



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Charles Sams III
Director
National Park Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams:

I write to request that the National Park Service (NPS) investigate ordnances and soil and groundwater contamination throughout Fort Totten Park.

After an unexploded ordnance was uncovered on the Fort Totten Trail in 2020, I convened a meeting with NPS, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to discuss the scope of NPS's investigation. In that meeting, I was assured that NPS had conducted a thorough investigation.

However, I have since been informed that NPS has only investigated parts of Fort Totten Trail, and not throughout Fort Totten Park.

Furthermore, a different NPS study only conducted tests immediately around the site of the toxic soil dump. Given that these studies found elevated levels of arsenic that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's generic regional screening levels for both residential and industrial soil in both surface and subsurface soil, I believe it is imperative that NPS conduct an investigation throughout Fort Totten Park. This park is located in a residential neighborhood and is regularly used.

I am committed to ensuring that residents across the District are safe from ordnance, chemical weapons and soil and groundwater contamination. I request a response to this letter by February 28, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eleanor H. Norton".

Eleanor Holmes Norton