

City, County, State Partnership Addresses Contamination at Shooting Range

The former Hays Shooting Range was used by City, County, and State law enforcement personnel until 1998 for shooting practice. This shooting range was located on private property near a residence just west of Hays. BER partnered with the City of Hays and Ellis County to investigate and remediate environmental impacts associated with the shooting range. KDHE's investigation found large numbers of bullets and bullet fragments across the site, including in an ephemeral creek, and detected lead in the soil at concentrations much higher than the residential standard. The City and County pooled funds to hire a contractor to collect visible bullets, remove boulders, excavate the soil, separate bullets from the soil, and dispose of contaminated soil. BER provided project oversight for all remedial efforts. The disposal included recycling lead bullets and fragments; transporting soil that failed Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure testing to Lone Mountain in Oklahoma; and using best management practices for soil with lead concentrations below the nonresidential standard. This material was reused for berm construction at the active Hays City Sportsman Club shooting range with an Environmental Use Control placed on the property to control future land use. The former shooting range property was restored to its natural setting by returning boulders to the hill slope and reseeded.

This project was successful because of the local-state partnership between Ellis County, City of Hays and KDHE. All three entities shared responsibility and each played an important role in completion of the project.



Top Left: Accumulation of fired lead bullets.

Top Right: Machine used to segregate lead shot from soil for recycling.

Lower Left: Lead shot and soil removed from around native boulders. The soil is re-vegetated.