

Celebrating Success: York County Solid Waste Landfill Site Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania



Superfund
Redevelopment
Initiative



Athletic fields and playground equipment at the Hopewell Area Recreation Complex. (Source: YCSWA)

“The use of a solar panel system to supply our power needs at the landfill demonstrates not only our commitment to alternative energy, but also our efforts to minimize operational impacts to the environment.”

- Richard Hazenstab, YCSWA
Environmental Programs Coordinator



Restored grasslands provide habitats to birds and wildlife. (Source: YCSWA)

For more information, please contact
Melissa Friedland at
friedland.melissa@epa.gov | (703) 603-8864
or
Frank Avvisato at
avvisato.frank@epa.gov | (703) 603-8949



The 2-acre solar array powers ongoing groundwater treatment. (Source: YCSWA)

The 135-acre York County Solid Waste and Refuse Authority Landfill Superfund site (the Site) is located in Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania. The area was once a municipal landfill. Today, the Site supports several reuses, including recreation, a wildlife habitat and a solar energy array that powers the Site’s long-term groundwater cleanup.

In 1974, the York County Solid Waste Authority (YCSWA) began operating a 300-acre landfill. It accepted municipal waste, debris and other non-hazardous materials. In 1982, YCSWA discovered contaminants in the groundwater. EPA determined that the source was an unlined 135-acre area of the landfill. EPA added the Site to the Superfund program’s National Priorities List (NPL) in 1987. YCSWA agreed to close the 135-acre area and install a vegetated soil cap. Afterward, YCSWA treated and monitored groundwater, installed gas vents and provided clean drinking water to nearby residents. During cleanup, EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and YCSWA worked together to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. EPA took the Site off the NPL in 2005.

Safe and beneficial reuse of the 135-acre area was a priority for Hopewell Township. The locality worked closely with YCSWA on opportunities for beneficial community uses at the Site. Today, the Site is part of the 200-acre Hopewell Area Recreation Complex. The community park, completed in 2008, includes playgrounds, walking trails, athletic fields, a picnic pavilion, a parking lot and two wildlife viewing platforms, one of which is handicap-accessible. Residents from across York County use the recreation complex, which also hosts more than 150 events a year. The cap provides grassland habitat and serves as a bird sanctuary that attracts more than 122 species of birds. From the viewing area, visitors can observe raptors, woodpeckers and other native species. In 2009, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of Pennsylvania noted that the Site is the state’s second largest unfragmented grassland habitat that is publicly accessible.

YCSWA also found opportunities to integrate renewable energy facilities at the Site. To help power ongoing groundwater treatment, YCSWA worked with solar developer York County Solar Partners on a 2-acre solar array. The 806-panel array started operating in 2014; it generates about 300,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, which is equivalent to the amount needed to power 27 households per year.