

# Ohio River Park Superfund Site Neville Township; Neville Island, PA



## Redevelopment Success Story

### The Challenge

This 32-acre Site was a municipal landfill from the 1930s to the 1950s. In 1952, Pittsburgh Coke & Chemical Co. (PC&C), the property owner, began disposing wastes from the manufacture of mineral products and specialty and agricultural chemicals on the site.

When site operations ceased in 1966, soils, sediments, surface waters, and ground water contaminated by organic chemicals, pesticides, and metals remained. The contaminants posed concerns for human health and the environment on and off the island. Municipal supply wells for the Borough of Coraopolis are located directly across the river from the Site.

### The Solution

In 1990, EPA placed the property on its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleaned up under the Federal Superfund program. Neville Land Co., then the site owner, took responsibility for the cleanup which was conducted under the supervision of EPA, state and county officials.

At the request of Neville Township, field investigations were interrupted in 1991 so that a portion of the site could be used to locate a footing for a bridge. The bridge replaced the unstable Coraopolis Bridge and reconnected the island to the mainland.



When the cleanup resumed, contaminated soils were removed, consolidated wastes were covered by a multi-layer protective cap, and remaining areas of the site were covered by a simple cap to prevent erosion. A slurry wall was constructed to isolate subsurface contamination and the site surface elevation was raised. Restrictions on the future use of the site were also added to the property deed, and ground water is monitored to determine if site-related contaminants are dissipating naturally.

Construction of a large sports and entertainment complex began in 1998. Today, the complex includes indoor and outdoor ice skating and hockey facilities, indoor and outdoor golf facilities, a fitness center, and a restaurant.

In early 2004, Neville Land Co. sold the property to Robert Morris University. The University is building a multipurpose sports field, an 8-lane track, and a lacrosse field. The Sports Center will remain available to youth leagues and schools. Workers and technicians involved in the construction have been provided training to ensure they are aware of the special measures needed to protect the remedial technologies at

*Artist's rendering of the site and the soon-to-be-completed work in progress*

the site during construction. The new facilities are expected to be completed in August 2004.

### The Benefit

The cleanup protected public and environmental health and drinking water resources. Redevelopment created an area-wide recreational facility which is open to the public, provides 70 permanent jobs, and will draw an estimated half-million visitors to the area annually. The enhanced appearance of the site has invigorated the community and encouraged local officials to consider developing a comprehensive redevelopment plan. Neighboring Coraopolis officials are considering rezoning to enhance economic development in their community. Tax revenues and annual spending have significantly increased.

### For More Information

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