

Where Was the Dump/Landfill Located?

For years, people have asked a simple question about the former Aeromarine property in Keyport: *Where exactly was the landfill?*

It sounds like a straightforward question, but the answer has never been presented in a clear, public-facing way. There is no single, widely circulated map that shows residents, in plain terms, the precise boundaries of where dumping occurred during the 1960s and 1970s.

But when you step back and piece together environmental reports, the land's historical use, and the site's geography, a very clear picture emerges.

The Aeromarine site was not used as a landfill in the way many people might imagine, such as a single pit or a confined dumping area tucked into one corner of the property. Instead, evidence consistently points to something much broader:

The landfill covered a large portion of the waterfront side of the Aeromarine property, stretching across former industrial grounds and low-lying land along Raritan Bay.

Estimates place the landfill at roughly 40 to 50 acres, a significant footprint that suggests this was a wide-area fill operation rather than a contained disposal site.

Geographically, the landfill sat in a critical location. On one side were residential streets, with the most notable being First Street. On the other side was Raritan Bay. The landfill occupied the land in between.

That means the dump was positioned directly along the shoreline across from what is now part of the industrial park on land that historically included marshes, fill areas, and former factory grounds.

This placement matters. It helps explain why concerns today are not limited to the property itself, but extend outward to nearby neighborhoods, groundwater, and even the bay.

Before it was ever used as a landfill, the site had already undergone significant transformation.

Originally, much of this land was coastal marshland and tidal wetland, environments where water moves freely through the soil. During the Aeromarine industrial era, parts of the site were developed with factories and structures. Later, during the landfill years, additional material was brought in to build up and level portions of the property.

In practical terms, that means the landfill was placed on land that has a high water table, is naturally permeable, and directly connected to tidal movement from Raritan Bay.

This is not the kind of land that naturally contains waste. It is the kind of land where materials can move over time.

The dumping took place between approximately **1962 and 1979**, long before modern landfill regulations were in place.

There is no indication that the site was constructed as a modern, engineered landfill with liners or containment systems. Instead, it reflects the practices of the time, when landfills were often created by simply placing waste into low-lying areas and covering it.

Descriptions from environmental investigations suggest:

- Waste was placed throughout multiple portions of the site
- The fill was uneven in depth
- Some contaminants have been detected above groundwater levels

Taken together, this reinforces the idea that the landfill was spread across the property, rather than isolated in a single, controlled location.

What About Specific Dumping Stories?

Over the years, there have been persistent accounts from residents and workers describing:

- Dumping of materials in specific areas
- Burial of waste beneath former structures
- Use of pits or shafts within buildings

These accounts are important, and they reflect real memories of what may have occurred. At the same time, they have not yet been confirmed through publicly available documentation. They are plausible given the practices of the era, but they remain part of the broader investigation rather than established fact.

Understanding the landfill's location helps explain why current concerns have emerged.

If the dumping occurred across the waterfront portion of the property—between homes and the bay—then any long-term environmental impact would not remain confined to a single point. It could affect:

- Groundwater moving inland
- Soil conditions near residential areas
- Sediment and water along the bay shoreline

This is why the issue continues to draw attention. The placement of the landfill creates a connection between past industrial activity and present-day environmental questions.

Despite everything that is known, one critical piece is still missing from public understanding: a *clear, accessible map showing the exact boundaries of the landfill.*

Such maps likely exist within preliminary assessment (PA) reports, site Investigation (SI) documents, and /or remedial investigation records. But they have not been widely shared in a way that allows residents to easily understand the scope and location of the dumping.

When all the pieces are brought together, the conclusion is difficult to avoid:

The Aeromarine landfill was not a small dumping site. It was a large, unlined landfill spread across the waterfront portion of the property, occupying land between the neighborhood and Raritan Bay.

That fact alone explains why so many questions remain and why so many people are now asking for clearer answers.

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