



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Emergency (Temporary) Storm Debris Storage Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park

Q: What is happening at Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park?

A: Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park has been designated, under emergency proclamations, as a temporary debris storage site. Following the two Kona low storms that caused extensive flooding across O'ahu, City, State and contracted debris haulers require a centrally-located temporary lay-down site to sort and process debris. The debris will be consolidated, sorted, and prepared for proper disposal as part of ongoing recovery efforts. This operation is temporary and after use, the site will be remediated and restored back to its original condition.

Q: Why was this park chosen?

A: Central O'ahu Regional Park is pre-identified as an emergency staging site due to its size, accessibility, and ability to safely support debris operations. Using this location allows for a faster and more efficient response to storm recovery needs.

Q: Is the park still open to the public? Will access be impacted?

A: Except for the debris sorting site, the park remains open to the public. The debris storage area is secured and isolated, and operations are being managed to minimize disruption to park users. We apologize for the need to use this valuable regional park.

Q: Where is the debris coming from?

A: The debris is being collected from the most severely impacted areas on O'ahu, including Hale'iwa and Waialua, where recent flooding caused extensive damage to homes and properties.

Q: What types of debris are being temporarily stored at the site?

A: The site is being used for storm-related debris, including vegetative material, damaged household items, and construction debris resulting from flooding of homes and businesses. Hazardous materials are handled separately and are not included as part of this operation.

Q: Who is allowed to drop off debris at this site? Is it open to the public?

A: No. This temporary debris storage site is not open to the public. Only authorized personnel are permitted to access the site, including:

- City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services crews;
- State of Hawaii crews; and
- Contracted storm debris haulers.

Residents should continue to use designated transfer stations or convenience centers for disposal.

Q: How long will debris remain at the park?

A: The site is temporary. However, with debris contractors mobilizing and sorting as quickly as possible, we are currently estimated several weeks.

Q: Will there be odors, dust, or health concerns for nearby residents?

A: The City is actively managing the site to minimize odors, dust, and any potential airborne impacts.

Storm debris is being processed as quickly as possible, and environmental controls are in place to protect surrounding areas and nearby communities from harmful side-effects of the operation.

Q: What environmental precautions is the City taking?

A: The City has implemented multiple environmental protection measures, including:

- Installation of filter socks to prevent sediment runoff;
- Securing the site with temporary fencing; and
- 24/7 monitoring of the area.

In addition, the City has a comprehensive site remediation plan. After debris removal, the area will be tested for contaminants. If any contamination is detected, appropriate remediation will be conducted, and any damage to park infrastructure will be fully restored.

Q: Will this damage the park long-term?

A: No. The City has a full restoration plan in-place. Once operations are complete, the area will be tested, cleaned, and restored to its original condition.

Q: How is traffic being managed around the park?

A: Truck routes and operations are being coordinated to minimize traffic impacts. Activity is limited to authorized vehicles and is being managed by the City and its contractors.

Q: Is this the only debris site being used?

A: No. This is one of several sites the City is using to manage storm debris efficiently and safely across impacted areas.

Q: What happens to the debris after it leaves the site?

A: Debris will be sorted and transported to appropriate facilities for recycling, processing, or final disposal in accordance with environmental regulations.

