 S 17th St  
Philadelphia, PA 19145  
631-245-4549

**From:** [Alison Windle](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 1:34:04 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Please extend hold an in-person public hearing so that concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Alison Windle  
1218 B Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
130-265-8540



**From:** [Jordana Cutajar](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 6:31:16 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.” Please extend the current comment period by an additional 30 days so that public comment on the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action will be due at the close of business on April 5th, 2023. Local community organizations were unable to meet during the current 20-day comment period and given the nature of the contamination, specifically that a public park was contaminated with industrial fill between 1940 and 1965 in this historically African-American community, I believe that an extension of the current comment period is absolutely necessary.

Further emphasizing the need for a 30-day comment period extension is the lack of a specific remedial action in the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action. DNREC has proposed various possible remedial actions for the site, including “Placement of a one-foot soil, stone, or impervious cap/cover over impacted areas to restrict access to underlying soil, or excavation of soil with elevated concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) or metals and disposal off-site.” Southbridge residents deserve an opportunity to voice their preference for a specific remedial action and community members will require a significant period of time to consider the various proposed remedial actions.

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Please extend the current comment period by 30 days so that members of the Southbridge Civic Association and other concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Jordana Cutajar  
1311 W 13th St.  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
954-253-7278

**From:** [Hanifa Shabazz](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:29:58 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Please extend the current comment period by 30 days so that members of the Southbridge Civic Association and other concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Hanifa Shabazz  
425 Bradford Street, WILMINGTON, DE 19801-5821  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
302-897-7683

**From:** [Amere Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:54:53 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Please extend the current comment period by 30 days so that members of the Southbridge Civic Association and other concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Amere Robinson  
622 New Castle Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
302-384-2938

**From:** [Dawn Hilliard](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:37:53 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Please extend the current comment period by 30 days so that members of the Southbridge Civic Association and other concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Hilliard  
441 S. Claymont St  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
484-629-8634

**From:** [Jen Adkins](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:16:22 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Sincerely,  
Jen Adkins  
105 Christina Landing Dr. Apt 2203  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
302-426-9925

**From:** [Ella Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:06:43 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Additionally, because of the site’s status as a public park in need of several structural upgrades beyond land remediation, there must be additional time to consider how proposed remedial actions will complement additional, upcoming park upgrades. Currently, the City of Wilmington is both considering additional park amenities to replace the recently removed tennis court while also attempting to address the significant drainage issues at the park that create an overwhelming mosquito presence in warm weather. In order to make the park’s contamination remediation and overall upgrade as efficient as possible, these various construction activities must work in tandem to protect public health, encourage dynamic use of the park by all local residents, and create an innovative green space for the broader community.

Please extend the current comment period by 30 days so that members of the Southbridge Civic Association and other concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Ella Edwards  
601 NEW CASTLE AVE Wilmington  
WILMINGTON, DE 19801  
302-655-6187

**From:** [Kate Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 3:49:58 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.” Please extend the current comment period by an additional 30 days so that public comment on the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action will be due at the close of business on April 5th, 2023. Local community organizations were unable to meet during the current 20-day comment period and given the nature of the contamination, specifically that a public park was contaminated with industrial fill between 1940 and 1965 in this historically African-American community, I believe that an extension of the current comment period is absolutely necessary.

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Sincerely,  
Kate Phillips  
105 Rockwood Road  
Wilmington, DE 19809  
302-542-7723

From: Britt Salen <bsalen@westsidegrows.org>

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 5:02 PM

To: Comments, RS\_Public (MailBox Resources) <RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov>

Subject: Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1

Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is now requiring land remediation at Barbara Hicks Park in the Southbridge neighborhood of Wilmington because the “human health risk potentially posed by exposure to soils was determined to be unacceptable under residential and recreator exposure scenarios.” Please extend the current comment period by an additional 30 days so that public comment on the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action will be due at the close of business on April 5th, 2023. Local community organizations were unable to meet during the current 20-day comment period and given the nature of the contamination, specifically that a public park was contaminated with industrial fill between 1940 and 1965 in this historically African-American community, I believe that an extension of the current comment period is absolutely necessary.

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Sincerely,  
Britt Salen  
710 N Lincoln Street  
Wilmington, PA 19805  
302-888-5335



**From:** [Britt Salen](#)  
**To:** [Comments, RS Public \(MailBox Resources\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 5:02:21 PM

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Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Sincerely,  
Britt Salen  
710 N Lincoln Street  
Wilmington, PA 19805  
302-888-5335

From: Jim Black <jim.black@consultant.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:24 PM

To: Comments, RS\_Public (MailBox Resources) <RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov>

Subject: Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site (DE-1804) – Operable Unit 1

Dear RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov,

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Please extend the current comment period by 30 days so that members of the Southbridge Civic Association and other concerned residents can consider and thoughtfully impact the future of Barbara Hicks Park.

Sincerely,  
Jim Black  
10 Buena Vista St  
Wilmington, DE 19802  
302-669-7044

## Notification of Extension of The Public Comment Period for a Proposed Plan of Remedial Action for the Barbara Hicks Park Site, Wilmington, Delaware (DE-1804)

Hahn, Michael C (DeIDOT) <MichaelC.Hahn@delaware.gov>

Wed 3/8/2023 10:58 AM

To: Comments, RS\_Public (MailBox Resources) <RS\_Public\_Comments@delaware.gov>; Ali, Shahroze (DNREC) <shahroze.ali@delaware.gov>; HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>

Cc: Rukowicz, Stefan <sfrukowicz@mccormicktaylor.com>; sweber@wilmingtonde.gov <sweber@wilmingtonde.gov>

📎 1 attachments (3 MB)

Southbridge Phase III Concept Board.pdf;

DNREC folks,

Here are my Department Comments as it reflects an extended public comment period for the email subject heading at Hicks Park.

We are working with the city on proposed improvements in front of Hicks Park, but not within the property area as you designate only the property area in your reports. The best I can illustrate for you is the attachment. I have yet to get my notice to proceed with engineering design to detail further, but we should be starting this overall project soon under the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Should you zoom in on the lower portion, the intention is to install two pedestrian style street lighting that will be (more than likely) within the existing right of way. A junction well which will probably be underground for the electrical conduits to power the lighting. We are also reconstructing the curb ramp and about 8 linear feet of 5' sidewalk at the corner of Bradford and B Street where sidewalk exists for ADA needs. So, there is some light excavation and placement of fixtures. As I read, the proposed remediation action is confined to the property itself and not the right of way area. As a side, note, the property across the street has an advertisement for townhomes.

We are wondering to what degree might this have an impact if the action and proposed measures are confined and specific to the tax parcels? Yes, we'd be glad to keep you in the loop with plan submissions and with our limits of construction for assurances.

Essentially precautions are nice, but under our TAP program, we are limited in funding and ensuring that we don't have to do things we don't have to undertake.

Your thoughts towards this are greatly appreciated as this does also affect our design if notes or other standard haz mat provisions need to be added (if applicable). We'd like to get this out front rather than wait and then have to redesign or add something.

Thank you,



**Michael Hahn, AICP**  
Planning Supervisor, TAP  
Active Transportation & Community Connections  
[Delaware Department of Transportation](#)  
800 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901  
Office: 302-760-2131  
Cell: 302-602-0526

