

Celebrating 10 Years of Returning Superfund Sites to Beneficial Use



REGION 3 Success Story

Whitmoyer Laboratories: Jackson Township, Pennsylvania



Abandoned infrastructure prior to remediation.
Source: EPA.



Soccer game underway at the new recreational fields
Source: EPA

Through close collaboration with Jackson Township and the potentially responsible party (PRP), EPA supported redevelopment of the 22-acre Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund site in Jackson Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. The former Whitmoyer Laboratories facility manufactured veterinary pharmaceuticals from 1934 to 1984. Waste materials contaminated soil, ground water and sludge, resulting in the addition of the site to the National Priorities List in 1984. Cleanup activities involved removal of contaminated debris and drums, demolition of site infrastructure, ground water treatment, and excavation of highly contaminated soils, sludge, and debris for off-site disposal.

To be released from Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs and attract a buyer, the PRP was willing to go beyond acceptable cleanup measures in order to fully prepare the site for future use. EPA negotiated and signed a prospective purchaser agreement (PPA) with Jackson Township and the PRP to align the stakeholders' remediation and reuse goals. The PRP fully incorporated the Township's plans for recreational reuse into their remedial activities, and the U.S. Soccer Foundation even visited the site to ensure proper grading and drainage for the proposed soccer fields.

The Jackson Recreation Park was opened in 2005 and offers baseball and soccer fields, as well as extensive tree-lined walking trails, to the local schools and community. The site is ideally located in a rapidly developing area of Lebanon County and new housing developments in the area could be attributed to the draw of this new park.

“This site will be a real asset to Jackson Township and Lebanon County. Not only will the site be reused for recreation, the work here also includes a restoration project on the Tulpehocken Creek and the historic Union Canal. This project removed contaminated soils and re-built the creek banks with new grasses and plants, eliminating the arsenic discharge to the Tulpehocken Creek.”
– David E. Hess, Secretary,
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection

“The Whitmoyer site is a perfect example of how we at EPA believe environmental protection and, ultimately, local reuse of these once highly contaminated eyesores goes hand in hand.”
– Donald S. Welsh, Environmental
Protection Agency

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