

Grays Ferry Crescent

The Grays Ferry Crescent lies on the east bank of the Schuylkill River in the Grays Ferry portion of Philadelphia. The crescent was home to DuPont's Marshall Laboratory complex from 1917 until 2009. The 240,000-square-foot property was used by DuPont for nearly 100 years to research and manufacture paints used in the automotive industry.

Beginning in 1863, the property was the site of Harrison Brothers & Co., once one of the largest paint and chemical companies in the region, with nearly 5,000 employees. DuPont, of Wilmington, Del., bought it in 1917. It upgraded the facilities and by 1983 replaced all of the original structures with new buildings over its many years of ownership.

In 2008, the City of Philadelphia acquired a swath of riverfront land along the crescent from 34th to Wharton streets and asked the Schuylkill River Development Corp. to remediate the area to Department of Environmental Protection cleanup standards before developing an extension of the Schuylkill Banks trail and greenway.

The cleanup of contamination, including metals associated with pigments and paint-making, most notably lead, began in August 2008. The site was cleaned up and the work approved through the DEP's Land Recycling (Act 2) Program. Soils containing metals—including antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, hexavalent chromium and lead (all metals commonly found in historic paint production areas)—were either removed or contained on site. Groundwater was evaluated, and the results demonstrated that the contaminants did not pose a risk to the Schuylkill River.

Construction on this project began in March 2010. The project created a 3,700-foot-long bicycle and pedestrian trail, plus several walking trails that total an additional 1,600 feet. This area now provides access to the river where people can once again enjoy walking, biking and other recreational activities along a scenic waterway. It will eventually be part of the trail linking Center City to Bartram's Garden.

This project was designed by Urban Engineers Inc., with landscape design by Simone Collins Landscape Architects. Funding of this \$2 million project was provided by the Pennsylvania departments of Environmental Protection, Community and Economic Development, and Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as the federal Highway Administration, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the William Penn Foundation and the City of Philadelphia.



Before



After



pennsylvania



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Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields