

Site Redevelopment Profile

Croydon TCE Superfund Site

River Road, Bristol Township, Pennsylvania 19020

Property Overview

Size

4-square-miles

Current Site Uses

- The site includes residential and business areas as well as several industrial complexes.
- Additionally, the Croydon Woods Nature Preserve is now open on the site, which includes accessible green space, trails, and a wildlife habitat.

Use Restrictions

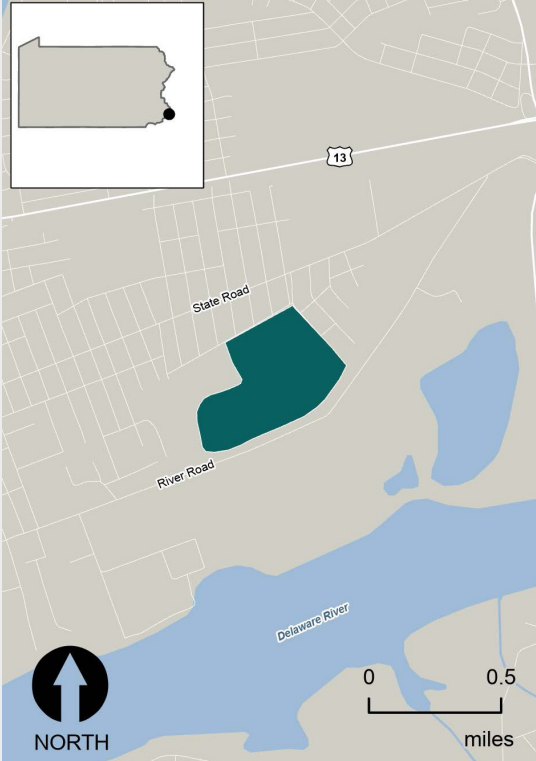
- Local ordinance prohibits drilling of new wells for potable purposes.

Surrounding Population

5,499
1 MILE

79,794
3 MILES

228,232
5 MILES



A map of the site in Pennsylvania.

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1985

EPA identified site contamination.

1986

EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL).

1988

EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) to outline the cleanup strategy for OU1 at the site.

1988-1990

EPA conducted a human health risk assessment (HHRA).

1989

EPA started cleanup for OU1.

1990

EPA issued a ROD to outline the cleanup strategy for OU2 at the site.

1991

EPA started cleanup for OU2.

1996

Construction of the OU2 groundwater extraction and treatment system completed.

2016

The Heritage Conservancy obtained ownership of the Croydon Woods property from Dow Chemical.

EPA's fourth Five-Year Review for the site confirmed the remedy's continued protectiveness.

2019

Croydon Woods Nature Park opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Heritage Conservancy received an EPA Excellence in Site Reuse Award.

History and Cleanup

The Croydon TCE Superfund site in Bristol Township, Pennsylvania, is being cleaned up and a portion of it is being reused by the Heritage Conservancy as a preserve. The preserve, called the Croydon Woods Nature Preserve, now serves as an accessible green space and a habitat for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

In 1985, EPA found contamination at the 4-square-mile site after an investigation at a neighboring Rohm and Haas Company (now Dow Chemical) industrial plant found groundwater contamination that did not appear to be related to the plant. Elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including trichloroethylene (TCE), were detected in groundwater and surface water. No source of the site contamination has been found. EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1986.

In 1987, EPA began the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) for operable unit 1 (OU1) to determine the nature and extent of contamination associated with the site. EPA began the RI/FS for OU2 in 1988. EPA completed the OU1 RI/FS in 1988 and the OU2 RI/FS in 1990.

EPA also completed a human health risk assessment (HHRA) in 1990 using data collected during the RI. The HHRA concluded that exposure to contaminated groundwater posed an unacceptable risk to people using wells within the TCE plume.

EPA issued two Records of Decision (RODs) to outline the cleanup strategy for the site. The 1988 ROD addressed OU1 by connecting homes within the plume to the Borough of Bristol Water and Sewage Department water supply. The 1990 ROD for OU2 selected groundwater extraction and treatment to contain contamination and restore groundwater quality. Cleanup at the site began in 1989. Construction of the OU2 groundwater extraction and treatment system was completed in 1996. Groundwater cleanup is ongoing.



Part of the site is protected by the Heritage Conservancy.

Redevelopment

Ownership of the property, known locally as Croydon Woods, transferred from Dow Chemical to the Heritage Conservancy in January 2016. In 2019, the Heritage Conservancy held a ribboncutting ceremony for the opening of the Croydon Woods Nature Preserve on the site. The preserve is one of the last remaining coastal plain forests in the state.

The preserve provides publicly-accessible green space in a more developed area of Bucks County. Many mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians inhabit the forest. The preserve also serves as a migratory stop for traveling birds. Heritage Conservancy works closely with the local Little League club and nearby Keystone Elementary School to provide field trips and educational opportunities at the property. Residential, commercial and industrial land uses are ongoing at the site.

“Green spaces that exist in highly populated areas are some of the most important natural lands that exist today, because they provide connections to nature for people who would not otherwise be able to experience it.”

Jeffrey Marshall
President, Heritage Conservancy

In 2019, EPA presented the Heritage Conservancy in southern Bucks County, Pennsylvania, with its Excellence in Site Reuse Award for outstanding work in the reuse of the Croydon TCE Superfund Site. The award was part of EPA’s commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI), launched in 1999 with the goal of returning formerly-contaminated lands to long-term sustainable and productive reuse for communities across the country. The site’s reuse returned a formerly-contaminated forest into a preserve for people and wildlife to enjoy. There are plans to add better trails, a pollination station and a bat house at the preserve.

Contacts

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



EPA Region 3 presented Heritage Conservancy with an Excellence in Site Reuse award in 2019 at the SRI 20th Anniversary commemoration event.

