



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update



November 2009

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Chanute sees “growth” in remediation progress

Hybrid poplar trees used in innovative cleanup strategy

Since last May, the area surrounding a landfill at the former Chanute AFB has gradually transformed into a leafy barrier of hybrid poplar trees. The poplars, planted by Shaw Environmental, Inc., with technical and onsite support from Ecolotree, Inc., are the focus of a treatability study to evaluate the use of trees to absorb leachate (liquid and/or groundwater that has been in contact with landfill waste) possibly emanating from beneath a landfill at the base.

The trees were planted around the landfill, acting as barriers to prevent leachate migration, as well as to filter any possible contaminants that may be present. This barrier, called an Evapotranspiration Buffer, also promotes the phytoremediation of soil contaminants—a method by which plants are used to clean up pollution in the environment by their own natural processes.

Shaw was awarded a \$38.7M contract by the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) in December 2008 to perform environmental remediation work at Chanute and this project utilizes one of the many remediation techniques planned for sites at the former base.

RECENT CLEANUP EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN NOTICEABLE CHANGES AT SITES LIKE BUILDING 937. IT'S EXCITING TO WITNESS THE TRANSFORMATION OF FORMER CHANUTE PROPERTY ACROSS THE RANTOUL AREA.

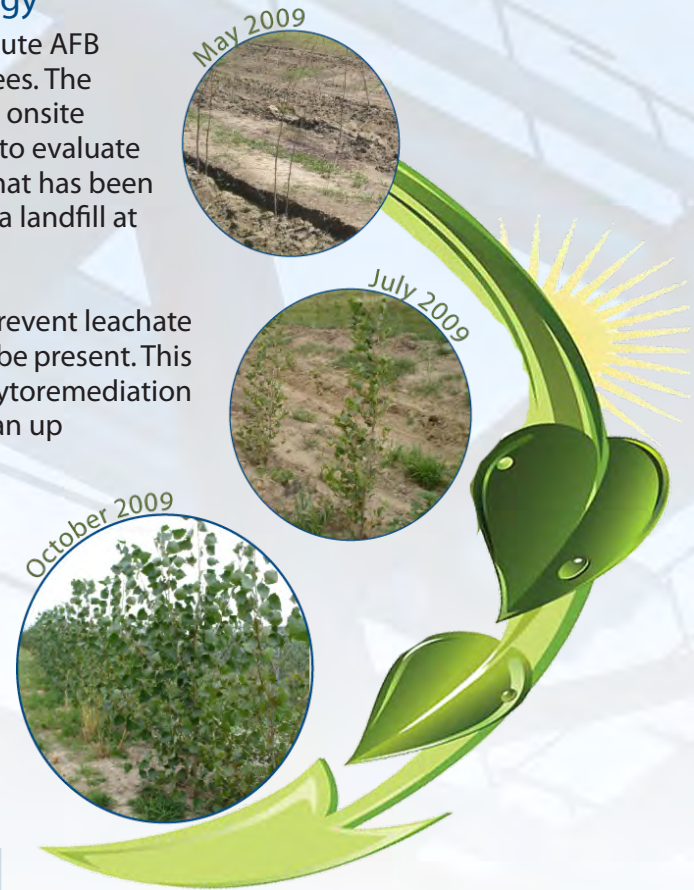
*- MARTIN ALBLINGER, ARCHITECT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPT., VILLAGE OF RANTOUL*

Six additional sites progressing towards “No Further Action” decision

The Air Force and Shaw Environmental are making tremendous strides towards achieving “No Further Action” decisions at six Chanute remediation sites in the coming months. Once reviewed and approved by the U.S. and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and incorporating a public review, the total of Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites which have achieved closure at Chanute will reach 40—all with no restrictions on reuse. Of the 81 IRP sites identified at the former installation, the remaining are slated for remediation and/or closure under the Performance Based Remediation (PBR) awarded in December 2008. The Air Force hopes to close most of the remaining sites, many with no use restrictions, within the next few years.

Visible changes spruce up the Rantoul landscape

The Air Force has recently completed several environmental cleanup efforts across former Chanute property. Work completed includes mowing more than 40 acres of open grassland still being evaluated for environmental impacts, the removal of more than 3,000 feet of chain link fence surrounding the Northern Excavation Area, well abandonment near Building 1380, and cleaning up the interior and exterior of Building 937, formerly used by Air Force contractors conducting work at Chanute.



Air Force Real Property Agency
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821

November 19 Restoration Advisory Board and Public Meetings

RAB Meeting: 12:00 p.m.

Public Meeting: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location:

Rantoul Business Center (Former Smith Hall)
601 S. Century Blvd., Suite 1106

Contact Information

Air Force Real Property Agency
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821
Toll Free (866) 725-7617



Feedback, Comments, and More Information

I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base.

I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for the former Chanute Air Force Base.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcome and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

Organization _____

Street address _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Additional Comments _____

Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFRPA/Public Affairs, 2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121, San Antonio, TX 78236-9821