

# A Successful HSCA Funded Cleanup: Currie Landfill Site

Millcreek Township, Erie County, PA

*The Currie Landfill contained numerous wastes which polluted the soil, groundwater and the nearby West Branch of the Cascade Creek that drains to Lake Erie. The cleanup removed part of the wastes and reconstructed the stream channel. Another part of the waste area was consolidated and reused for commercial facilities. The remaining landfill area was capped to be used for athletic playing fields. The project, finished in 2015, concluded more than 10 years of effort between local municipal authorities, stakeholders, the DEP, and its contractors.*

## Currie Landfill Site

The Currie Landfill Site is a 32-acre HSCA site located in Millcreek Township, Erie County. The landfill, a former wetlands site that was filled with mixed municipal and industrial wastes in the 1950's, had groundwater, sediment, and surface water contaminated with organic and inorganic hazardous substances. The landfill was estimated to contain almost 260,000 cubic yards of waste, including industrial chemicals, plastic, paper, construction debris, metal, rubber, slag and foundry sands. Pollution from the wastes disposed at the site contaminated soil, groundwater, and the nearby West Branch of Cascade Creek that drains to Lake Erie.

Prior to HSCA cleanup efforts (utilizing the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund), the West Branch of Cascade Creek ran through the waste contained in the landfill. The HSCA cleanup removed the wastes and reconstructed the stream channel. Riparian buffers and wetlands were constructed that also served as stormwater controls during remediation. The innovative design won an award for the Department's design engineer. The \$4.4 million project provides significant protection of public health and the environment through consolidation and capping of the waste, improves water quality, and restores lost habitat in the watershed.

Additionally, part of the waste area was consolidated so that a four-acre portion of the site could be reused for commercial facilities. The remaining landfill area was capped and graded to allow for the construction of multi-use playing fields for use by a local youth athletic organization.

The project, completed in 2015, culminated more than 10 years of effort by DEP staff, Millcreek Township, and local developer, Rick Griffith (as President of Moxie Nein, L.P.), to clean up and restore this property to productive use. It should be noted that the remediation was placed in peril, and significantly delayed, when HSCA funding was cut in 2004. Once HSCA funding was re-established and it was determined that there was still interest by both Millcreek Township and Rick Griffith to move forward, the remediation was completed.

## Project at a Glance

**Name:**  
Currie Landfill Remediation Project

**Location:**  
Millcreek Township, Erie County

**Project Size:**  
32-acre former landfill

**Principal Use:**  
Commercial facilities and Multi-use playing fields

**Total Project Cost:**  
\$4.4M

**Consultant:**  
Micheal Baker Jr. Inc.  
URS Corp (AECOM)

**Project Period:**  
2000-2015 (15 years)

## Project Photos



## In Summary...

The Currie Landfill Site is an excellent example of the cooperation between local municipal authorities, stakeholders, DEP, and its contractors, to cooperatively return a former unused brownfield area into a functional and desirable facility and to return a portion of the site to the local tax rolls. Millcreek Township looked at a contaminated site in the community and saw opportunity where others might have looked the other way. The Township's vision for the site and Rick Griffith's willingness to take a risk is what takes this project from being just an environmental remediation project and turns it into a community improvement project. DEP's willingness to work with the parties made that vision a reality. That vision resulted in the transformation of a community hazard into a community asset.

## Highlights:

- Award Winning Innovation
- 260,000 Cubic Yards of Waste Removed
- 11 Acres of Recreational Area Restored
- Stream and Wetlands Repaired

**The Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (HSCF)**, a special fund established under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) (35 P.S. §6020.101 *et seq.*), provides the funding for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to carry out a number of activities to address releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances to the environment.