

LOCAL

Thousand of gallons of runoff leak into Peoria area creeks after landfill break-in

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(This story was updated to accurately reflect the most current information.)

Thousands of gallons of landfill runoff have been leaked into Peoria creeks and drainage areas, according to the [Peoria County Sheriff's Department](#), which has opened an investigation into what appears to be a break-in at a Peoria County landfill.

Sometime between April 9 and April 11 a suspect or suspects are believed to have gained access to a Peoria County landfill at 4249 W. Southport Road by knocking down a chain-link fence, according to the Sheriff's Office. After entering, the suspects turned on two drainage valves that released thousands of gallons of garbage runoff into nearby creeks and drainage areas.

There has been no confirmation from GFL Environmental about exactly where the leak happened at the landfill. GFL did not return Journal Star phone calls on Monday.

Peoria Disposal Company was sold to [GFL Environmental in 2021](#), which then assumed operations at the landfill.

Peoria Sheriff Chris Watkins told the Journal Star they do not yet have any suspect information and said there were no cameras set up in the area where the vandalism occurred. Landfill employees turned off the valves as soon as they

noticed they were running.

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A landfill supervisor told police that the suspect or suspects are believed to have accessed the site on an ATV because an access road leading to site is blocked by a vehicle barricade.

A nearby property owner told landfill staff he had his deer stand broken into and three chairs stolen. The supervisor told police that two of the chairs were located on landfill property "with one chair being located at the top of a hill overlooking the two drainage valves."

The Peoria Sheriff's Department reported the incident to the [Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#).

The Journal Star has reached out to the IEPA for comment on the investigation.

The vandalism at the Peoria landfill happened just days after the Peoria City Council approved a new garbage hauling contract with GFL Environmental.

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