Erie County Conservation League Firing Range Cleanup Project

Site Background

A 57-acre portion of NASA's Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility in Sandusky, Ohio, was previously leased to the Erie County Conservation League (ECCL) as a pistol, rifle, trap, and skeet firing range. The former firing range is located adjacent to the facility's eastern perimeter fence, west of Route 250 (Milan Road). All structures in the area, including the former clubhouse, have been removed.

Firing range activity resulted in residual contamination in the soil that, while not a concern at the time, is now considered to be unacceptable. The area is being addressed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulatory program, commonly known as Superfund.

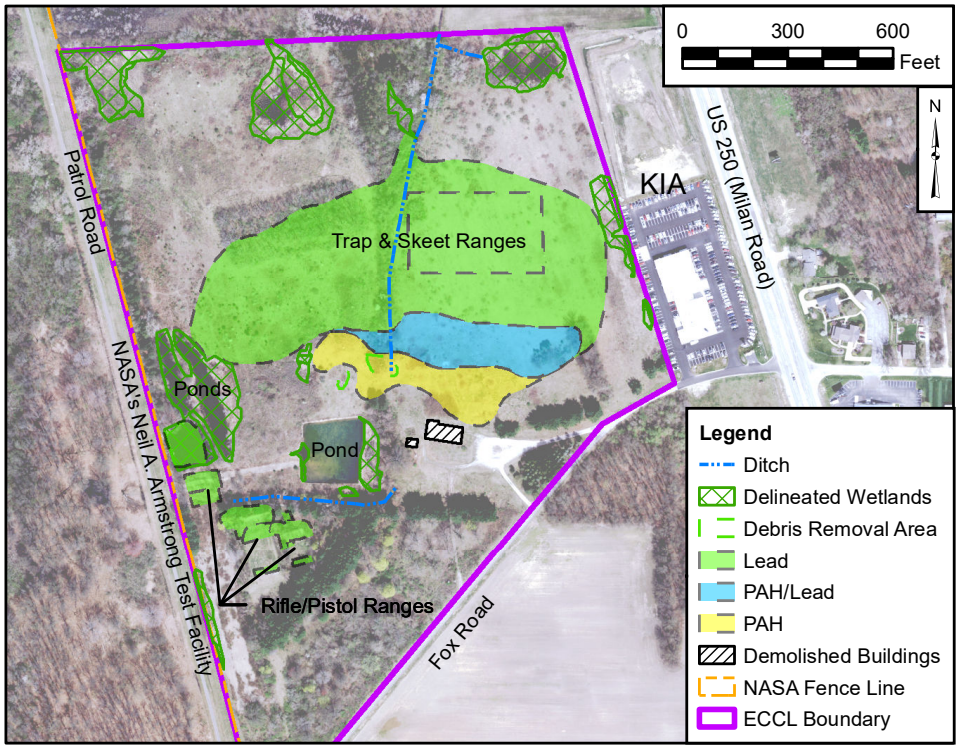
The ECCL Firing Range Removal Site Evaluation Report describes the history, environmental investigations, and remediation plan for the area. No groundwater contamination was identified. However, in the site's soil and sediment, the report found:

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon- (PAH-) contamination is from clay targets used on the trap and skeet ranges and byproducts of incomplete combustion from shooting
- Lead-contamination from discharged lead bullets and shot

Removal Plan

NASA developed a removal plan that includes the designs for the excavation with the use of heavy equipment (e.g., excavators and on- and off-road dump trucks) and treatment of contaminated soil and sediment. Crews will excavate approximately:

- 45,466 tons of soil
- 624 tons of pond sediment
- 108 tons of construction debris



ECCL Firing Range Location Map and Excavation Extents

Then, crews will treat the soil to stabilize it. The excavated areas will be filled with clean soil, and the site will be restored with native grasses to meet requirements in NASA's Protected Species Management Plan.

Soil samples will be collected to:

- Confirm the success of the soil/sediment stabilization activities
- Verify that soil cleanup goals are achieved

Excavating and treating the soil will reduce contaminant levels and the mobility of the lead. This will also allow for unrestricted residential land use and lower the disposal cost for the treated soil at a local non-hazardous waste landfill. The estimated total cost for the cleanup and reporting is $8,380,099.

Timeline

February 2019: A perimeter fence was installed around the ECCL site to restrict public access and prevent exposure to contamination.

February 2020: NASA cleared heavy shrub growth and trees from the area to prepare for cleanup.

July 2020: NASA signed the Action Memorandum for Erie County Conservation League Firing Range Removal Action and agreed to proceed with removal of contaminated soil and sediment.

August 2021: Environmental restoration activities will begin.

The cleanup is anticipated to take place from August 2021 to March 2022. Work will be completed Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET daily, excluding holidays.

Further Information

Public participation is an important part of a NASA remediation project.
Please submit questions or comments via phone, email, or mail at any point in the cleanup process.

Phone: 216-433-6028
Email: GRC-Restoration@mail.nasa.gov
Mail: NASA Glenn Research Center
Environmental Management Office
21000 Brookpark Road, MS 6-7
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Where can I find additional information about the ECCL Firing Range?
The Removal Site Evaluation Report and Action Memorandum are available electronically at the following website: https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/neil-armstrong-test-facility-restoration/.

NASA also established a Community Information Bank at the Bowling Green State University Firelands Library located at One University Drive, Huron, Ohio.