

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

Landfill & Resource Recovery, Rhode Island

The Problem

The Landfill and Resource Recovery, Inc. (L&RR) Superfund Site, situated in North Smithfield, Rhode Island, is a 28-acre former landfill facility that received domestic, commercial, and industrial wastes from 1920 until 1986. At that time the landfill was closed and covered with a synthetic cap. The capping process destroyed one acre of palustrine emergent and scrub-shrub wetland habitat.

Restoring the Resources

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sought compensation for the loss of the wetland habitat through creation of 2.5 acres of similar habitat. In a 1997 settlement with the Responsible Party, the USFWS and the State of Rhode Island received \$200,000 to implement wetland habitat restoration. An analysis of potential projects identified an outstanding opportunity: the restoration of a former wetland and riparian habitat in Lincoln, RI, at the site of the dilapidated Lonsdale Drive-In. Twenty acres of asphalt and assorted debris from the drive-in were removed, creating a 7-acre wetland, and restoring 13 acres of upland riparian habitat along the Blackstone River.

A Partnership for Success

Restoration funds from the L&RR settlement were combined with state grants and an award from the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership to provide the match needed for the Army Corps of Engineers, who funded the remainder of the \$2.6 million restoration project.

Highlights

Restored 7 acres of wetland and 13 acres of upland. Protected 41 acres of wetland and upland in perpetuity.

Total Project Cost: \$2.6 million

USFWS and State of Rhode Island Restoration Program share: \$245,000

Partners: USFWS, State of Rhode Island, USACOE, USEPA, Corporate Wetlands Partnership, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council

Status: Restoration was completed in 2003; monitoring is ongoing through 2005.



USFWS

New England Field Office Supervisor Mike Bartlett joins Rhode Island Senator Lincoln Chafee and other partners in celebrating the Lonsdale Drive-In restoration effort.



USFWS

Prior to restoration, asphalt and dilapidated movie screens remain at the Lonsdale Drive-In.



USFWS

After removing asphalt and other debris, a 7-acre wetland is created along the Blackstone River.

For more information, contact:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087
603/223 2541

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

<http://www.fws.gov>

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