



## **Behind the scenes: Laying the groundwork for Origin Park**

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Projects are always exciting to watch unfold. Day by day, the landscape shifts: earth is moved, steel beams rise into place, and what was once a bustling, messy construction site gradually becomes quiet, polished, and ready for its grand opening. But what may not be as apparent is that every project begins long before the first shovel hits the ground. The creation of Origin Park is no exception.

Before visible progress begins, extensive pre-development work takes place: planning, design, permitting, environmental assessment, and cleanup, to name a few. These behind-the-scenes efforts are absolutely essential to the success of the project. Of these, an often asked about component is the environmental assessment work done on a project.

Every property within Origin Park, owned or managed by River Heritage Conservancy (RHC), undergoes various types of environmental assessments (ESAs). These evaluations help us understand the challenges and opportunities involved in reclaiming and revitalizing the land.

ESAs are designed to identify potential contamination and evaluate environmental risks associated with a site. These investigations are conducted in multiple phases:

- Phase I ESA evaluates historical records, aerial imagery, regulatory databases, and site inspections to identify potential environmental concerns.
- Phase II ESA involves sampling and laboratory analysis of soil, groundwater, or other media to confirm the presence and extent of contamination.
- Phase III ESA (if required) focuses on remediation planning and corrective measures.

Based on the assessment findings, site-specific recommendations are made. These recommendations vary depending on the intended land use; public parkland requires particular attention and emphasis on public safety and ecological integrity.

RHC has partnered with SME consultants, environmental professionals Michael Yergin and Rob Walker, to ensure that cleanup activities are executed in compliance with regulatory standards and best practices. Their guidance supports a remediation process that prioritizes human health, ecological restoration, and long-term sustainability.



By integrating comprehensive assessment and remediation into the early stages of development, Origin Park is positioned not only as a recreational asset but also as a model for thoughtful, environmentally responsible land reuse.

The Origin Park team is working hard behind the scenes today, for a park you'll love tomorrow.

