

Georgia Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

The Hazardous Site Response Act (Act), which was enacted in 1993, authorizes the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to clean up hazardous sites that threaten human health and the environment. This law enables EPD to use the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF) for hazardous site assessment, remediation, and monitoring, local government landfill reimbursements, and abandoned site cleanups.

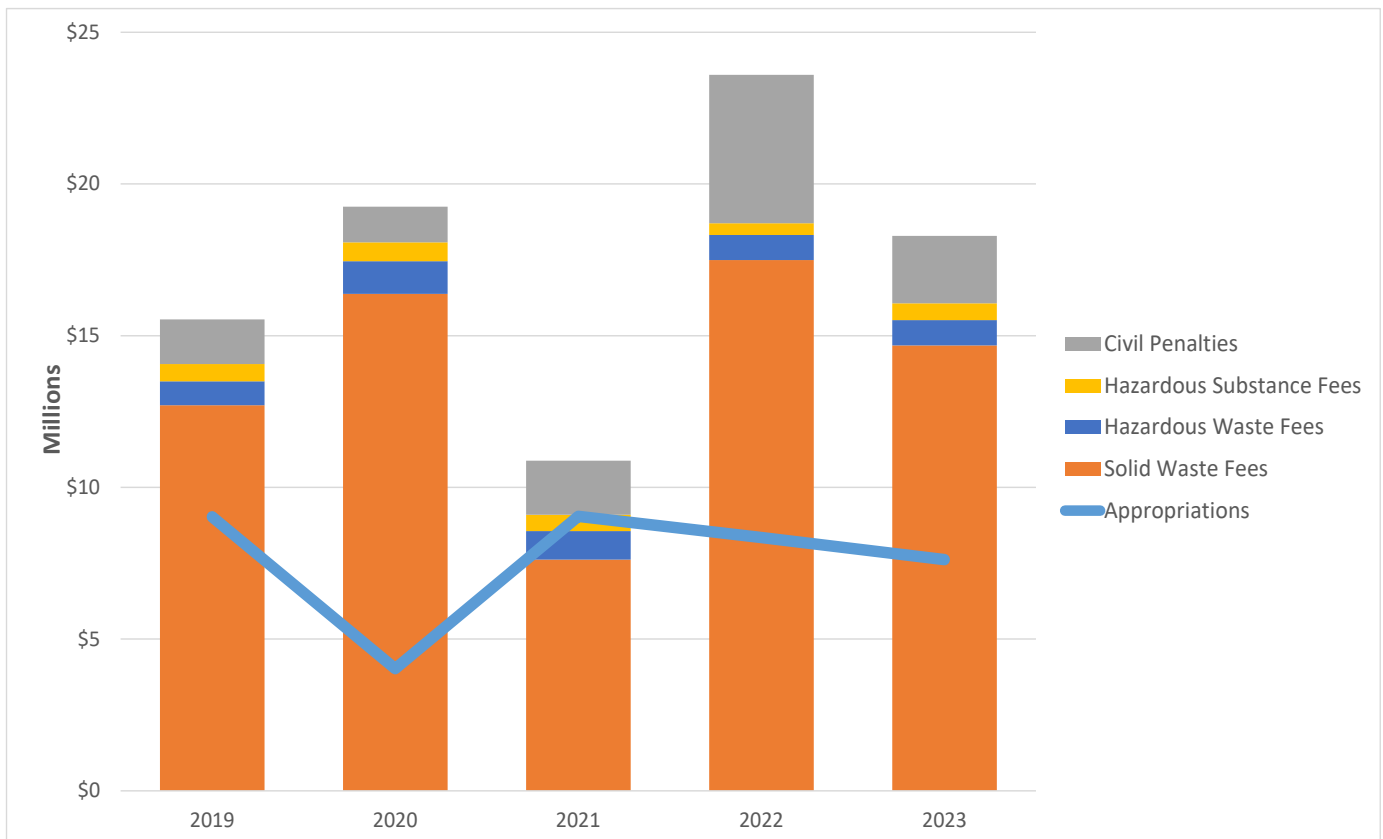
The HWTF is funded by fees collected from industry and government agencies that produce, manage, and dispose of solid wastes and hazardous wastes, and from fines collected from violators of certain environmental laws. As shown in the chart below, most funding is from a tipping fee of \$0.75 per ton of waste disposed at landfills throughout the State. The hazardous waste/substance fees are assessed based on the volume an entity generates and/or releases, and Georgia's smallest generators are excluded.

Historically, the fees collected were subject to appropriation by the General Assembly to EPD, whose director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee. Beginning with FY23 and continuing for the next decade, tipping fees are automatically dedicated to the HWTF. HB31, passed during the FY23 legislative session, dedicates hazardous waste/hazardous substance fees to the HWTF as well. Civil Penalties remain subject to legislative appropriation.

Funding

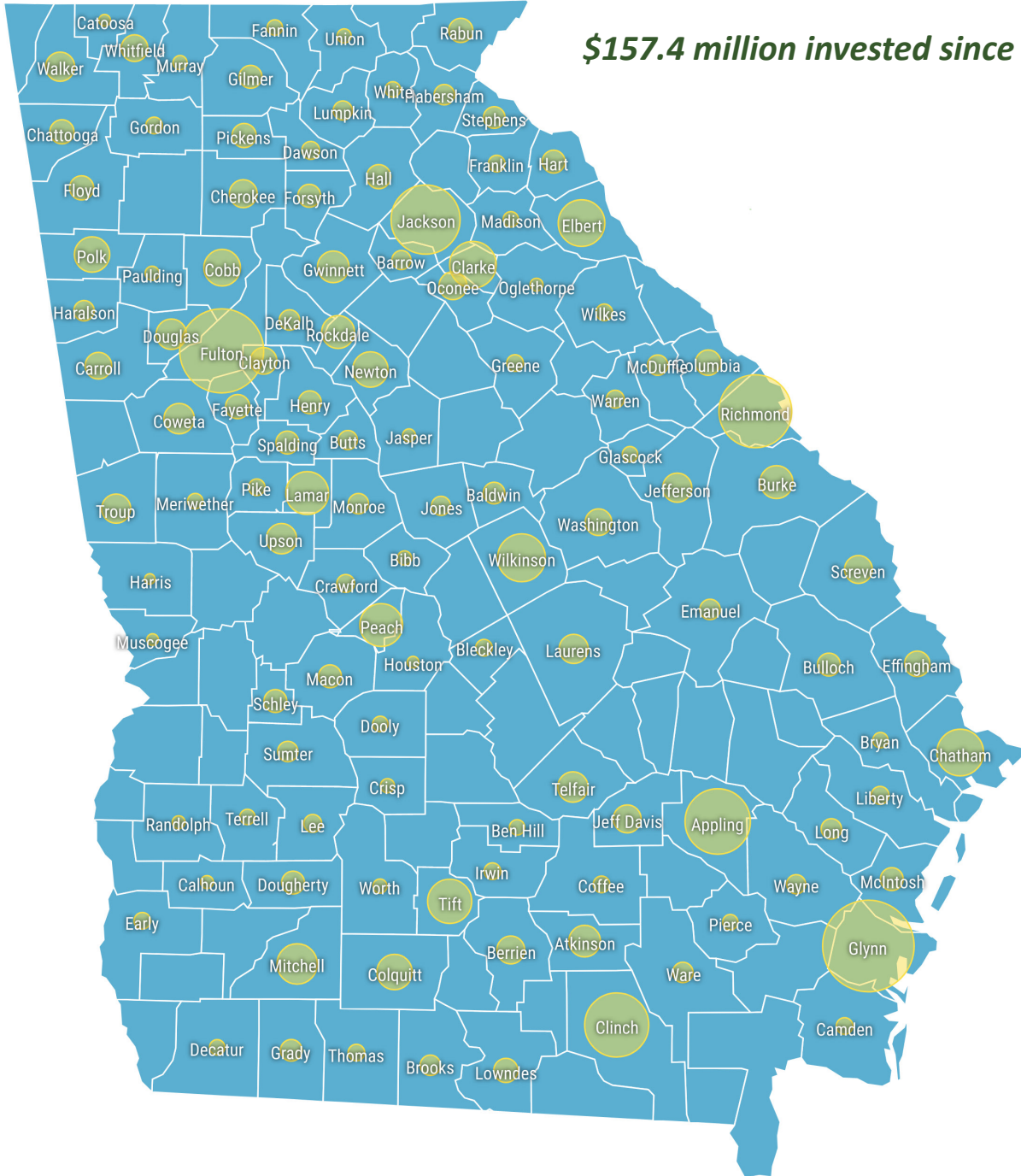
Tipping fees collected in FY21 were unusually low due to many payments coming in shortly after June 30th, the end of the fiscal year. The \$7,620,376 collected were dedicated to the HWTF for FY23 for hazardous site assessment, remediation, and monitoring, local government landfill reimbursements, and abandoned site cleanups. Because of the late FY21 payments, Tipping Fees collected in FY22 and dedicated for use in FY24 total \$17,493,568.

FY19-FY23 Fees Collected and Appropriated



Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

HWTF Spending by County

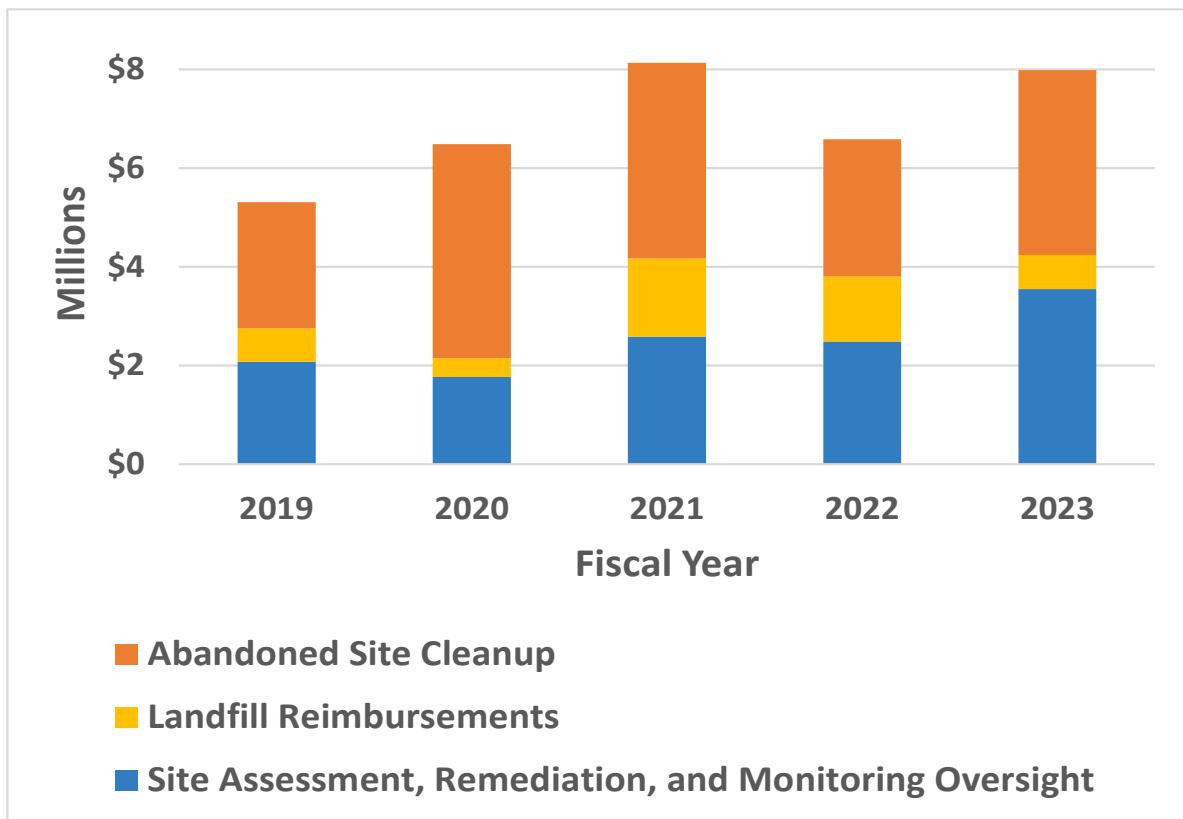


HWTF Expenditures

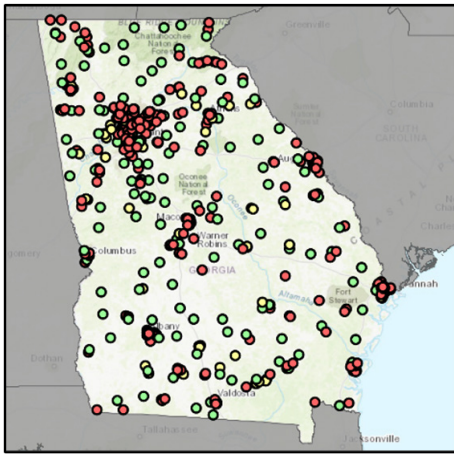
Under the Hazardous Site Response Act (commonly referred to as the state superfund law), EPD discovers hazardous sites, publishes this information on the Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI), and works with entities who caused the contamination to clean them up. EPD uses the HWTF to help local governments and state agencies investigate and clean up their sites and to investigate and clean up abandoned sites throughout Georgia. Benefits of these actions include the following:

- Communities are made aware of contamination and potential exposure pathways in their area and may access tools and information to help prevent exposure.
- Local governments are provided with funding to assist in cleanup of leaking landfills.
- Bankrupt/abandoned contaminated sites are cleaned up or made ready for development, minimizing the risk of additional contamination, blight and missed economic development opportunities.
- Private party cleanups are monitored to ensure steady progress to help prevent continued spread of contamination and the possible creation of additional abandoned sites.
- Property transactions can continue due to regulatory certainty provided by EPD review of “due diligence” reports.

Expenditures by Authorized Use



Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight



Hazardous Site Inventory location map.

Hazardous Site Inventory

Each year on July 1, EPD publishes the HSI, which is an inventory of the state's hazardous waste sites. The HSI gives the public detailed information about site location, the type(s) of contamination present at the site, and the cleanup status. An interactive map with site profile information and links to individual site summaries can be accessed on the EPD [website](#).

Release Notifications, Listings, and Delistings

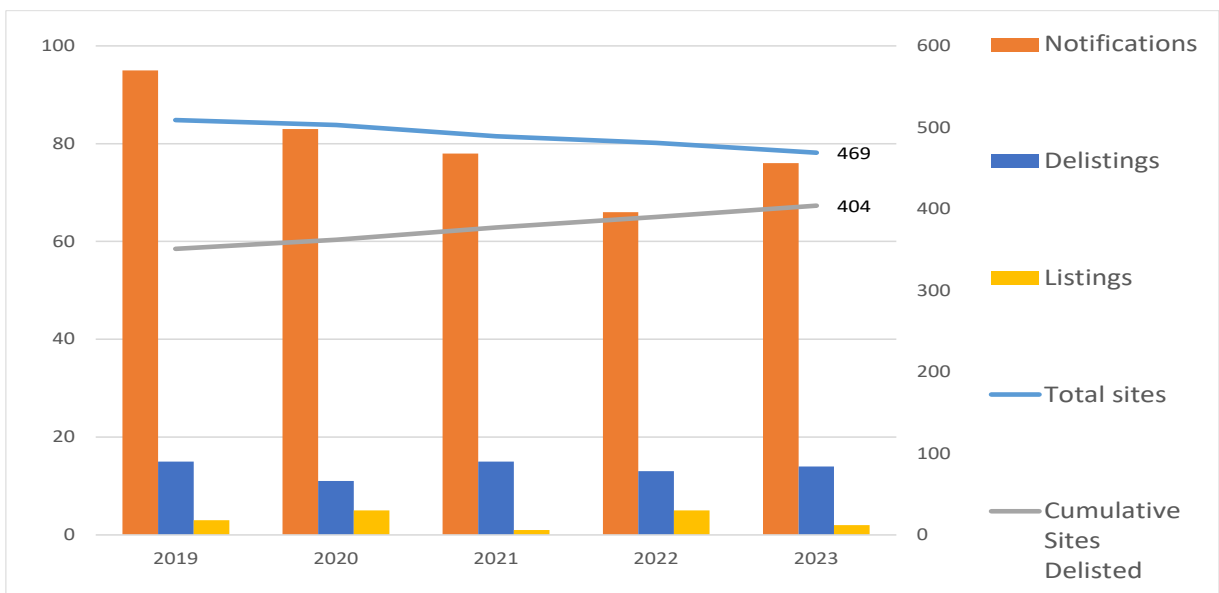
When a suspected release of a regulated substance is discovered in soil or groundwater, the property owner determines if EPD notification is required. After receiving a notification, EPD uses a numerical scoring process which factors the toxicity and physical state of the substance, the proximity to nearby residents and drinking water wells, and public access to the release. If the threshold for either soil or groundwater is exceeded, or if the site otherwise poses a threat to public health or the environment, the site may be placed on the HSI. Sites listed on the HSI are required to meet Georgia clean-up standards, and once applicable clean-up standards are met, EPD can remove the site from the HSI. At the end of FY23, 469 sites are listed on the HSI.



Release Notification - Jarrells Metal & Iron.

EPD continues to defer HSI listing determinations, when appropriate, to ensure that we have accurate data and to allow exploration of other avenues for cleanup. In FY23, one-third of the completed notifications were deferred for additional assessment, pre-scoring cleanup, and/or enrollment in Brownfield or Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). These actions typically result in a similar cleanup, but with lower costs and timeframe for both the property owner and the State.

Notifications/HSI Status



Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight

Success Stories

Listing Deferral

EPD received a Release Notification for the **Maxim Crane Works Property** located in Savannah, Chatham County, that reported solvent impacts to groundwater. After an extensive soil investigation, no source was encountered at the property. EPD and the property owner then explored the possibility of an upgradient source. EPD sent a Notification Call-In Letter to the upgradient adjacent property owner. Extensive data from the upgradient property also showed groundwater impacts but no source in soil. It was noted however that the highest concentrations of solvents in groundwater originated from an area that pooled during heavy rain and was shared by both properties. EPD determined this was a historical release, and that due to the high groundwater table (approximately two to four feet below ground surface) source material may have already migrated from soil to groundwater. Since a soil source could not be found at either property, the property owners decided to perform further groundwater investigations and pursue Environmental Covenants (ECs) on their respective properties. The parties used existing wells, additional monitoring wells, and groundwater data from historical Release Notifications in the area to demonstrate that the groundwater solvent plume was vertically and horizontally delineated. ECs were implemented to restrict groundwater use at both properties and to evaluate any future buildings for potential vapor intrusion. HSI scoring determined that a release to groundwater exceeding a reportable quantity occurred at both properties. However, through deferred scoring, both property owners worked together to submit extensive data that would satisfy site closure and compliance certification requirements established by the Georgia Voluntary Remediation Program Act, in an expedited timeframe.



Maxim Crane and BJH Rentals property boundary.



HTWP Stream channel excavation (HSI# 10199).

Successful Long-term Cleanup

Hoover Treated Wood Products (HTWP) has operated as a wood-treatment facility in Thomson, McDuffie County, since the early 1960s. The site includes a 28.5-acre source parcel and six additional parcels that were impacted by activities at the source parcel. The site was listed on the original Hazardous Site Inventory published July 1, 1994. A former unlined, 250,000-gallon surface impoundment was used to collect stormwater for use as process water for chromated copper arsenate (CCA) solution, a commonly used preservative at wood-treatment facilities. Metals contamination was released from the surface impoundment to soil and groundwater. Overflow from the impoundment ran to a detention area and drainage ditch, which transported metals across the additional properties and impacted downgradient soil, sediment, and surface water. Between 2005 and 2009, 75,600 tons of impacted soil and sediment were excavated from the site and transported for landfill disposal as non-hazardous waste. After excavating soil and sediment, groundwater conditions improved through time. Stream restoration was overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Nationwide Permit 38 including five years of post-remediation groundwater monitoring to satisfy the requirements of the permit. The HTWP site was certified to Georgia soil and groundwater cleanup standards and was delisted from the HSI on March 23, 2023.

Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight

Success Stories

Multiple Responsible Parties & EPD Collaboration

CARE Environmental (CARE) (HSI No. 10953) was a Solid Waste Processing Facility permitted for the collection, processing, and storage of a variety of types of household hazardous wastes in Valdosta, Lowndes County. After a long-documented history of regulatory issues with onsite operations EPD revoked the permit, and CARE abandoned the property in 2019 with various wastes remaining in the warehouse and on property. EPD was provided access to perform a variety of facility closure activities; and after investigations of site conditions, EPD listed the property on the HSI in October 2019.

Through enforcement actions negotiated with EPD, the property owner agreed to stabilize the waste, remove, and properly dispose of it and address any releases at the site. EPD then reached out to over 40 additional responsible parties, who had used the CARE facility to dispose of their household hazardous waste and asked them to join the property owner in investigating and cleaning up the site. As a result of this cooperative effort, a large group of responsible parties worked together to remediate the site to residential cleanup standards for the constituents of concern in soils and groundwater. On May 30, 2023, the property was delisted from the HSI.



Various wastes staged inside CARE Environmental facility.



Spilled and leaking waste inside CARE facility.



CARE Environmental facility post cleanup activities.

Landfill Reimbursement

The Act provides for reimbursement of eligible local government costs in the investigation and remediation of solid waste handling facilities listed on the State HSI or the Federal National Priorities List. Fifty percent of the tipping fees allocated to the HWTF are made available for these costs in accordance with the Act.

Up to \$2,000,000 per site is provided for addressing the unexpected costs of leaking landfills such as enhanced monitoring and corrective action. The funding does not provide for routine post-closure care (PCC) at permitted facilities, such as capping or basic monitoring. However, for landfills closed prior to permitting requirements, these costs may be eligible.

Private landfills that have been abandoned may be eligible for PCC funding from the Solid Waste Trust Fund, and/or corrective action using the HWTF.

In FY23, EPD reimbursed local government costs from eight HWTF applications for a total of \$688,105. To date, almost \$49 Million has been reimbursed by the HWTF. Additionally, EPD updated its policy on landfill gas (LFG) remediation costs, increasing reimbursement eligibility from 50% to 100%. The chart shows reimbursements that occurred within Fiscal Year 2023.

HSI Number	Recipient Name	FY23 Reimbursement
10283	Ben Hill County	\$83,210.38
10447	Dougherty County	\$111,280.91
10480	Jackson County	\$58,814.50
10572	Jeff Davis County	\$3,037.00
10490	Lumpkin County	\$57,241.20
10448	Spaulding County	\$301,114.75
10461	Stephens County	\$116,055.70
10718	Sugar Hill (City)	\$8,257.51

Landfill Success Story

The **Waynesboro Old City Dump Site (HSI No. 10322)** reportedly operated as an open burning dump from the 1920's until June 1975 and received municipal solid waste, construction waste, and allegedly pesticide waste from the former Atlas Chemical Company in Waynesboro, Burke County. Corrective action included the installation of a low-permeability soil cap (LPSC) and perimeter fencing in December 2013. The City also installed a perimeter monitoring system to evaluate groundwater and methane concentrations at the landfill boundary.

Ongoing corrective action at the site consists of continuing maintenance of the LPSC, methane monitoring and groundwater monitoring. In addition, an environmental covenant was executed to manage potential future exposures by banning the removal of the soil cover or digging into the engineering-controlled areas. The property was delisted from the HSI on May 30, 2023. In completing the necessary corrective actions, the City of Waynesboro was reimbursed more than \$1.1 Million of eligible expenses from the HWTF.



Waynesboro Old City Dump Site (HSI# 10322) post corrective action.

Abandoned Site Cleanups

When a responsible party fails to perform corrective action, EPD may utilize the HWTF and then attempt to recover the cost of cleanup. There are currently 64 sites on the HSI that are classified as abandoned. The total cost estimate for investigation and corrective action of these 64 sites is over \$65 Million.

EPD conducts ongoing reviews of all abandoned and inactive sites and ranks those sites for enforcement and funding in accordance with a site prioritization model. In FY23, EPD oversaw HWTF Contractor activity on 26 abandoned sites, spending over \$3.7 Million. Funded contractor activities were completed at seven of those sites.

Clean Up Success Stories

Historical activity at the **Cedartown Battery Site (HSI No. 10106)**, located in Polk County, included the physical destruction and recovery of lead from spent lead-acid automotive batteries. Waste generated during these activities was not managed properly, resulting in the release of acid and lead-impacted materials. Beginning in 1988, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted inspections and assessments that identified battery waste piles & debris. In 1990, EPA performed on-Site soil stabilization of 21,633 cubic yards of lead impacted soils and other battery parts using cement. The site was subsequently listed on the HSI.

At stages between 2006 and 2022, EPD utilized HWTF resources to perform follow-up soil and groundwater assessment. These activities identified battery casings and lead debris in areas which had not been previously identified or remediated. A total of 4,313 tons of non-hazardous lead impacted soil was excavated and disposed of off-site. Approximately 660 cubic yards of hazardous lead-impacted soil was stabilized/solidified using cement and added to the existing onsite monolith constructed by EPA. Excavation areas were backfilled and graded and vegetation was restored. The removal of this site from the inventory is pending an environmental covenant by the property owners since the monolith contains stabilized lead-impacted material.



Cedartown Battery Site (HSI No. 10106): View of excavation areas.

FY 23 Abandoned Site Cleanups	County
Berrien Products	Berrien
Truman Parkway	Chatham
Best Care Cleaners & Magnolia Hall Property	Cherokee
Morgan Post Treating Co.	Clinch
Union Timber	Clinch
Palmetto Tire Fire	Coweta
Wallace Lake Road Dump	Douglas
Bumper Distributors of Atlanta	Fulton
Franklin St. Site	Fulton
Stephenson Chemical	Fulton
A&D Barrel & Drum Company	Fulton
Escambia - Brunswick Wood	Glynn
Rockbridge Square Shopping Center	Gwinnett
All-Rental	Gwinnett
Shakerag Cleaners	Henry
Agri-Cycle	Jackson
Former Busby Cleaners	Liberty
Pelham Phosphate	Mitchell
Escambia - Camilla Wood	Mitchell
Peach Metal Industries	Peach
Cedartown Battery	Polk
Glennville Wood Preserving	Tattnall
Ohopee River Abandoned Drum Removal	Toombs
Chem-Am	Troup
W.F. Harris & Sons Wood Preserving	Upson
Marble Top Road Abandoned Drums	Walker

Abandoned Site Cleanups

Clean Up Success Stories

The **Palmetto Tire Fire site (HSI No. 10327)** is located in Palmetto, Coweta County, and the property was utilized as a recycling/reclamation facility of various materials including large quantities of scrap tires. An EPA clean-up was conducted in the 1990s after a large tire fire that destroyed part of the business. The fire released various petroleum-based chemicals into the soil and air. In addition, the fire generated wastewater from firefighting activities. EPA mitigated the wastewater by developing a wastewater treatment system. EPA also identified areas of lead impacted soil which they capped with 2-3 ft of compacted clean fill. After conducting this work, EPA referred the site to EPD and it was placed on the HSI.

The Palmetto Tire Fire site was first assessed by EPD in 2019. EPD's investigation began by identifying potential areas that remained impacted by lead. The investigation also included sampling surface water from a stream and sediments near a pond. EPD identified areas that still had high concentrations of lead in soil and decided to expand the 2-3 ft soil cap that was installed by EPA. In addition, EPD performed two small-scale excavations at other lead impacted areas of the site, disposed of approximately 20 tons of municipal solid waste and disposed of approximately 200 scrap tires. Topsoil and seed were added to the 2-3 ft cap to prevent sedimentation and erosion.

Recently, EPD has received interest from a private company to acquire and develop the site. The removal of the site from the inventory is pending an environmental covenant by the future property owner to maintain the capped areas.



Debris at Palmetto Tire Fire Site (HSI No. 10327).



Soil cap with seed and straw at the Palmetto Tire Fire Site.

Community Outreach and Highlights from FY23

Throughout the year EPD provides outreach to communities by attending community meetings as well as providing technical assistance to the public. These are a few highlights from FY23:



Palmetto Tire Fire Site remediated using HWTF funding.

- **30 Years of Making a Difference** – FY23 marked the 30th anniversary of the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF) Program. The Hazardous Site Response Act (HSRA) became law in 1992 and release notifications requirements went into effect on July 1, 1993. Since its inception, the HWTF program has helped to clean up hazardous waste sites all throughout Georgia, making a significant impact on public health and the environment.
- **Great Outdoors Day on the Beltline** – EPD associates participated in a celebration of the incredible natural spaces in Georgia and how communities and wildlife coexist within them. Great Outdoors Day featured several interactive exhibitions and informational booths from the various divisions of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.



Informational booths at Great Outdoors Day.



EPD staff at Atlanta Science Festival.

- **Atlanta Science Festival SPSP** – EPD Land Branch associates participated in the Atlanta Science Festival STEM Professional School Partnership (SPSP). Students had an opportunity to build a water filtration system using everyday materials. The goal was to create the most effective filtering combination while learning about water contamination, solid and hazardous waste pollution in water bodies, and sustainability practices.
- **Region 4 EPA & State Commissioners Meeting** – EPA holds an annual meeting with all Region 4 state's environmental agency leadership. EPD hosted this year's meeting and provided a walking tour of an environmental area of interest that included the Atlanta Beltline Eastside trail and the adjacent Historic Fourth Ward Park. EPD staff provided insight into the remediation and redevelopment of several major projects including Ponce City Market and the stormwater detention feature of the park, both of which have received national acclaim.

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For additional information, please contact
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