

Celebrating Success: Lipari Landfill Pitman, New Jersey



Superfund
Redevelopment
Initiative



Alcyon Lake before cleanup.

"The community has embraced this park, and visitors are in awe when they come to play on our fields." - Former Pitman Council President, Doug Stuart



Alcyon Lake following cleanup.

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Recent aerial view of Alcyon Park recreational areas

EPA's partnership with the state, the Borough of Pitman, the affected community and the responsible parties at the Lipari Landfill in Pitman, New Jersey resulted in a successful cleanup and restoration of a vibrant public park.

The 16-acre Lipari Landfill accepted chemical and solid waste between 1958 and 1971. When the state of New Jersey closed the landfill in 1971, contamination had already spread into the surrounding aquifers, streams, marsh and nearby Alcyon Lake. EPA's cleanup work began in 1982, with a containment system for the waste at the landfill site. A slurry wall surrounding the waste was installed below the surface to intercept a natural clay layer beneath the fill material and was topped with a cap to prevent additional migration of contaminants. Once the landfill was contained, cleanup of the "off-site" areas was systematically carried out. Off-site cleanup work included the excavation, treatment and disposal of soil and sediments downstream of the landfill in the streams, marsh and lake. Clean soils were placed in the excavated areas; surface features were restored in coordination with local officials and pre-existing conditions. In 1995, the cleanup of the off-site areas, including the lake, was complete; while the "on-site" landfill cleanup activities continue.

The strategy for the successful restoration of Alcyon Lake and Park included EPA incentives for the Borough of Pitman's purchase of an idle parcel of land. The Borough formed the Pitman Land Use Committee and acquired the land. The Borough's acquisition provided the EPA project a staging and handling area in the vicinity of the off-site contamination, which in turn expedited the off-site cleanup work and reduced the need to transport contaminated sediments and soils on local streets. EPA compensated the Borough for the use of the land during the cleanup and returned the property to the Borough once the adjacent cleanup work was complete. This partnership resulted in substantial savings for the cleanup project and allowed the Borough to expand its park and recreation facilities.

Construction of the park began in 1997, and in April 1999, the new Alcyon Lake Park was a reality. The New Jersey Recreation and Park Association awarded the Kinsey Award for Excellence in Design to Alcyon Lake Park in 2000. Today, visitors enjoy baseball fields, softball fields, a football field, two tournament-sized soccer fields, a picnic pavilion, bike path, concession stand, wildflower meadow and open play area. EPA continues to monitor off-site and on-site areas to ensure cleanup done to date is effective and to address any remaining contamination.