



From **Century-Old “No Man’s Land”** to **Healthy Hub for Outdoor Activity**

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC),
L’Anse Indian Reservation, Michigan

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe with over 3,000 members located in the Upper Peninsula area of Michigan.

From 1902 to 1919, a modern copper mining facility dumped stamp sand (a byproduct of the copper industry) in the bay.

Sand created as a byproduct of the copper mining process is coarse and contains heavy metals like arsenic and lead, which are harmful to humans.

Over time, this sand was pushed ashore and contributed to 550,000 yards, or about 110,000 dump trucks, of contamination.

The KBIC’s primary motivation to revitalize the land was to create a healthy and safe recreation space. First, KBIC and their partners conducted field tests to better understand how serious the contamination was. Then, they developed a plan for the land that included walking trails, a picnic and camping area, and a lighthouse restoration project



Health impacts of the KBIC redevelopment:

- ✓ **Eliminated** potential exposures to lead, arsenic, and other environmental contaminants
- ✓ **Restored** land for outdoor recreation and cultural activities



Funding:

- EPA Brownfields Program
- Great Lakes Commission Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Program



For the full story, visit:

http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/docs/ATSDR_LandReuse.pdf



Photo: Record of Decision.doc (Katie Kruse)



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