



RCRA Corrective Action Cleanup + Productive Use

Economic Profile

DC Department of Corrections Lorton, Virginia

BEFORE

Lorton Correctional Complex

AFTER



Homes



Arts
Center



Waste
Disposal



Schools

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY

Virginia Department of Environmental
Quality

The Lorton Correctional Complex was established in 1911 and eventually grew to cover 2,700 acres. The complex included cell blocks, residences, steam plants and industrial facilities. The prison closed in 2001. Due to its many important historic buildings, the site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

Hazardous waste from various manufacturing and industrial activities at the site led to soil contamination. With oversight by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. General Services Administration excavated contaminated soils, removed buried drums and capped the site's landfill. Fairfax County then spearheaded the site's successful redevelopment. The site is now home to businesses, schools, neighborhoods and recreation areas. The nearly 500 jobs at the site provide an estimated \$21 million in employee income per year.



482

EMPLOYEES



\$19 million

ANNUAL SALES



\$21 million

ANNUAL WAGES





THE EXCITING TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES WITH THE REHABILITATION OF MULTIPLE HISTORIC BUILDINGS WHICH WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE WORKHOUSE CAMPUS AS A MIXED-USE COMMUNITY-SERVING DESTINATION.

Barbara A. Byron, Director, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development

Shortly after the prison closed, Fairfax County leaders recognized the site's redevelopment potential and purchased most of the property, with the area becoming eligible for tax credits. To protect the site's cleanup, the county established land use controls to restrict excavation, prohibit new groundwater wells and protect the soil cover at the closed landfill.

In May 2018, the "Liberty at Lorton" neighborhood opened on the site with single-family homes, townhomes, and 165 apartments that reused the former correctional facility buildings.

An additional 116 acres of the site were developed into Fairfax public schools, with an elementary, middle and high school educating over 4,000 children per year. In 2008, the Workhouse Arts Center opened to the public as a non-profit multi-arts center in a former facility building. The I-95 Landfill Complex and Covanta Fairfax waste-to-energy facility are also located on the former facility.

Additional redevelopment projects are being planned for the site, including commercial and recreational spaces, educational and cultural facilities, and historic preservation. Soon, a small shopping center and a church will make use of more of the reclaimed buildings.

The cleanup and redevelopment of this historic site have created a vibrant new community with a variety of residential, commercial and public service uses – while also incorporating and commemorating the site's important past.



Former prison watchtowers and aspects of the historic campus were incorporated into the design of the Liberty neighborhood.



The Workhouse Arts Center has transformed former facility buildings into art studios and educates the public about the site's history.



Plans to expand development in the Liberty neighborhood will bring a shopping center and additional commercial facilities to this vibrant area.