

# The Township of *MOORESTOWN*

111 WEST SECOND STREET · MOORESTOWN · NEW JERSEY 08057



August 27, 2025

Dear Neighbor,

On behalf of Moorestown Township, I am writing to inform you about upcoming work at Wesley Bishop Park, 1248 North Church Street, in Moorestown Township, NJ. As part of the planned removal of the existing playground and installation of an inclusive playground funded in part by a grant from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Green Acres at this site, an environmental assessment that included soil testing was conducted. The results of the testing indicated the presence of elevated levels of arsenic in the soil. In accordance with NJDEP regulations, we are providing you with notice of this finding, which has been assigned an NJDEP case number #25-08-26-1555-25.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element that is commonly found in water, air, and soil. According to the US EPA, natural concentrations of arsenic in soil can range from 0.1 to 40 mg/kg. In our area, the presence of arsenic in the soil is linked to the area's historic use as farmland. In the early 1900s, a pesticide called lead arsenate was commonly used in orchards throughout New Jersey and across the country. While this pesticide was banned decades ago, residues remain in the soil today in the form of arsenic and lead. These metals tend to bind to soil and do not easily move into plants or groundwater. Arsenic enters the body when it is eaten or inhaled. Some common ways this can happen include:

- Accidentally swallowing soil — for example, if hands are not washed after touching contaminated dirt.
- Eating food that has been grown in contaminated soil.
- Breathing in dust from digging or playing in soil that contains arsenic.

Before building the new inclusive playground, the township will remediate the playground soil in a manner that is approved and overseen by NJDEP and Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) retained for the Site. Since the primary risk comes from direct contact with or ingestion of surface soil or dust, any remediation will focus on the top few inches of soil where contamination is present. While a remediation plan has not yet been developed, common techniques include blending, removing and/or covering the affected surface soil to a level that is within NJDEP standards. It is also important to note that the plans for the new inclusive playground contemplate a fully covered and padded surface, with no exposed soil, ensuring that children and families can safely enjoy the space

It is important to note that health risks from arsenic and lead typically result from long-term exposure, usually over several months. We are taking this precautionary action now

to eliminate that risk and ensure the new inclusive playground will be a safe and enjoyable place for children and families for years to come.

During the course of the work, we will provide you with periodic updates about our progress. A copy of any and all of our reports regarding the work will also be made available to Moorestown Township officials, upon request. Should you have any questions regarding the work, you may contact the Licensed Site Remediation Professional , Andrew W. Zjawin, by 856-547-0505 or [azjawin@pennoni.com](mailto:azjawin@pennoni.com).

This notification is being provided as a public service. We appreciate your patience while this important work is completed and look forward to delivering a new inclusive playground as a safe and valuable community resource.

Sincerely,  
**Don Lloyd**  
**Director of Public Works**  
Moorestown Township