

Site Redevelopment Profile

Marathon Battery Corp. Superfund Site

Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring, New York 10516

Property Overview

Size

70 acres

Current Site Uses

- Restored wetland and tidal marsh habitat and the revitalized Cold Spring Pier are located on site.
- A trail to an observation area allows wildlife viewing on site.

Use Restrictions

- Institutional controls prevent perforation of the cap in the marsh, human consumption of contaminated blue claw crabs, and potable use of on-site groundwater.

Surrounding Population

1,767
1 MILE

13,176
3 MILES

24,168
5 MILES



A map of the site in New York.

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1952-1979

A nickel-cadmium battery plant produced military- and commercial-grade batteries in Foundry Cove.

Early 1970s

Contamination discovered by New York University, EPA and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

1983

EPA placed the site on the NPL.

1993-1995

Site cleanup underway.

1996

EPA took the site off the NPL. Scenic Hudson purchased the East Foundry Cove, East Foundry Cove March and West Point Foundry historic site.

2013

The opening of the West Point Foundry Preserve adjacent to the site allows for expanded wildlife access to restored habitat.

2019

The 12-acre former manufacturing facility property remains available for redevelopment.

History and Cleanup

Cleanup of riverfront marshes and other wetlands at the Marathon Battery Corp. Superfund site in Cold Spring, New York, has created recreation opportunities, preserved historic artifacts, and protected public health and the environment.

The 70-acre area includes the grounds of a 12-acre former nickel-cadmium battery manufacturing facility, the Hudson River in the vicinity of the Cold Spring pier and a series of river backwater areas known as East Foundry Cove, East Foundry Cove Marsh, Constitution Marsh and West Foundry Cove. The manufacturing facility made military- and commercial-grade batteries from 1952 to 1979. Wastewater from the facility poured into the Hudson River. In 1965, Marathon Battery Corporation built a wastewater treatment plant that sent water into Foundry Cove, a nearby wetland. The treatment plant operated with limited success. State officials observed high levels of cadmium in wetland sediments, vegetation and wildlife.

In 1972, the company began cleanup. Despite these early efforts, contaminants spread into nearby Constitution Marsh, a designated wildlife sanctuary. EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983.

Cleanup included dredging contaminated sediments in Foundry Cove and the Hudson River; addressing contaminated soil at the former battery facility; demolishing all buildings on the former battery facility grounds; placing a clay cap over excavated marsh areas; and restoring wetlands. Cattails, bull rush, arrow arum and other upland shrubs now cover and stabilize wetland buffer areas.

During cleanup, workers also recovered over 145,000 Native American and Civil War-era artifacts in Foundry Cove and adjacent areas, which are part of the West Point Foundry National Historic District. The village of Cold Spring and the Putnam County Historical Society successfully preserved the recovered artifacts and documented the area's rich history. After cleanup, EPA took the site off the NPL in 1996. Monitoring to ensure the long-term protectiveness of the remedy is ongoing. EPA continues to work with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association to improve the habitat and the functionality of reconstructed marsh areas.



Village of Cold Spring Pier after restoration.



Village of Cold Spring Pier displays a Parrott cannon made at the West Point Foundry Preserve.

Redevelopment

Today, the formerly contaminated East Foundry Cove and East Foundry Cove Marsh areas of the site have been restored, serving as critical tidal marsh and wetland habitat in the Hudson River Estuary. A viewing platform and walking paths allow for nature observation in this area of Foundry Cove. Scenic Hudson, a not-for-profit conservation organization, manages the West Point Foundry Preserve located adjacent to the site. The marsh and cove areas within the preserve provide a corridor of contiguous habitat for wildlife moving between the restored habitat at the site and the preserve.

During cleanup efforts, EPA helped to stabilize the historic Cold Spring Pier. The village of Cold Spring completed renovations of the stabilized pier, which now serves as a community gathering place, fishing spot and touristic attraction. In the 1990s, a developer purchased the 12-acre property that previously housed the manufacturing facility. This property is awaiting redevelopment while different options are explored by the developer and the community.



Village of Cold Spring Pier after restoration.



Walking path in the adjacent West Point Foundry Preserve, maintained by Scenic Hudson.

Contacts

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For more information see: www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment



View of Constitution Marsh on site.

