

Reuse Assessment for the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, Pennsylvania

Located in Delaware County and Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site (LDCA site) contains two landfills listed as two separate operating units (OU) of a single Superfund site. These units were found to be significantly affecting the Lower Darby Creek watershed. The Clearview Landfill (OU1), bordered by Darby Creek and Cobbs Creek, lies adjacent to the Eastwick neighborhood and the Eastwick City Park. The City of Philadelphia owns the community park, but ownership of the operating landfill is still uncertain. The Folcroft Landfill (OU2) is located within the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum and is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The LDCA site currently is in the remedial investigation/feasibility study phase of the Superfund cleanup process.

With funding from the EPA Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, EPA Region 3 coordinated a reuse assessment for the LDCA site. A core group of stakeholders was convened to clarify reuse goals and identify reasonably anticipated future uses of the site. The reuse assessment consisted of a site and community tour, stakeholder interviews, a land use analysis, development of a draft reuse assessment, and a community working session to review the draft assessment prior to development of a final summary document.

The LDCA Reuse Assessment confirms the following reuse goals for the site:

- Ensure safe and appropriate access to the remediated site.
- Promote watershed health and restoration.
- Increase open space and recreational access.
- Improve drainage and stormwater management.
- Promote local economic development.
- Ensure compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods.
- Provide opportunities for environmental education.
- Transform the site into both a local amenity and a regional asset.



Community meeting



A creek photo

Community members look forward to a mix of potential future site uses:

- Recreation and habitat, including trails and greenways, wildlife viewing, boating access to creeks, habitat restoration, and environmental and cultural heritage education; and
- Commercial/industrial development, including jobs for local residents and an increased tax base in targeted areas.

Participants began the process by identifying core stakeholder contacts and securing support from these stakeholders to form an LDCA advisory group. The reuse framework process will build on the outreach conducted to-date by convening the newly formed LDCA Advisory Group and gathering input from the broader community. An advisory group of adjacent jurisdictions, interested organizations, and community representatives will provide diverse input and a forum for updates, discussion, and coordination at key milestones regarding the potential reuse and the remedial process at the LDCA site.