



# Recreational Opportunities on Closed Landfills

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water*

# You've got a landfill and don't want to just mow it?



# 100 feet is the line in the sand.

- If you want to put a slide, a solar array or any structure on or within 100 ft. of a solid waste facility, then you will need to obtain a variance from the Department.



# What Are Acceptable Options?

- All Landfills are different. Make sure that you get to know yours before deciding what will work best on it!



# Butterfly Gardens

- Two municipalities in Maine have successfully installed small scale butterfly/pollinator gardens.
- A six inch tilling and a mix of plants that do not have large or woody tap roots is acceptable to the Department.
- It is preferred that this activity be communicated to the Department, but Department approval is not necessary due to this activity being maintenance based.



# Butterfly Gardens!



# Fences Make Good Neighbors, but Tricky Landfills

- Fences on the landfill need to be ballasted, or in an approved plan with the Department set into the landfill cover and sealed.



# Fences con't

- Maintenance mowing around fences is not impossible, but does create a need for planning.
- Fences along the bottom of steep slopes can create very challenging to hazardous angles for mowers to work on.





# Department Checklist

- The Department is Online! This is a check list for a solar array, but will have many applicable parts to a recreational site with structures.

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/landfillclosure/documents/Guidance-LCR-Application-instructions-for-Photovoltaics-on-Landfills-01252021.pdf>



# The guide to a painless (timely) application process

- Get to know your landfill
  - Conduct a walk over with developers/installers to create a viable plan for install.
  - Inform the Department and the appropriate municipal entities that an install at your landfill is an interest.
    - If there are structural issues identified, then arrange to correct them.



# Project Description

- Follow the online checklist. It is what the Department will use to assess the completeness of the application!
- The description of the Project is where you write about the history of the landfill, the cover system, and the proposed installation.



# Landfill Gas Control

- Provide information demonstrating that the project will not create an unreasonable risk of exposure to landfill gas (LFG). The information to be provided should include the following if the landfill has an engineered LFG management system:
  - A description of the existing LFG control system and assessment of its current effectiveness;
  - An assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed PV system on the LFG control system and a description of the steps that will be taken to preserve the integrity of the system, including any proposed alterations to the system.



# Stormwater Control

- Provide a plan showing existing stormwater control features and proposed changes to the landfill stormwater management system.
  - Will your project have any impact on the stormwater controls?
    - Think of access points, any berming, or rutting potential that could cause erosional channeling or ponding on the cover.



# Erosion Control Plan

- If there is to be a substantial amount of exposed earth for the installation of this project, then a plan is needed.
- Provide an erosion and sedimentation control plan for construction and operation of the project. The plan must be prepared in accordance with Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) which are available online.



# Inspection & Maintenance

- Provide a monitoring and maintenance plan outlining the steps that will be taken to inspect and maintain the landfill cover system and appurtenant systems after the recreational structures are installed.
- Must provide for the landfill surface to be **mowed** at least once **annually**.



# Some Ideas that have been floated in the past:

- Dog parks,
- Disk golf,
- Driving range,
- Walking/Jogging paths, and
- Sledding hills.





# And the big reuse movement of the moment





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