

## Site Redevelopment Profile

# Roebling Steel Company Superfund Site

Second Avenue, Florence, New Jersey 08554

### Property Overview

#### Size

200 acres

#### Current Site Uses

- The Roebling Commuter Light-Rail Station, a Roebling Park extension area and the Roebling Museum are located on site.
- The Roebling Museum plans to expand its exterior exhibit areas.

#### Use Restrictions

- Institutional controls limit excavation in the site's capped area, certain types of land use, well installation and groundwater use.
- A deed notice on the New Jersey Transit River Line station portion of the site limits any alteration, improvement or disturbance of site soils.

#### Surrounding Population

**4,014**

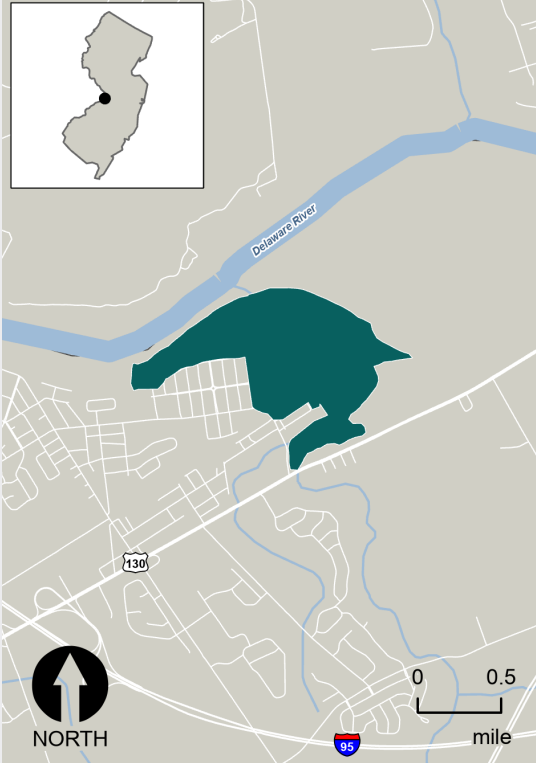
1 MILE

**16,708**

3 MILES

**89,985**

5 MILES



A map of the site in New Jersey.

### Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

#### 1906 - 1952

The John A. Roebling's Sons Company produced steel and wire products on site.

#### 1952 - 1974

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Steel Corporation purchased the plant and continued operations.

#### 1974 - 1981

Following the plant's shutdown, the facility changed ownership several times. Steel production continued.

#### 1981

The John A. Roebling Steel Corporation, the final owner, stopped steel production.

#### 1981 - 1988

A variety of other industrial businesses operated on site.

#### 1983

EPA placed the site on the NPL.

#### 1990 - 2014

EPA cleaned up five site areas under the Superfund program.

#### 1999

EPA funded a reuse assessment through an SRI pilot grant.

#### 2005

Roebling Commuter Light-Rail Station and associated parking areas began operation.

#### 2009

The Roebling Museum opened on site.

#### 2014

Florence Township opened the Roebling Park extension to the public.

## History and Cleanup

For decades, a steel and wire products manufacturing plant operated on 200 acres in Florence Township, New Jersey. Today, a significant part of the Roebing Steel Company Superfund site is now in reuse. These uses include a light-rail station, the Roebing Museum and a 34 acre riverfront park.

The Roebing Steel facility operated on site from 1906 to 1982. Wire rope and steel produced by the company supported construction of famous suspension bridges across the country, including the George Washington Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge. Decades of industrial use contaminated soils, groundwater, and river and creek sediments with heavy metals. In 1983, EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL). Cleanup began in 1987 with the removal of contaminated materials, including drums, transformers and tanks. By 2011, EPA had demolished 70 buildings and removed underground sources of contamination such as oil and chemical pipelines. By 2013, EPA completed sediment dredging in Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel as well as wetlands restoration. EPA also stabilized and remediated the riverfront slag area, installing a revetment along the river and a 2-foot-thick soil cap and revegetating the area.

costs for EPA. Construction and cleanup for the Roebing Commuter Light-Rail Station began in September 2003 and the station opened in 2005.

An on-site riverfront park extension opened in 2014 and is already a valued community resource. The 34 acres of green space expand Florence Township's nearby Roebing Park, which features recently upgraded playgrounds and basketball courts. Before cleanup and redevelopment, the riverfront was inaccessible. As a result of EPA's cleanup, area residents and visitors can now enjoy walks along the Delaware River and views of historic Roebing.

## Redevelopment

Redevelopment plans moved forward when the Florence Township Redevelopment Agency conducted a reuse assessment with EPA's assistance. Early discussions among the community, the site owner, the Township and EPA focused on how to celebrate the steel mill's historic significance while creating open space areas. During cleanup, EPA restored the 7,000-squarefoot Roebing Steel Company Main Gate House following National Historic Preservation Act guidelines. Today, the building is home to the Roebing Museum, which opened in 2009. The museum features exhibits documenting the community's rich social and industrial history.

EPA also coordinated with New Jersey Transit on its plans for a light-rail commuter station and parking lot on the site. Florence Township agreed to lease part of the site's southern area to New Jersey Transit. EPA and New Jersey Transit signed a prospective purchaser agreement (PPA) to help address potential contamination liability concerns. New Jersey Transit agreed to conduct due diligence activities and pay for all cleanup activities related to the construction of the station. This resulted in an active site steward as well as lower cleanup



A platform at Roebing Station.



A platform at Roebing Station.





Aerial view of the site after cleanup in 2009.

For more information see: [www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment](http://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment)

## Contacts

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