

# Celebrating 10 Years of Returning Superfund Sites to Beneficial Use



## REGION 9 Success Story

### Pemaco: Maywood, California



Pictured: Pemaco Maywood site during preparation for reuse. Source: EPA



Pictured: New Maywood Riverfront Park at the Pemaco site. Source: EPA

EPA, the City of Maywood, the Trust for Public Land, and other stakeholders worked together to revitalize the Pemaco Maywood Superfund site. The site, located in a densely populated minority community outside Los Angeles, occupies a 4-acre tract of land along the Los Angeles River in Maywood, California. Operating as a chemical manufacturing plant until 1991, EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 1999 after detecting hazardous chemicals in the soil and ground water. By 2008, three years of soil treatment was complete, and a solar powered, carbon-based treatment system for soil vapors and ground water continued to operate.

Eight parcels along the river in Maywood, including the four acres containing the Pemaco site, were chosen to be part of the Los Angeles River Greenway Project, a city-wide effort to establish parks along the River. The State supplied a grant to complete construction and the City of Maywood, the Trust for Public Land, EPA, and various city and state stakeholders collaborated closely to assure that the site remedy would be in place for park completion within the scheduled grant deadline.

The Maywood Riverfront Park was officially opened in May 2008 and offers soccer fields, playground equipment, handball courts, and basketball courts for area residents. This recreational park is one of only two such parks available for residents of the city.

For more information, please contact Melissa Friedland at [friedland.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:friedland.melissa@epa.gov) or Frank Avvisato at [avvisato.frank@epa.gov](mailto:avvisato.frank@epa.gov).

“Close collaboration between EPA and the City was crucial to our success. We had weekly conference calls and regular meetings, and, in the end, were able to provide the community with something of real value...To see the life that the park has brought to the community is truly inspiring. Home owners have made improvements to their properties. There are handball and basketball courts, soccer fields, and playground equipment for community use. Throughout our work here, the community continued to state that the park was a reuse that they wanted to see. And they wanted to make sure that EPA activities did not cause any negative impacts to those using the park. As a result, EPA held community meetings every six to eight weeks from late 2006 until early 2008. Community meetings are currently occurring every six months or so.”  
- Rose Marie Caraway, EPA Remedial Project Manager at Pemaco