

Celebrating Success: Chemical Insecticide Corp. Edison Township, New Jersey



Superfund
Redevelopment
Initiative



Shelter for dogs and their owners in the park.
(Source: EPA)

“This park represents an environmental success for Edison and Metuchen, reclaiming a former industrial site that has been made safe for public use and enjoyment.”

- Mayor Thomas Lankey, Edison Township



Dogs playing in the dog park on the site.
(Source: EPA)

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A dog drinking from a water fountain.
(Source: EPA)

A former pesticide manufacturing facility in Edison Township, New Jersey, the Chemical Insecticide Corp. site, is now home to the Metuchen-Edison Community Dog Park. EPA, Edison Township, Metuchen Township and a community planning committee collaborated to support the site’s successful redevelopment.

The Chemical Insecticide Corporation’s facility operated at the 5.7-acre area from 1854 to 1970. The facility made various pesticides; its operations and waste handling practices led to extensive soil, sediment and groundwater contamination. EPA added the site to the Superfund program’s National Priorities List in August 1990. Between 1989 and 2004, EPA selected the site’s final remedy in four records of decision. These plans included controlling contaminated runoff, addressing soil and sediment in off-site creek areas, and cleaning up soil, surface water and groundwater on site. EPA completed all planned cleanup actions in 2005. Long-term groundwater monitoring is ongoing.

Seeing an opportunity to turn the long-vacant area into usable community space, Edison Township purchased the site property in September 2008, using funds from the Township’s Open Space Trust Fund and a state Green Acres Grant. Edison Township, Metuchen Township and private donors funded grading, fencing and landscaping efforts for the dog park.

The Metuchen-Edison Community Dog Park officially opened to the public on June 29, 2016. It features walking paths, shaded play areas, benches, water fountains and a parking area. The townships also plan to add dog playground equipment donated by area businesses. The site’s reuse illustrates how local leadership and collaboration with EPA can lead to the successful reuse of Superfund sites and multiple benefits for the community.