

*You have arrived at:*

# EPA Showed Me the Money: How Grants Have Lifted Up Communities



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION  
2023 SUMMIT

Engaging and Investing for a  
Healthy and Sustainable Future

*Welcome!*  
We will get started soon.

# Friendly Reminders Before We Get Started

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- ✓ Send a chat message directly to Host or IT Support
- ✓ Email [epamidatlsummit@michaeldbaker.com](mailto:epamidatlsummit@michaeldbaker.com) with the subject line “Zoom Support”

*This session is being recorded and will be made available after the summit.*



# Jacqueline Guerry

*Chief, Acquisition & Assistance*



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION  
2023 SUMMIT

Engaging and Investing for a  
Healthy and Sustainable Future




OVERBROOK ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION CENTER



Today You'll Hear From...

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# Today You'll Hear About Activities Funded By...

- ❖ Brownfields Grant Program
  - ❖ G3 (Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns) Grant Program
  - ❖ Environmental Justice Small Grant Program
  - ❖ Environmental Education Grant Program
- 



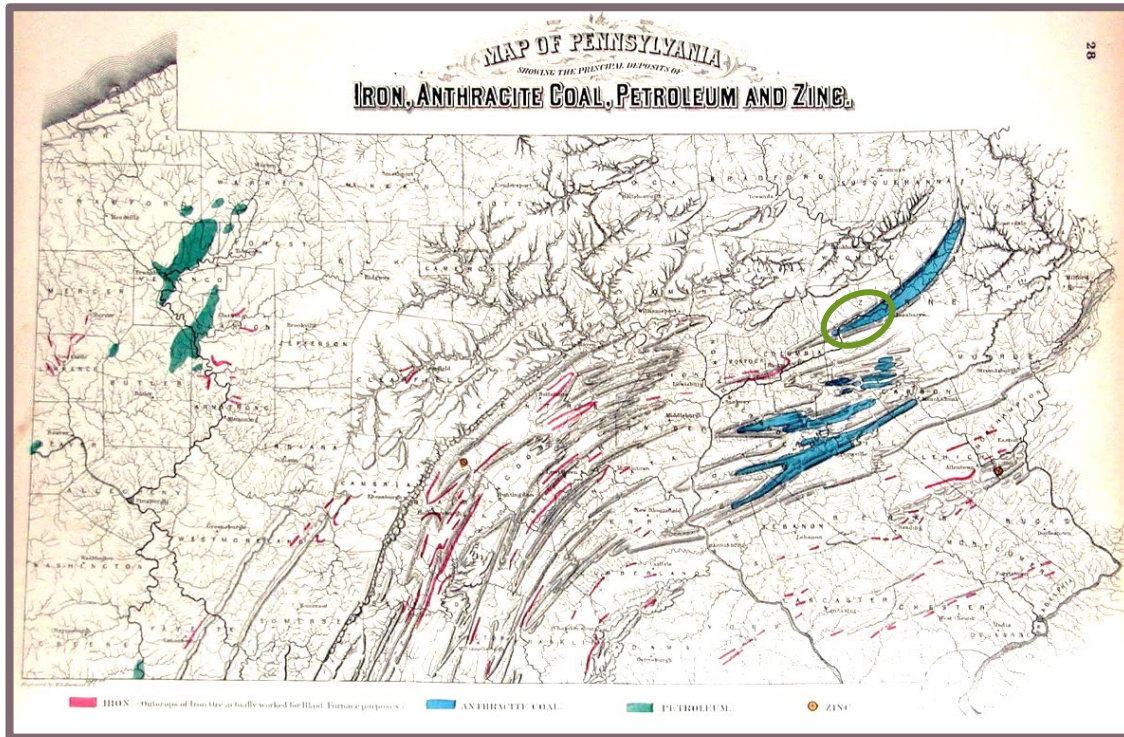
# Recovery through Reclamation in the Wyoming Valley

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2023 | USEPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Elizabeth W. Hughes, EdD | Director of Communications  
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

# The Wyoming Valley of Northeastern Pennsylvania



"Map of Pennsylvania Showing the Principal Deposits of Iron, Anthracite Coal, Petroleum and Zinc," by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray, published by Stedman, Brown & Lyon, Philadelphia, PA, 1872. Retrieved from [www.explorepahistory.com](http://www.explorepahistory.com)

- Settled in the late 1700s
- Flourished with rise of the coal industry, particularly anthracite: a hard, clean, long-burning, and thus efficient fuel source.
- At the industry's peak, over 100 million tons of coal were mined annually for distribution along the East Coast.





Taken by the Glen Alden Safety Department, 1954; retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/pa2251/>





c. late 1960s., Silver Dollar Day, EC Archives



IT'S SWELL TO WAKE UP IN A NICE WARM HOUSE

...**EASY** TOO WITH **'blue coal'**

TRADE MARKED FOR YOUR PROTECTION

**'blue coal'** starts quicker, burns better, lasts longer—it makes home heating easy. ★ **'blue coal'** warms up the house in a hurry. For trouble-free, money-saving heat in every room, order a supply of **'blue coal'** today.

★

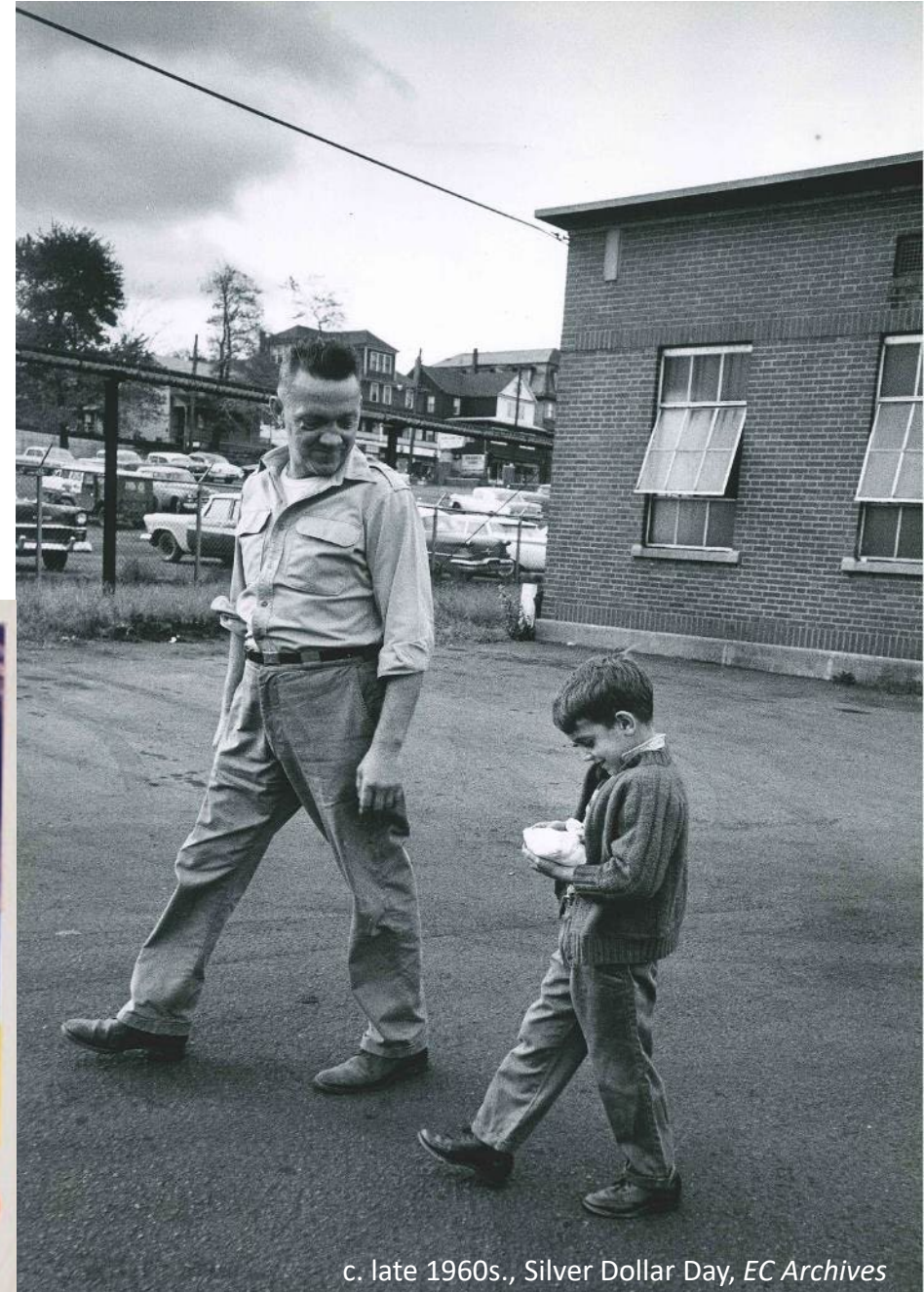
Phone for a free demonstration of the **'blue coal'** deluxe heat regulator. Opens and closes furnace dampers automatically. Insures healthful temperature.

**PAVONIA ICE & COAL**  
23rd and Howell Streets  
Phone: 988

**The Shadow**  
Tune in every Sunday Afternoon

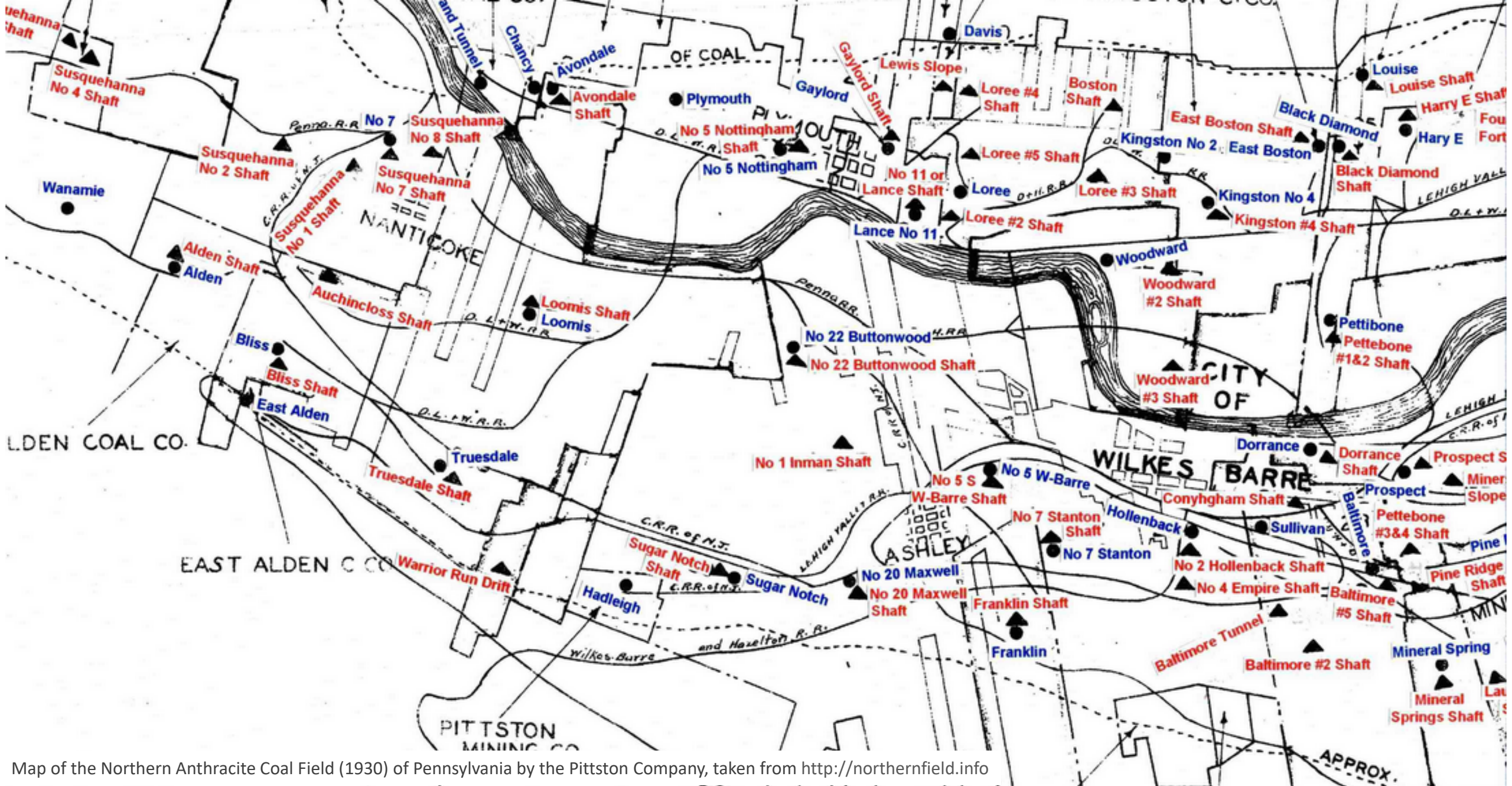
**PHONE TODAY**

c. 1940s, Blue Coal Blotter, comics.ha.com



c. late 1960s., Silver Dollar Day, EC Archives





Map of the Northern Anthracite Coal Field (1930) of Pennsylvania by the Pittston Company, taken from <http://northernfield.info>



# Industry in Decline

- After World War II, mining began to decline.
- Knox mine disaster prompted local collapse.
- When companies shut down, operations were abandoned entirely.
- Pennsylvania has over 250,000 acres of abandoned mine lands in 45 of its 67 counties – higher than any other state.
- Associated water pollution contaminates more than 5,500 miles of Pennsylvania waterways.



# Reverberating Effects

	Luzerne County	Wilkes-Barre	Nanticoke
<b>Population</b> (1920 v. 2019)	390,991 ↓ 317,417 (-19%)	78,888 ↓ 40,766 (-48%)	23,614 ↓ 10,312 (-56%)
<b>Unemployment</b>	5.1%	10.1%	6.8%
<b>Median HH Income</b>	\$51,646	\$39,188	\$34,485
<b>Poverty</b>	14.3%	18.9%	27.5%
<b>College Graduate</b>	23.2%	16.7%	15.9%



Huber Breaker, 1968; retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/pa2251/>



2006





2006





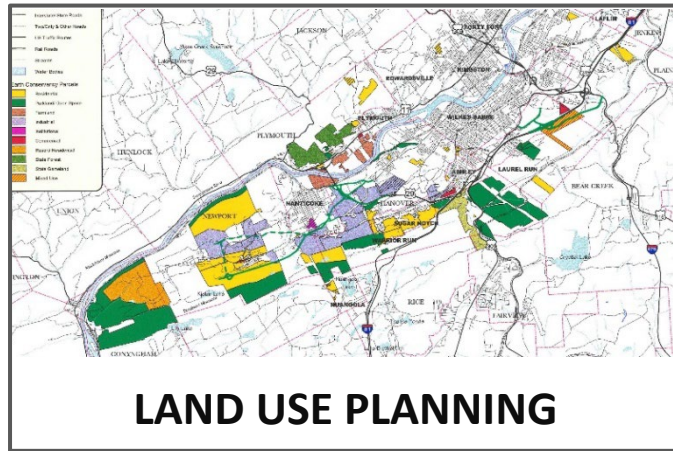


2006

Aerial image of Bliss Bank | Calin Photography



Founded in 1992, we are a nonprofit organization dedicated to the reclamation and return of nearly 16,500 acres of former coal company-owned land to the region. Our mission is to mend the environment, improve the community, and encourage economic growth.



**LAND USE PLANNING**



**MINE LAND RECLAMATION**



**WATERSHED RESTORATION**



**RECREATION & GREENSPACE**



**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

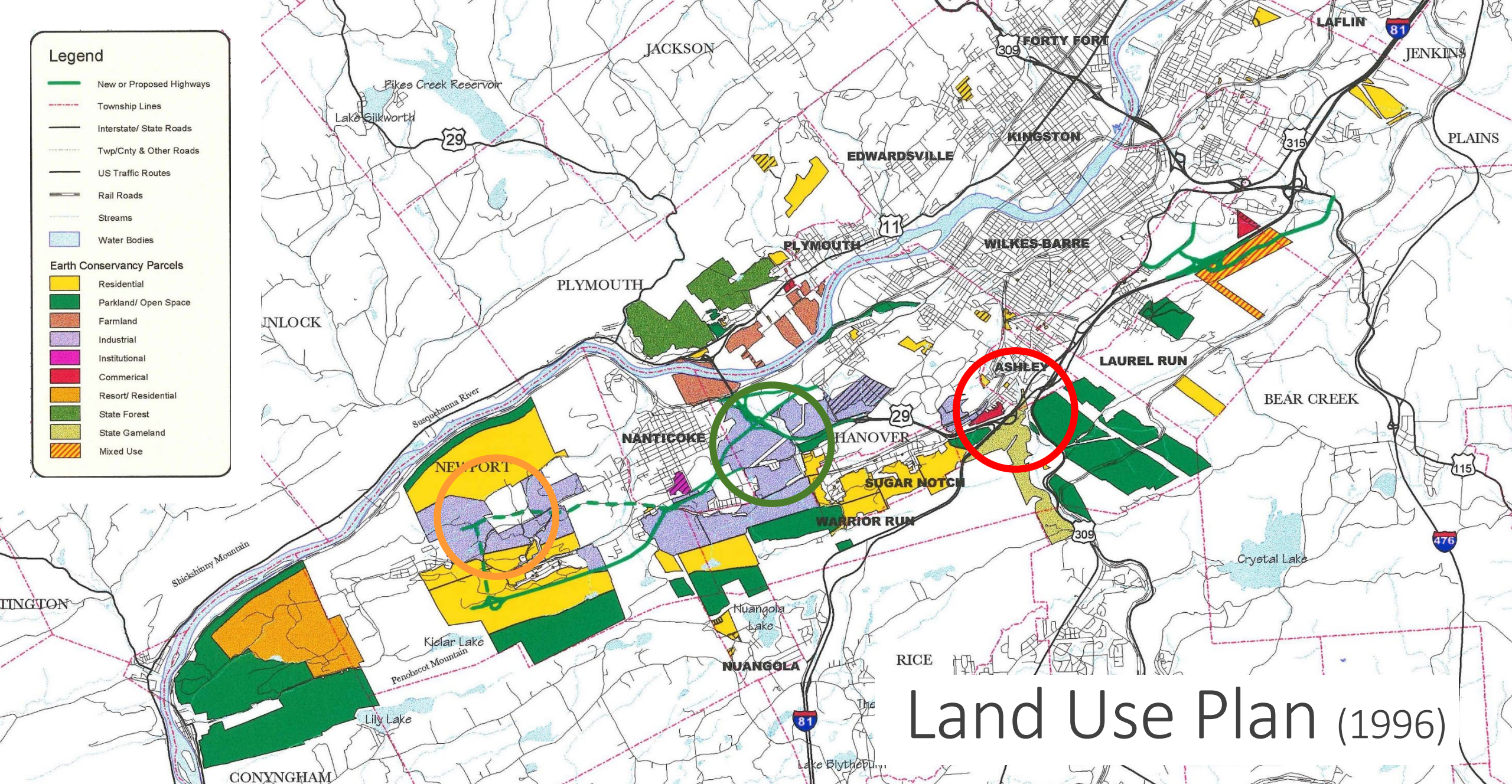


## Legend

- New or Proposed Highways
- Township Lines
- Interstate/ State Roads
- Twp/Cnty & Other Roads
- US Traffic Routes
- Rail Roads
- Streams
- Water Bodies

## Earth Conservancy Parcels

- Residential
- Parkland/ Open Space
- Farmland
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Commerical
- Resort/ Residential
- State Forest
- State Gameland
- Mixed Use



# Land Use Plan (1996)



# Concrete City

2003 • 36 acres • Hanover Twp. & City of Nanticoke

Project Cost: \$333,000

Funded by USEPA & Earth Conservancy





# Espy Run Constructed Wetlands Enhancement



2008 • AMD Mitigation • Project Cost of \$266,000 • Funded by USEPA and Earth Conservancy



# Franklin Bank



2009 • 15 acres • Hanover Township • Project Cost: \$337,000  
Funded by USEPA and Earth Conservancy



# Hanover 9 | Phases I



2014 • 149 acres • Hanover Township & City of Nanticoke

Project Cost: \$1.6 million

Funded by USEPA, PADEP, and Earth Conservancy



Bliss Bank | 2005



Image PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources-PAMAP/USGS



# Bliss Bank | On-Site









Bliss I

Bliss II

Bliss III

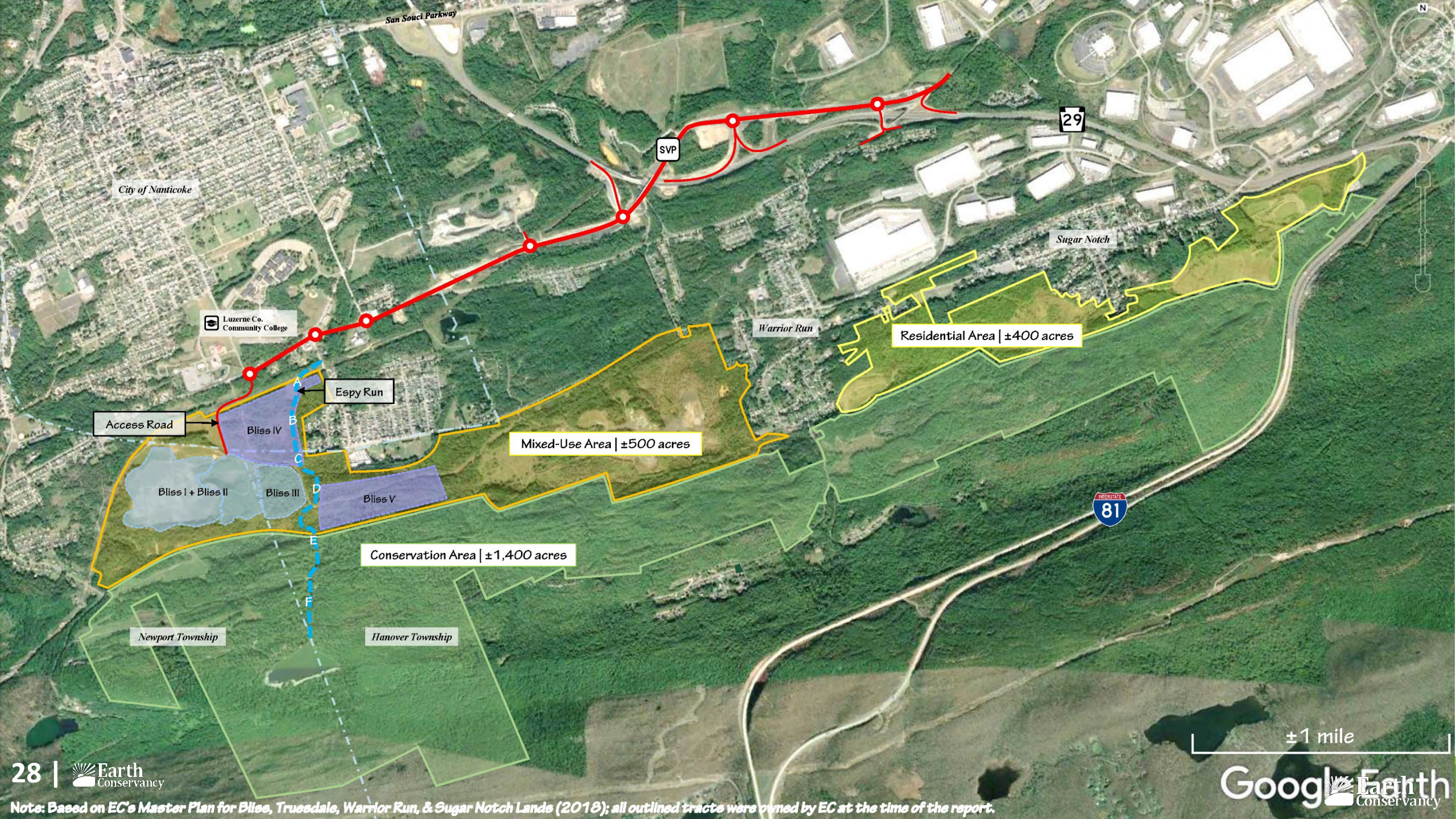










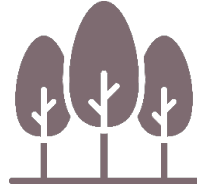




# Our Accomplishments



**2,000 ACRES  
RECLAIMED**



**8,677 ACRES  
CONSERVED**



**\$58.9 MILLION  
INVESTED**

Constructed **three** acid mine drainage treatment systems • Completed land use planning for an additional **4,000 acres** • Donated **755 acres** to 20 local entities, valued at \$3 million • Built three trail systems, totaling **12.5 miles** • Operate a large-scale compost facility serving Luzerne County residents and municipalities, processing roughly 27,600 yd<sup>3</sup> of green waste annually • Have managed a small community garden for **23 years** for local residents, offered free-of-charge.

## LAND USE PLAN GOALS & REALIZED ACREAGES • 16,496 ACRES TOTAL



**BUSINESS  
& INDUSTRY**  
2,200 / 1,706



**RESIDENTIAL  
& RESORT**  
3,800 / 2,300



**RECREATION  
& GREENSPACE**  
10,000 / 8,532



**OTHER**  
496 / 250



# The Journey From One Grant to Many

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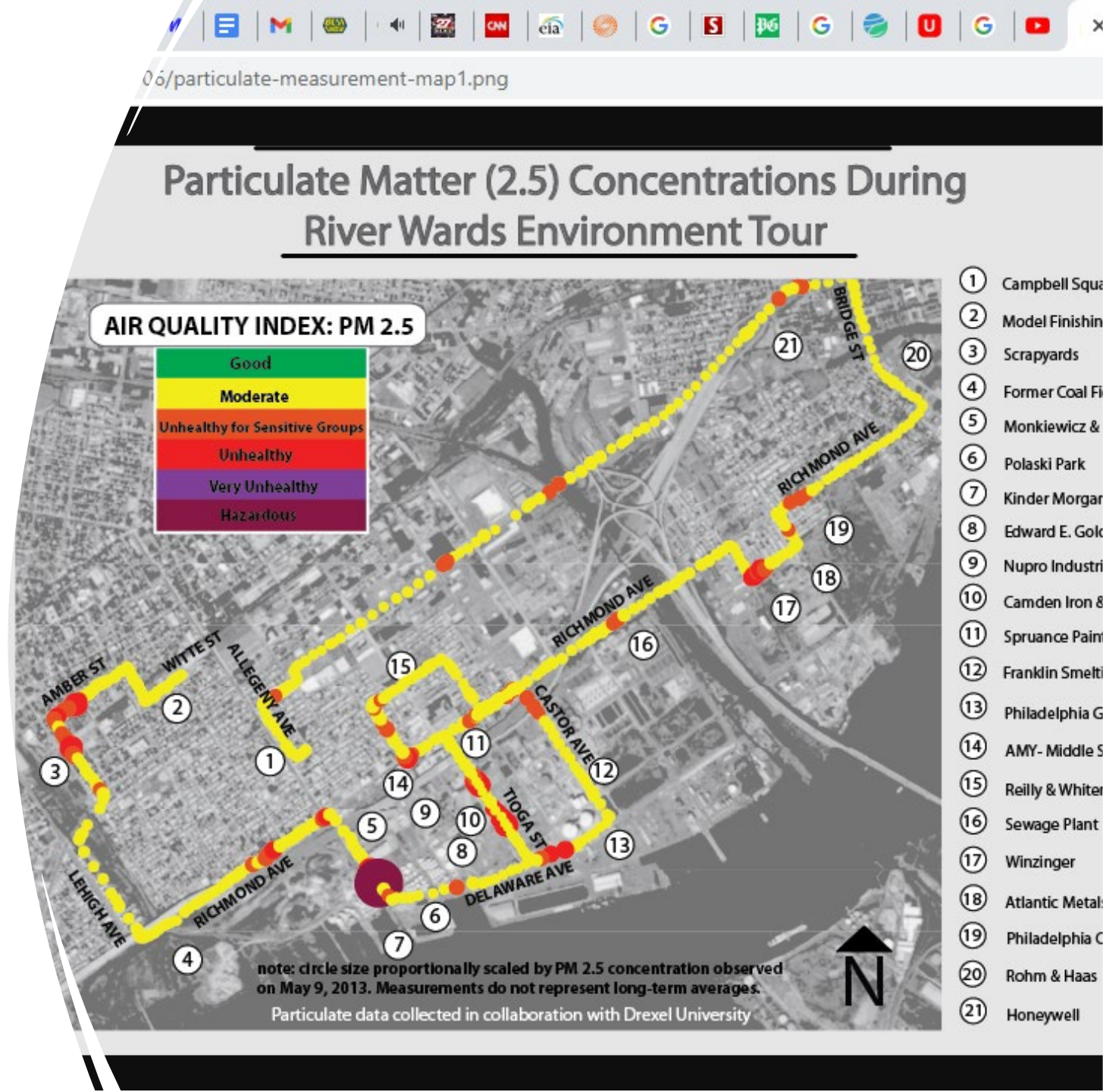
Russell Zerbo, Clean Air Council



# It started with an EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant

## “Port Neighborhood Air Quality Assessment”

- \$30,000 awarded in 2011 to assess the air in the Port Richmond Community in Philadelphia





# River Wards Environment Tour

Join neighborhood residents, Clean Air Council, and area policy-makers for a tour of the local environment in Port Richmond and Bridesburg. Local residents and Clean Air staff will educate you about environmental health concerns in the area and talk about ideas for improving the local environment.

**Thursday, May 9th 1:00-2:30pm**

**Meet at the center of Campbell's Square Park  
in Port Richmond (Belgrade & Allegheny)**



(photo: trucks on I-95 traveling through Monkiewicz park)

Please RSVP to Chris Mizes at Clean Air Council: (e) [cmizes@cleanair.org](mailto:cmizes@cleanair.org); (t) 215-567-4004x111

From the EPA small grant  
to a grant from the  
National Science  
Foundation



why.org/articles/kensington-community-living-with-scrap-yards-wants-a-future-without-these-operations-nextdoor/



Listen Live • The Connection with Marty Moss-Coane

Russell Zerbo, an advocacy coordinator with the [Clean Air Council](#) working with [Drexel University](#) on the [Philadelphia Health and Environment Ethnography Lab](#), a project that visited over [3,000 households in the River Wards](#) and mapped their perceptions of environmental health risk, has been working on the Somerset neighborhood for years. He has reported illegal dumping around the scrap yards through city channels such as [311](#), [Air Management](#), the Streets Department, and L&I with “varying success.”

“I’m not aware of any health impact studies,” Zerbo said in an email. “Scrap yards aren’t like power plants where you have lots of information about emissions and can make assumptions about how many people are affected. That’s not to say they are healthy.” He shared a document showing [111 pages of correspondence about violations since 2006](#) at Philadelphia Scrap Metal.

A Drexel study collected [particulate matter concentrations in the River Wards in May 2013](#), finding that the blocks around the scrap yards qualified as unhealthy



To a two year grant with from Aetna



# Collaboration with EPA on Soil & Blood testing

Home › News › EPA and Clean Air Council host workshop to combat air pollution in...

## EPA and Clean Air Council host workshop to combat air pollution in Kensington region

 By **Tom Beck** December 7, 2017



Facebook



Twitter



Email



Print

The Clean Air Council obtained access to between 20 and 30 air monitors, which residents can sign up to potentially have put inside or outside their homes.





Philadelphia Scrappyards and Auto Wrecking:  
**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**



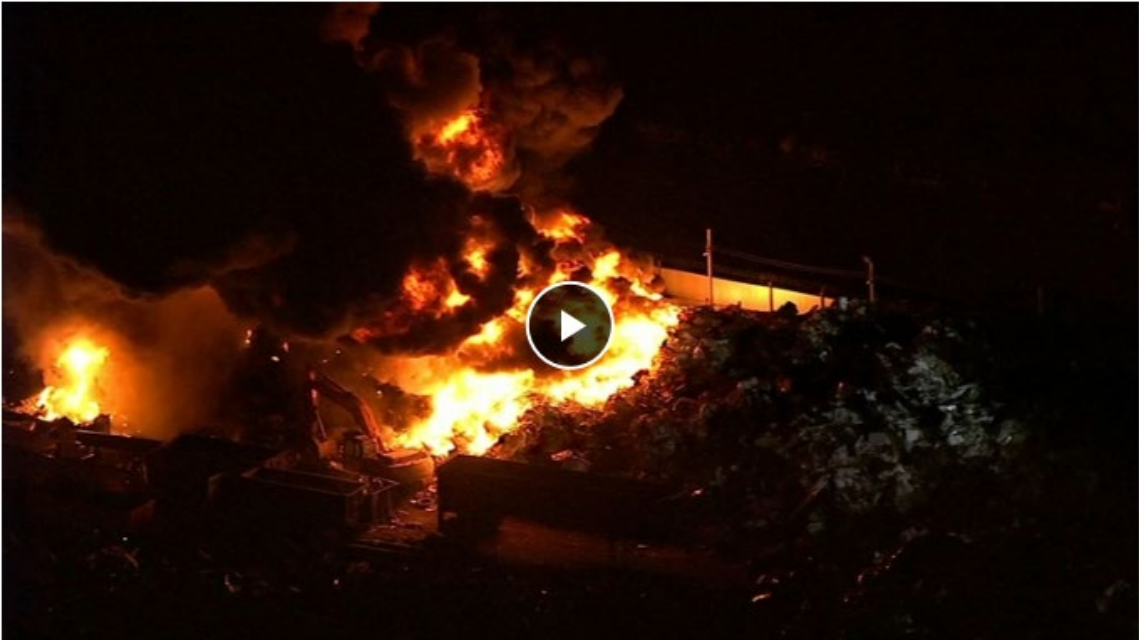
One of our air  
monitors  
captured a  
scrap yard  
fire

---

← → ↻ 6abc.com/philadelphia-junkyard-fire-kensington/3748868/

menu 6abc WATCH LIVE

saying, in part, "The city was exceedingly concerned with the excessive storage, which, if there was a fire, could lead to a more intense and substantial conflagration."



EMBED <> MORE VIDEOS ▶

Air quality in question following Kensington junkyard fire. Dann Cuellar reports during Action News at 11 p.m. on July 11, 2018.



## Kensington Scrapyard Fire (July 2018)

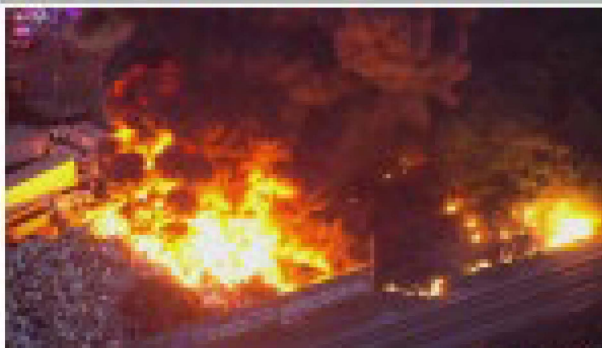
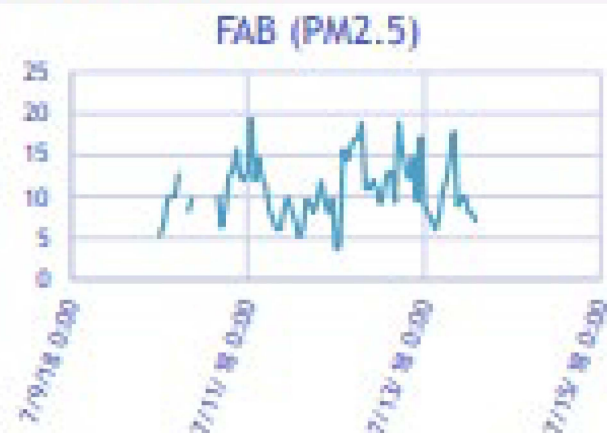
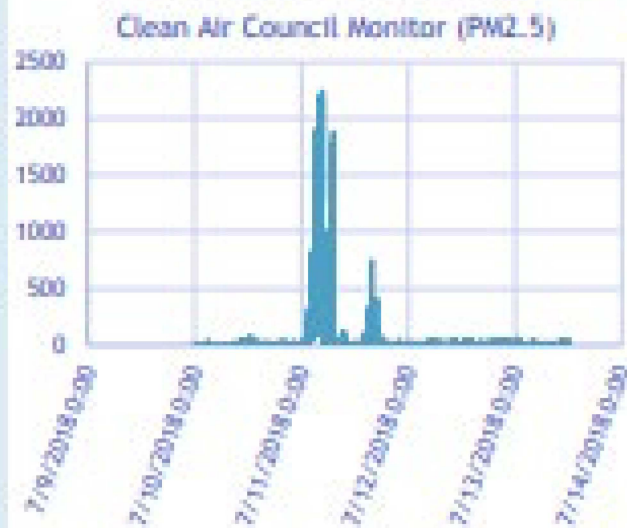


Image Source: BBC











Listen Live • The Connection with Marty Moss-Coane



News Radio & Podcasts TV Arts Events Education



LIV

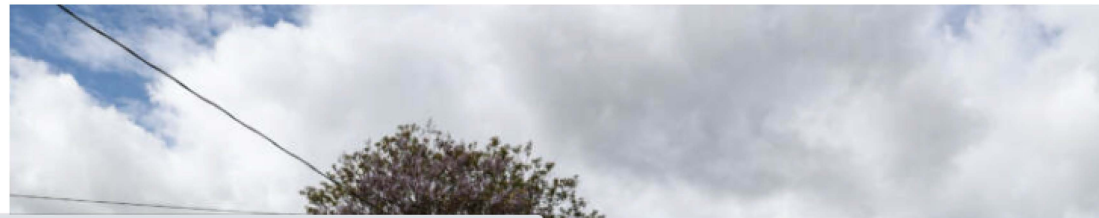


## Lawsuit filed against Southwest Philly auto repair shop is just one example of a 'common' problem, advocates argue

Residents complain of disruptive noise, "noxious fumes," broken-down cars blocking an alleyway, and debris spilling into backyards.



By [Sophia Schmidt](#) · Updated May. 2, 2023 5:08 pm



Waiting for securepubads.g.doubleclick.net...



# The Work Continues

Selected for an American Rescue Plan Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring Competitive Grant

epa.gov/arp/selections-arp-enhanced-air-quality-monitoring-com...

been selected to receive funding, but those grants have not yet been awarded. EPA may make the decision to release additional project information later this year and into 2023.

If you would like additional information regarding specific projects, EPA recommends reaching out to the applicant directly through their organization's website. You may submit generic questions to EPA related to this competition using this [Contact Us](#) form.

## Selected Applications

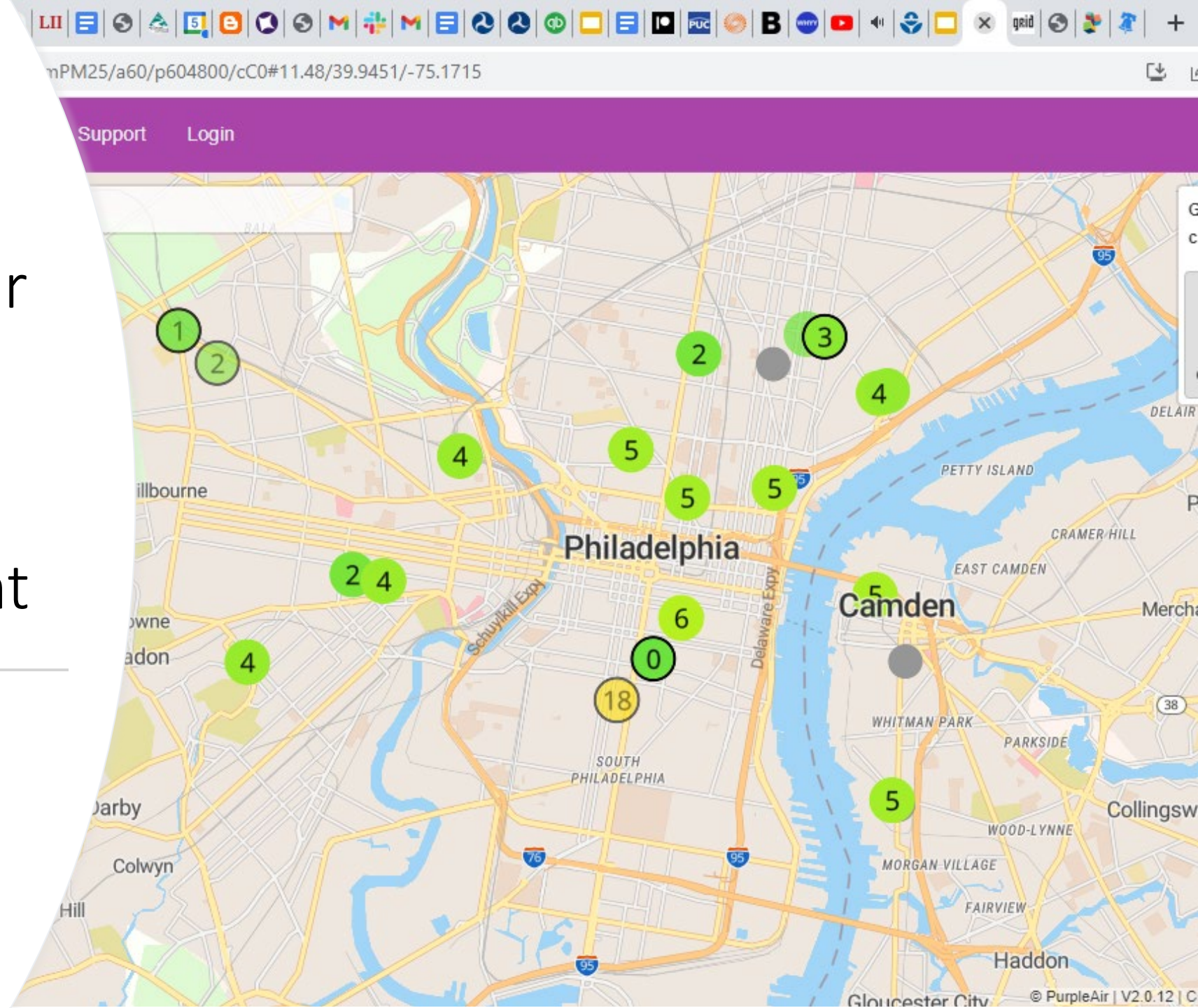
Show 50 entries Search: Clean Air Council

Primary Applicant	Project State(s)	Proposed EPA Funding	Project Description
Clean Air Council	PA	\$419,446	Recipient will develop and expand existing community-based air monitoring pilot projects in environmental justice communities along the industrialized I-95 corridor in Delaware County and Southwest Philadelphia, PA.

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 132 total entries) Previous 1 Next



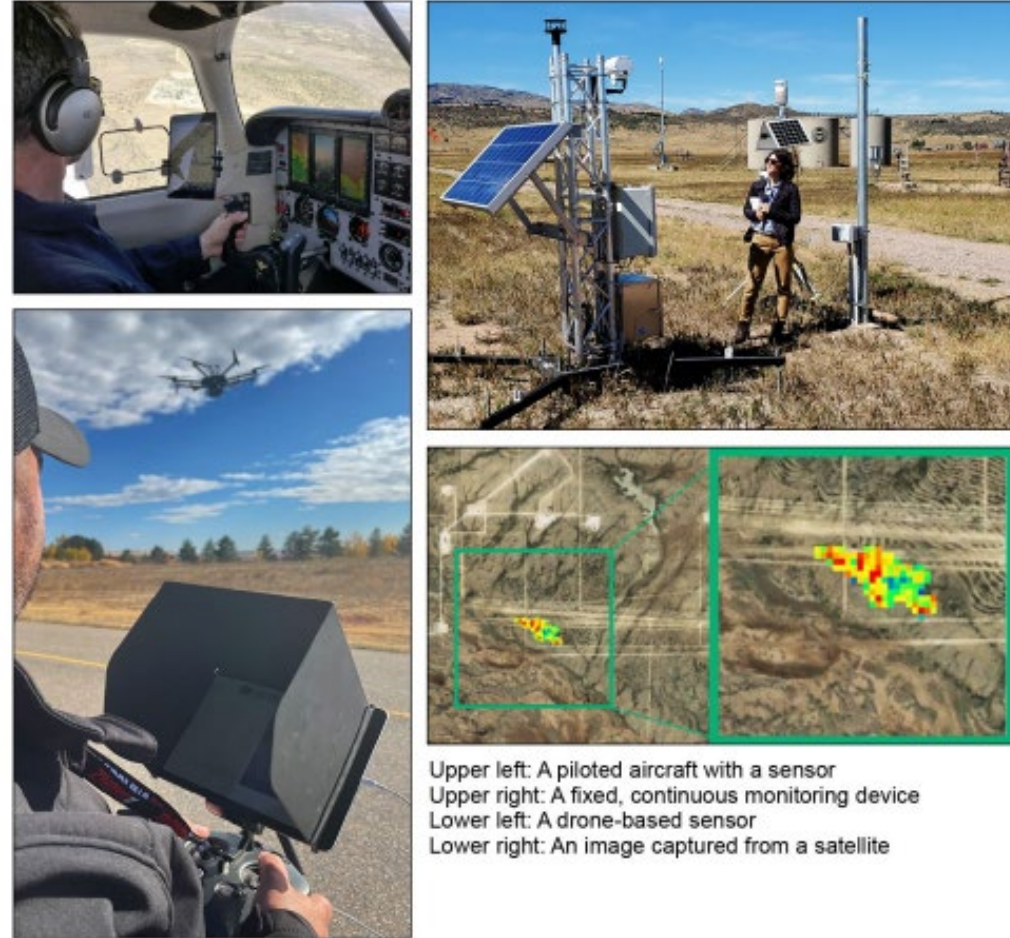
# Network of Live Air Monitors in Philadelphia - Monitoring Traces Back to 2011 Grant





# Future Focus: Air Monitoring in Shale Fields in SW Pennsylvania

**Figure 2: Technologies Used to Detect Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Development**



Upper left: A piloted aircraft with a sensor  
Upper right: A fixed, continuous monitoring device  
Lower left: A drone-based sensor  
Lower right: An image captured from a satellite

Sources: Scientific Aviation, Inc. (top left and lower left); GAO (upper right); © 2021 GHGSat Inc. (lower right). | GAO-22-104759



# Active Work – Supporting Philadelphia Residents with Air Quality Complaints

iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client\_id=242#request-show

Philly 311

Create new issue

Map List

Keyword

Unlicensed Business Complaint

#15140955

Submitted

2006 S 62nd St, Philadelphia, PA 19142, USA

rzerbo submitted 8 months ago

0 Follow 0 Comment

1 Attachment

Map

DETAILS

All Issues My Submitted My Commented My Followed

Maintenance Complaint

2100 S 61st St, Philadelphia, PA 19142, USA

rzerbo submitted 4 days ago

undefined

0 0

Vacant Lot Clean Up

6082 Upland St, Philadelphia, PA 19142, USA

rzerbo submitted 3 months ago

Several automobiles are parked on the vacant lot at 6082 Upland, illegal auto work is also being done at this vacant lot.

0 0

Maintenance Complaint

4962 Pennway St, Philadelphia, PA 19124, USA

rzerbo submitted 8 months ago

Submitted

Powered by Accela

iOS Android

Call

Embed

Select Language



Thank you, please  
reach out!  
rzerbo@cleanair.org

So many amazing people have contributed to this work over the last decade plus.

Further reading:

- <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frsc.2022.947452/full>
- <https://scholarshare.temple.edu/bitstream/handle/20.500.12613/7061/PPL-PolicyBrief-No11-2021.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- <https://gridphilly.com/blog-home/2022/04/29/the-city-can-and-must-protect-residents-from-the-many-environmental-dangers-of-development/>
- <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/env.2019.0033?journalCode=env>



# Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program

Nguyen Le  
Senior Program Officer  
Chesapeake Bay Trust





# The Chesapeake Bay Trust

- Nonprofit organization that empowers community-based groups with resources to improve natural resources in their communities.
- Work with many funding partners to collaboratively support natural resource projects in several key topic areas: education, restoration, community engagement, science and innovation, and capacity building.
- Award over \$12 million in grants and projects each year.



# Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program



Partnership between  
US EPA Region III, West Virginia  
Department of Environmental Protection,  
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, and  
Chesapeake Bay Trust



Helps communities develop and  
implement plans that reduce stormwater  
runoff, increase the amount of urban  
green spaces, improve the health of our  
environment, and enhance quality of life  
and community livability.



# Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program



Funds projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed portion of EPA Region III. This includes the entire state of Maryland and portions of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia.



Eligible applicants include local governments, nonprofit organizations, and neighborhood/community associations





## Eligible Project Types

- Conceptual Plans (~\$15k)
- Engineered Designs (~\$30k)
- Implementation/Construction (~\$150k)
- Community Greening (~\$50k)
- White Papers/Tools (~\$20k)
- Charrette/Technical Planning Assistance



# Program Summary

**245 PROJECTS**

AWARDED

**\$14 MILLION**

AWARDED

**\$25 MILLION**

MATCHING LEVERAGE FUNDS

## IMPACT



**11,310**

native trees planted



**85,355**

native plants installed



**227**

acres of impervious surface treated



**228,562**

square feet of bioretention installed



**15,147**

volunteers engaged



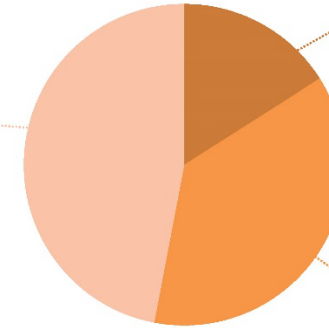
**18**

miles of green streets designed and built

## PROJECT TYPES

**47%**

implementation & community greening



**16%**

white paper

**37%**

conceptual plans & engineered designs

supports projects in the  
**CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED**

## ASSIST COMMUNITIES TO

reduce stormwater runoff,  
increase the number and amount of green spaces,  
enhance quality of life and community livability

## AWARDS BY STATE



### DELAWARE

\$398,000

### MARYLAND

\$8,713,000

### PENNSYLVANIA

\$2,224,000

### VIRGINIA

\$2,018,000

### WEST VIRGINIA

\$578,000

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

\$475,000



# 2023 Grant Cycle

- **Applications received: 69**
  - concept plans: 10
  - engineered design: 13
  - implementation: 20
  - community greening: 18
  - white papers: 5
  - charrette/technical planning assistance: 3
- **Total Request Amount: \$4.6 million**
- **Total Funding Available: \$1.9 million**
- **Funding decisions will be announced in June 2023 at a press event!**



# Stormwater Management at the Salvation Army Building

*The Salvation Army Harrisburg, PA Capital City Region*

## Award Amount:

- \$29,760 (engineered designs)
- \$75,000 (construction)

## Description:

Develop engineered designs and construct two rain gardens totaling \$6,000 square feet





# A Bath for the Bay Phase 1 and 2

*Town of Bath, WV*

## Phase 1:

- Award Amount: \$20,000
- Match Amount: \$75,000
- Total Project Cost: \$95,000

## Phase 2:

- Award Amount: \$42,000
- Match Amount: \$55,300
- Total Project Cost: \$97,000

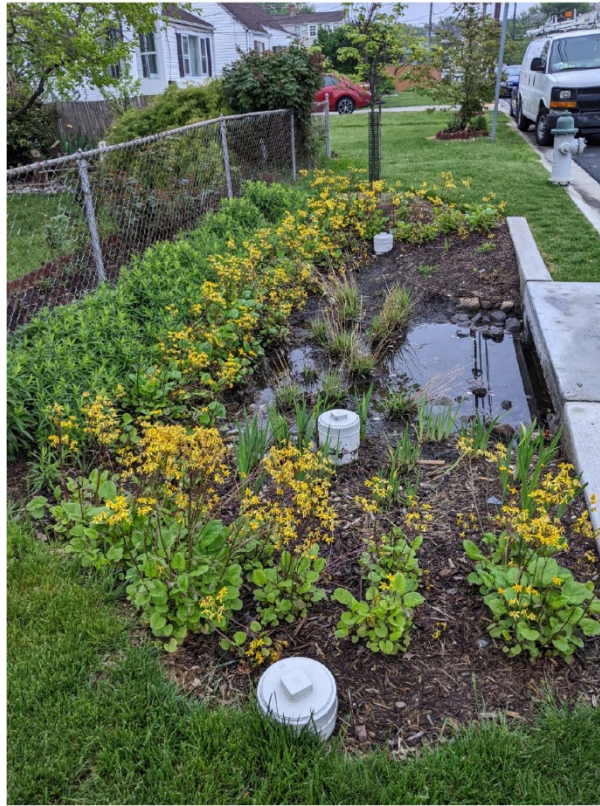
**Description:** Removed pavement and replaced with permeable pavers and silva cell systems containing native plants and trees along Washington Street





# Glenmont Forest Green Streets

*Montgomery County, MD Department of Environmental Protection*



**Award Amount:** \$200,748  
**Match Amount:** \$1.2 million  
**Total Project Cost:** \$1.4 million

**Description:** Installation of over 50 stormwater facilities including tree boxes, bioretention areas, and rain gardens

**Learn more:**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/restoration/glenmont-forest.html>



# Take Burnout from Red to Green

*Nature Sacred*

**Award Amount:** \$20,000

**Description:** White paper examines cost-savings that health facilities can have by investing in green spaces and includes calculator to estimate these savings

**Download the paper:** [https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/NatureSacred-TakeBurnoutFromRedToGreen\\_May2022.pdf](https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/NatureSacred-TakeBurnoutFromRedToGreen_May2022.pdf)



## Take Burnout from Red to Green

New calculator provides custom estimate of how much hospitals can save on burnout related expenses by investing in accessible green spaces.

**Primary author:** Sean M. Murphy, PhD, Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences at Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University

**Contributing writer:** Angela Walseng

MAY 2022





# See More Previously Awarded Projects

- Chesapeake Bay Trust Awarded Projects Map <https://cbtrust.org/impact-of-our-work/>
- Green Streets Grant Program Webpage <https://cbtrust.org/g3>



# Looking Ahead

- Use EPA's EJScreen to prioritize outreach
- Continue to provide technical assistance to applicants
- Increase engagement and participation from communities in DE, PA, VA, and WV
- Continue to build relationships and engage new funding partners to leverage more funds and increase impact
- Continue to engage subject matter experts (e.g., stormwater managers, climate scientists, hazard mitigation managers, etc.) in our application review process







**Nguyen Le**

Senior Program Officer

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Phone: 410-974-2941 ext. 110

Email: [nle@cbtrust.org](mailto:nle@cbtrust.org)

**Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns**

**(G3) Grant Program**

[www.cbtrust.org/g3](http://www.cbtrust.org/g3)



## EPA Grant Awards

- Brownfields Program Cleanup Grant
- Environmental Education





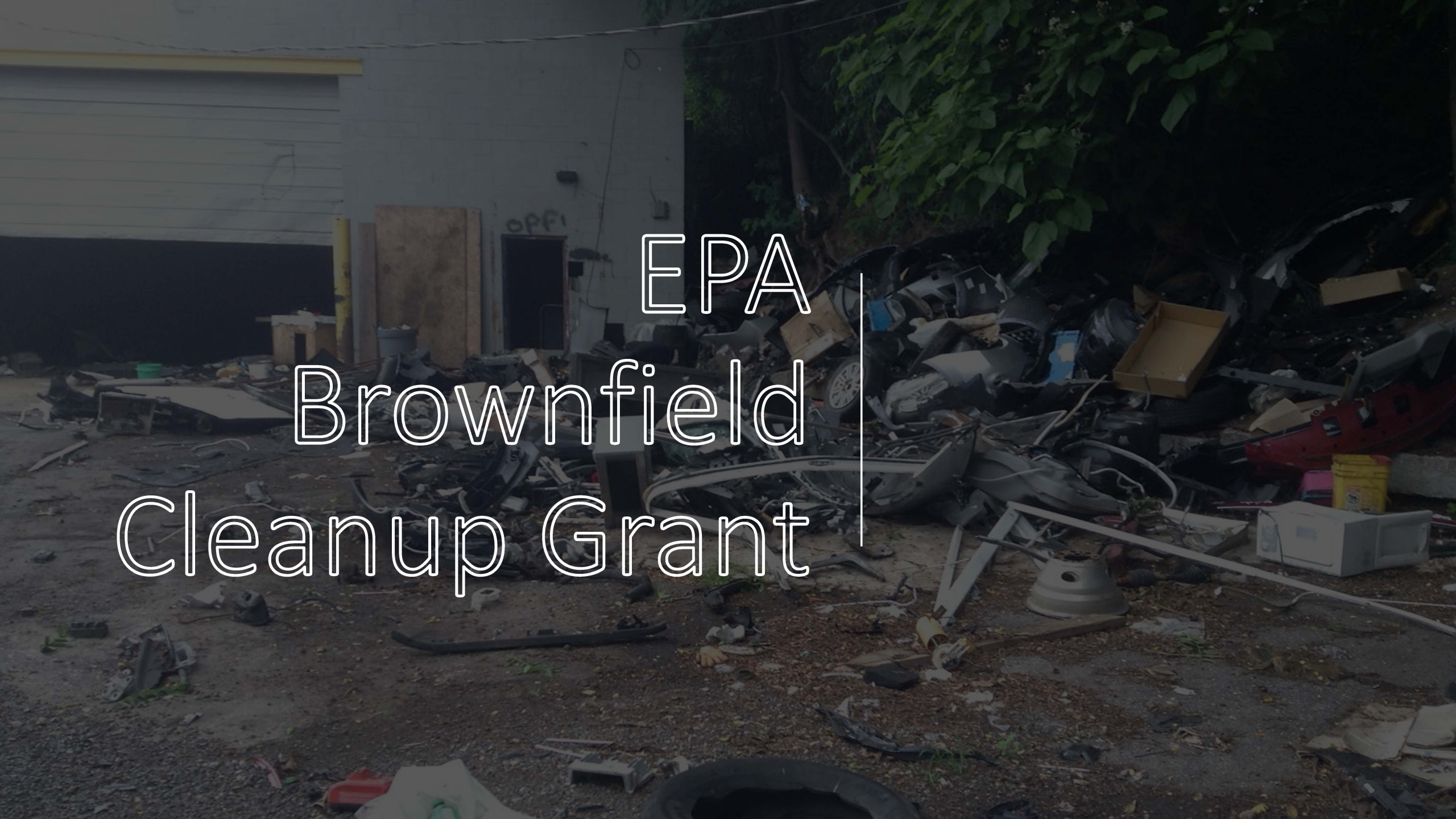


# Organization's Background

**JASTECH Development Services, Inc.**, a 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit, Pennsylvania corporation. In 1997, JASTECH was established to ensure a more livable, sustainable, and equitable Philadelphia community. (*JASTECH is an acronym for Juveniles Active in Science, Health, and Technology*).

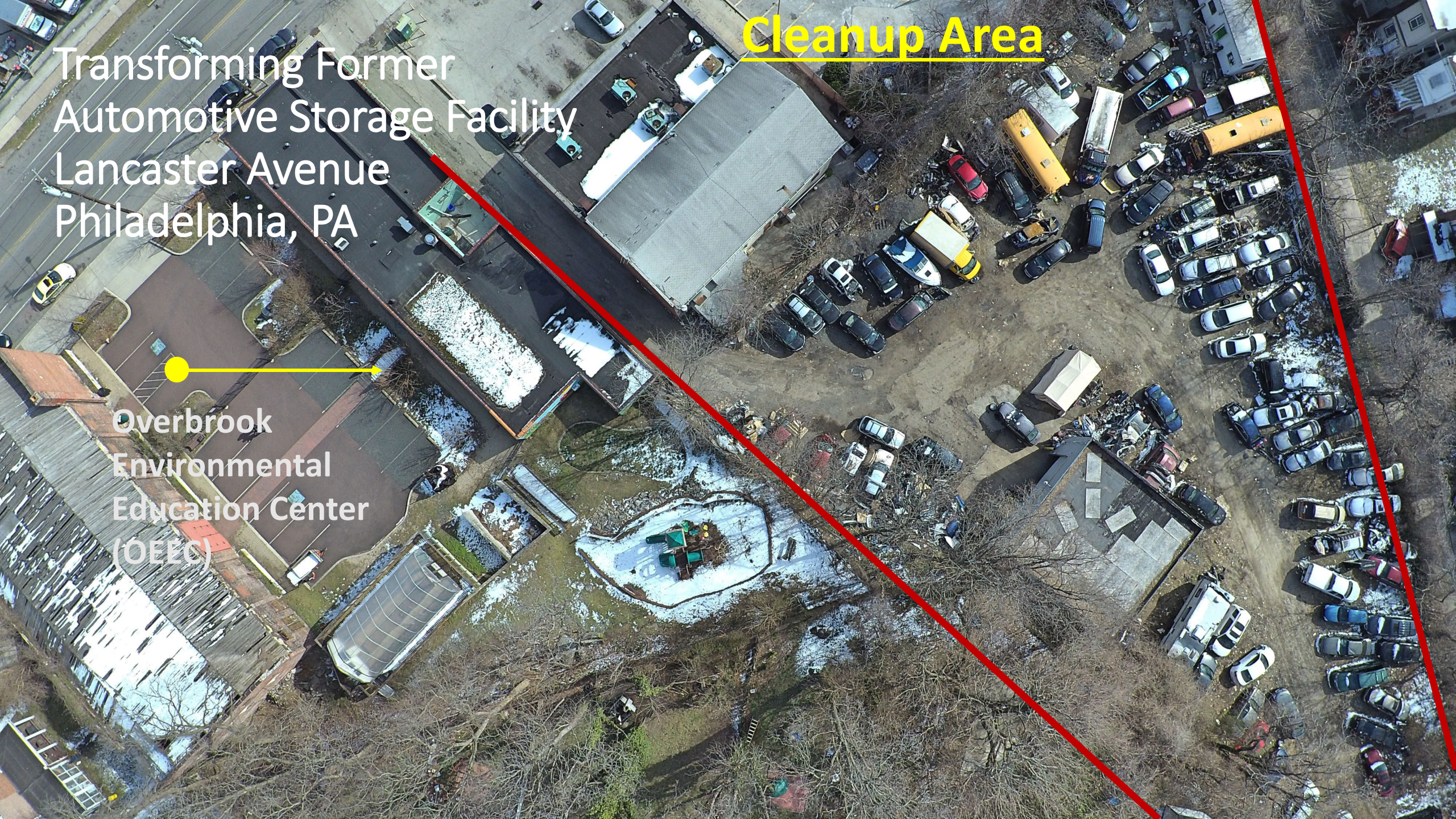
In 2002, JASTECH established the Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC), a community-based center dedicated to preserving our built and natural environments; improving public health; and promoting personal enrichment with literacy and Art





# EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant





Transforming Former  
Automotive Storage Facility  
Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA

Cleanup Area

Overbrook  
Environmental  
Education Center  
(OEEC)





Transforming Automotive Parts  
Storage Facility  
Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA





Transforming Former  
Construction  
Equipment Storage Site  
Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA



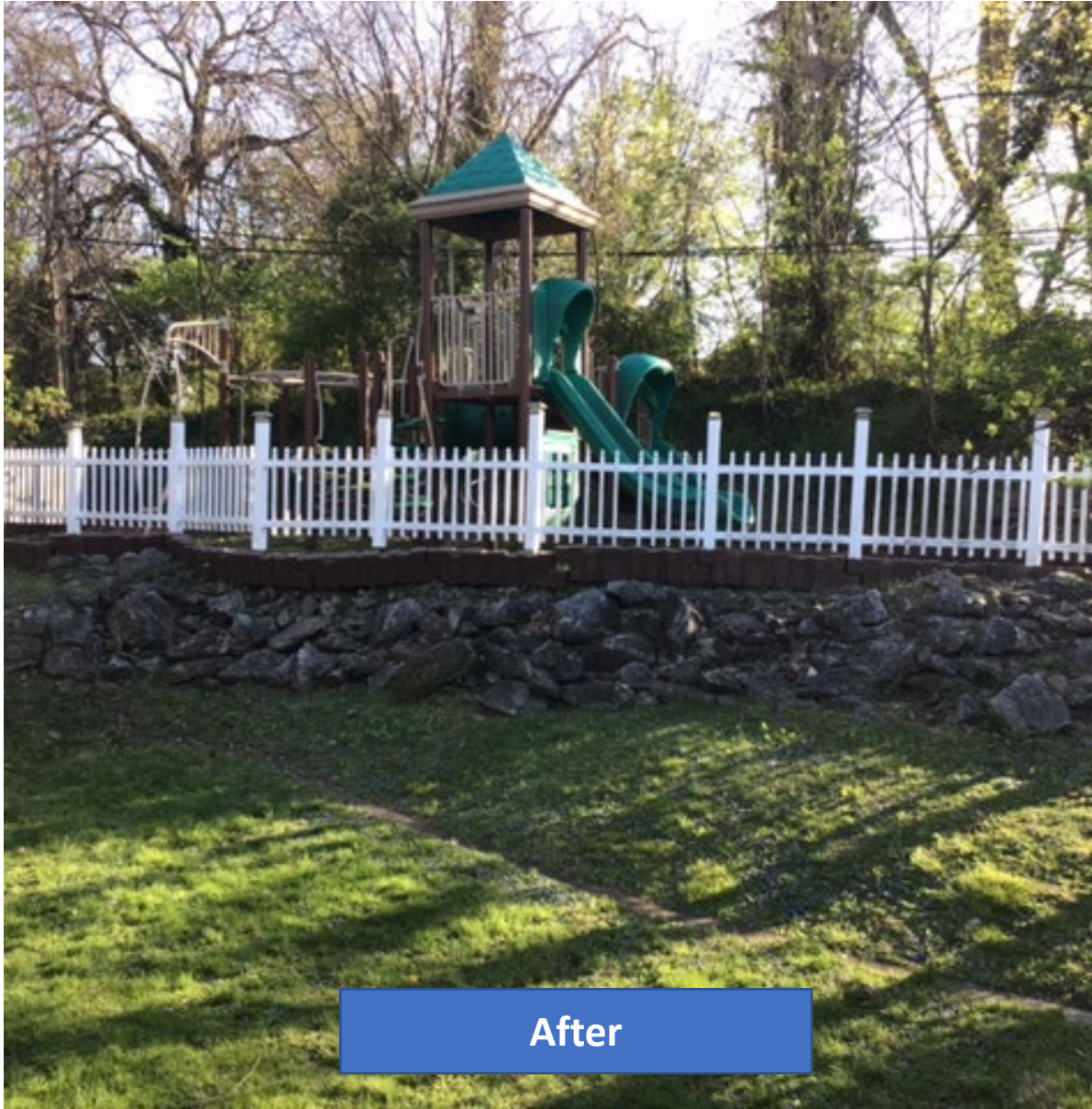


Transforming former supermarket and  
Construction Supply Site

Lancaster Avenue

Philadelphia, Pa



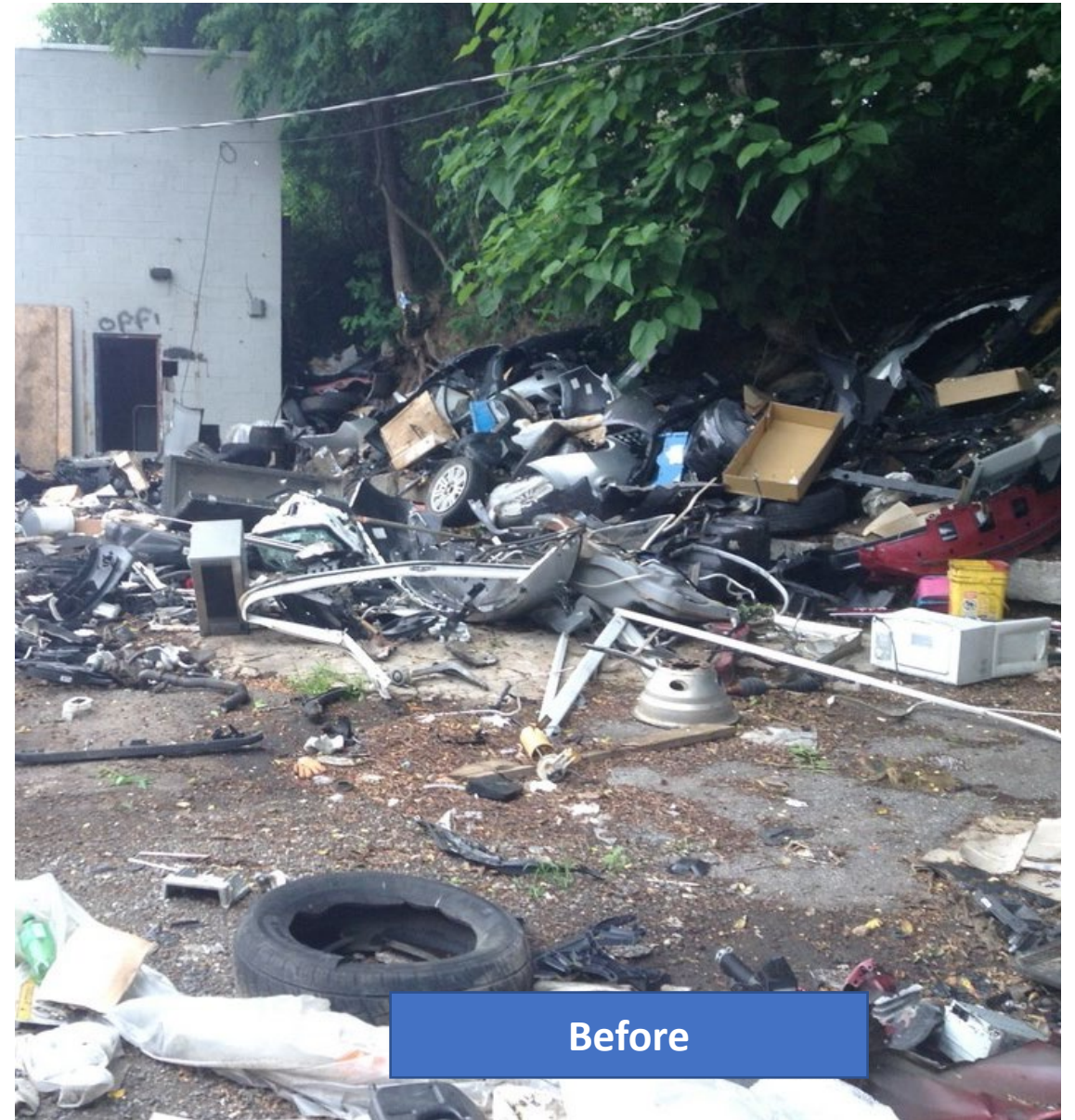


After

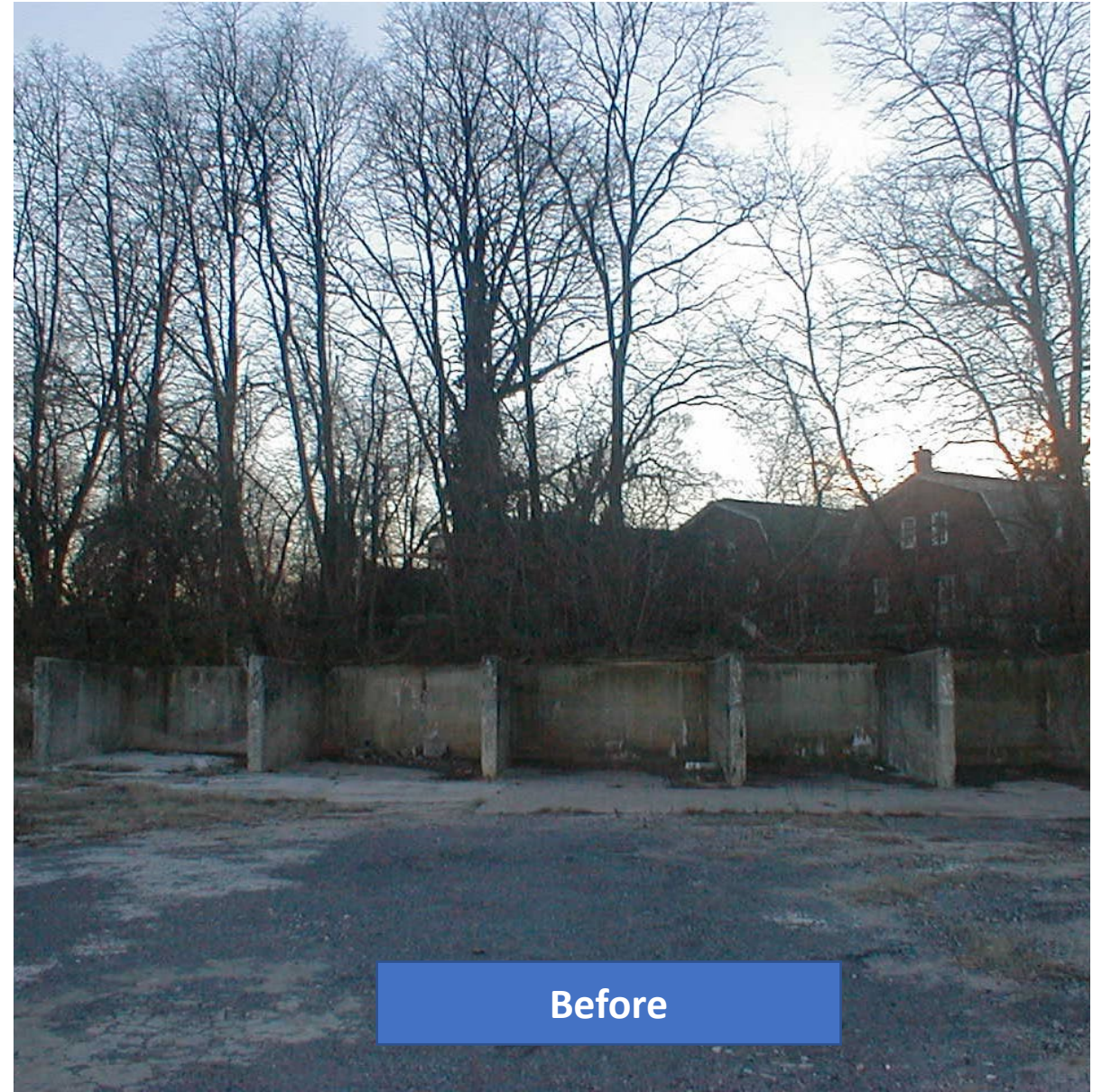
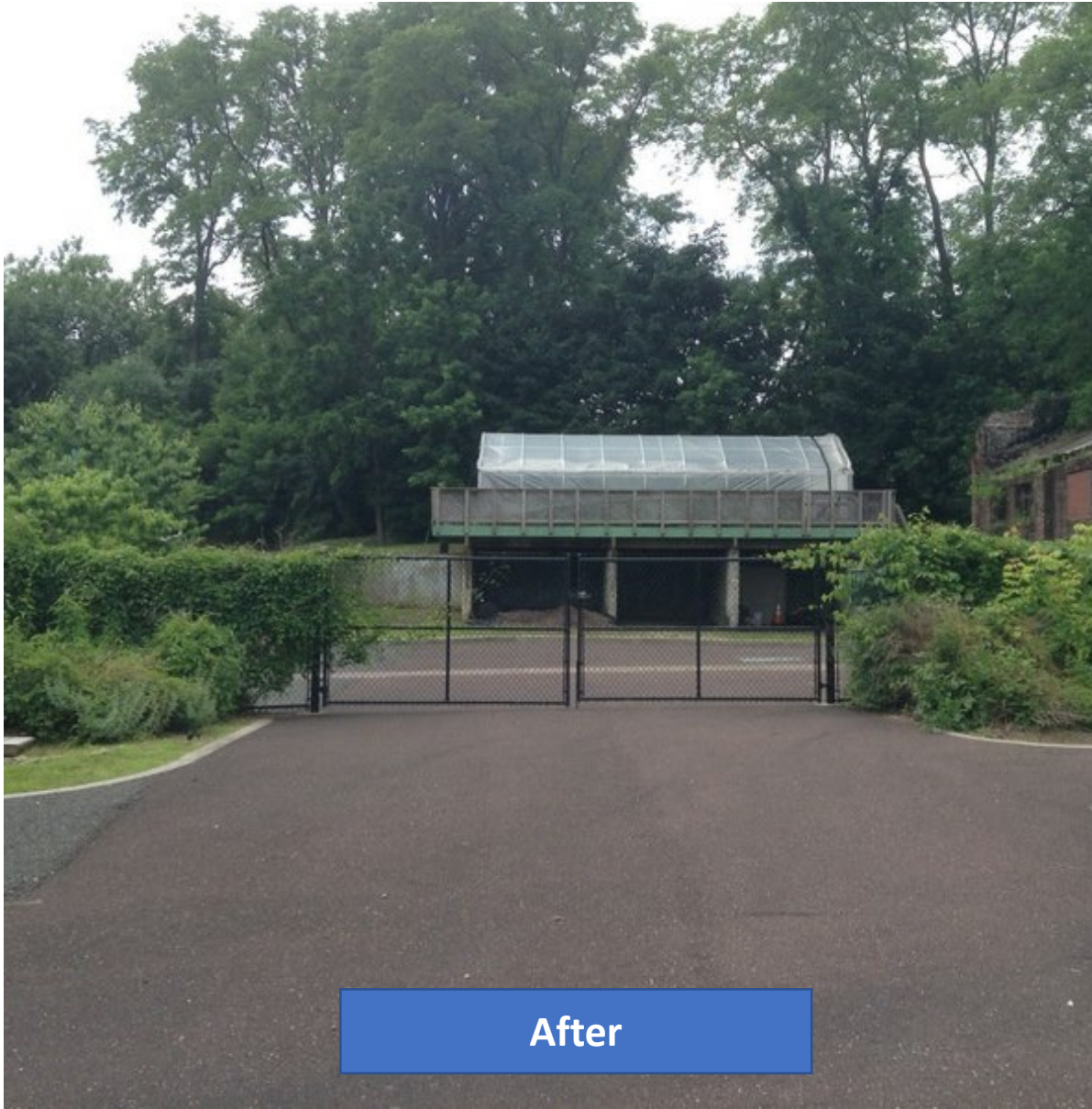


Before

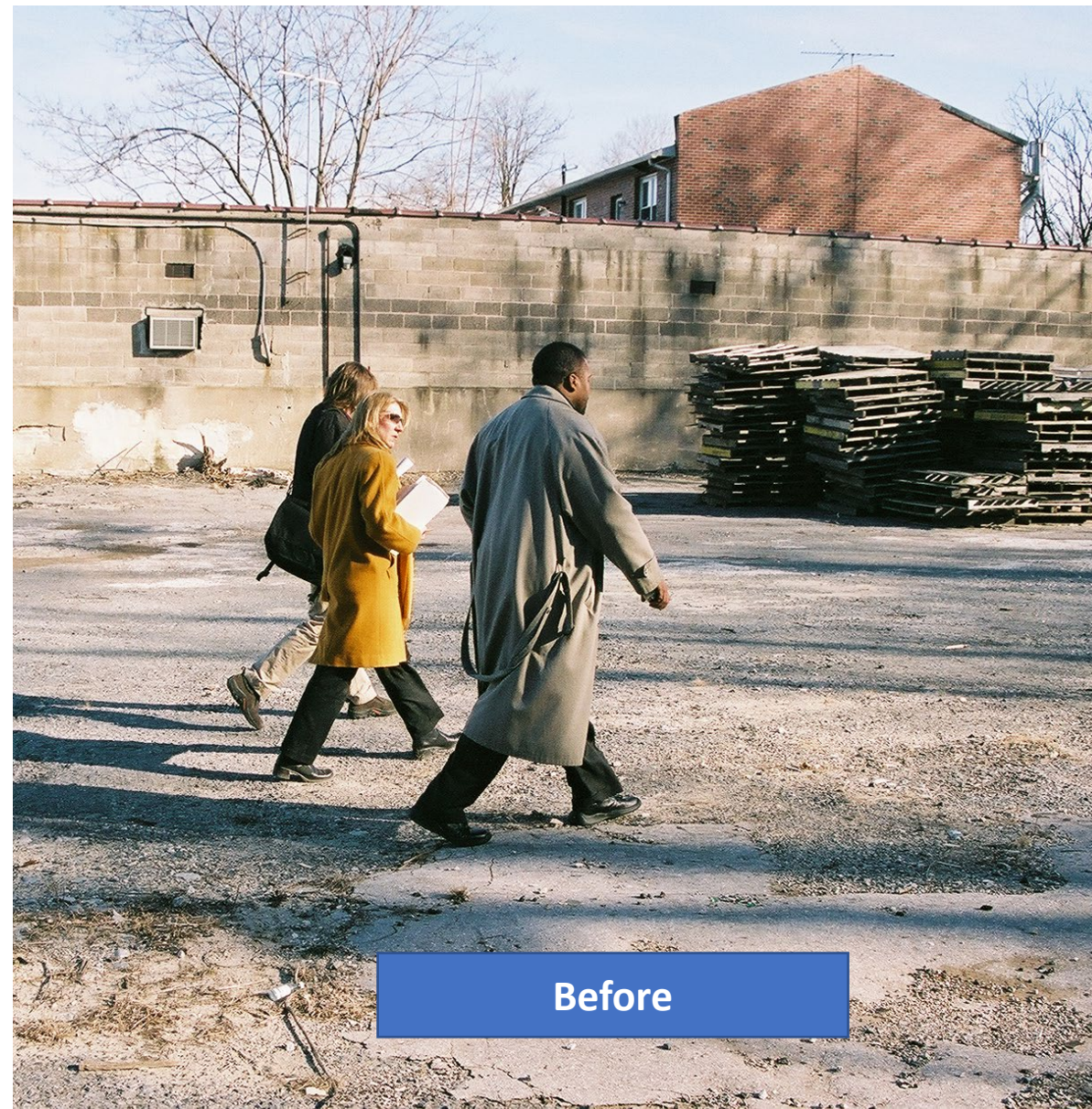
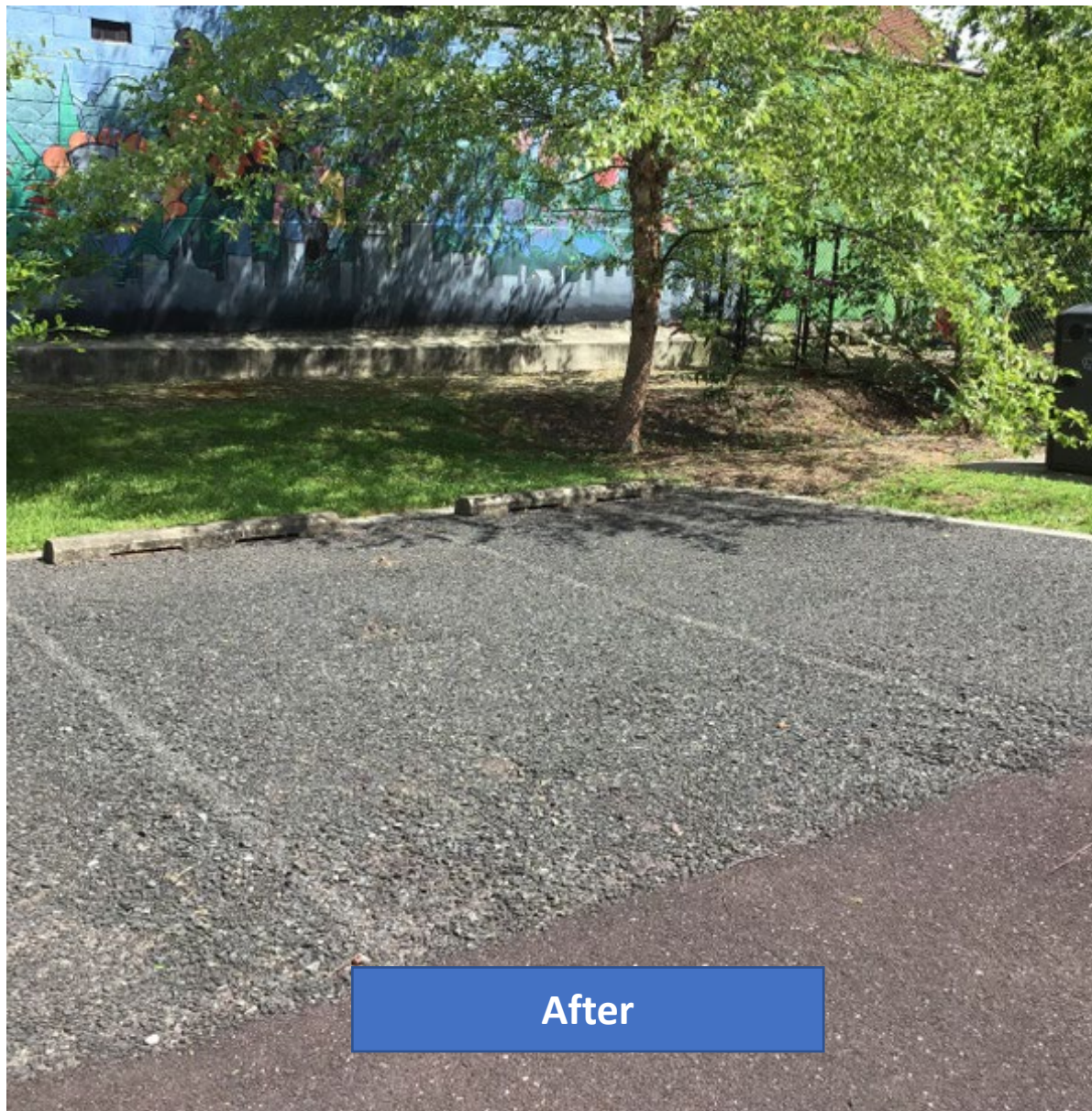




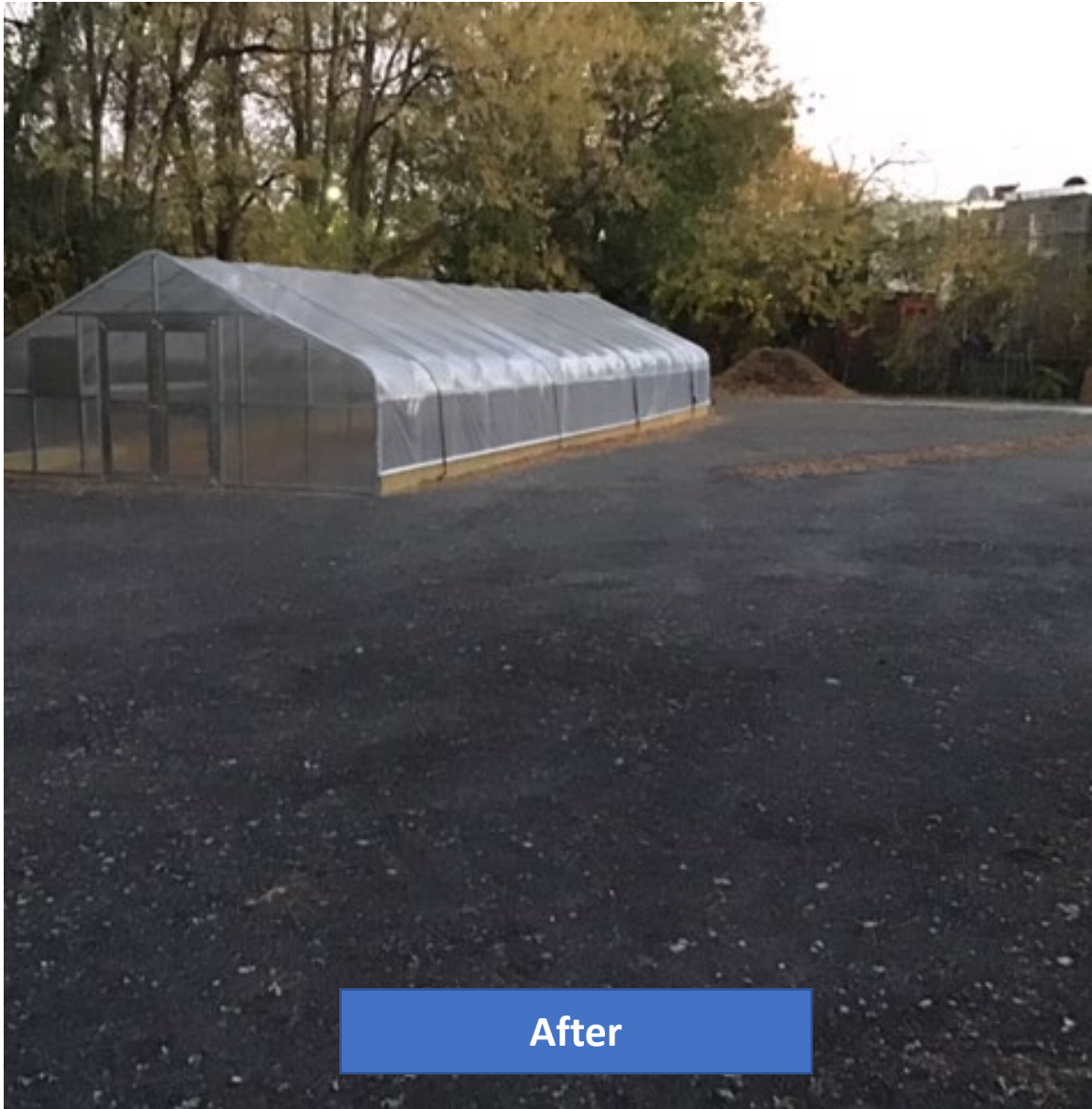




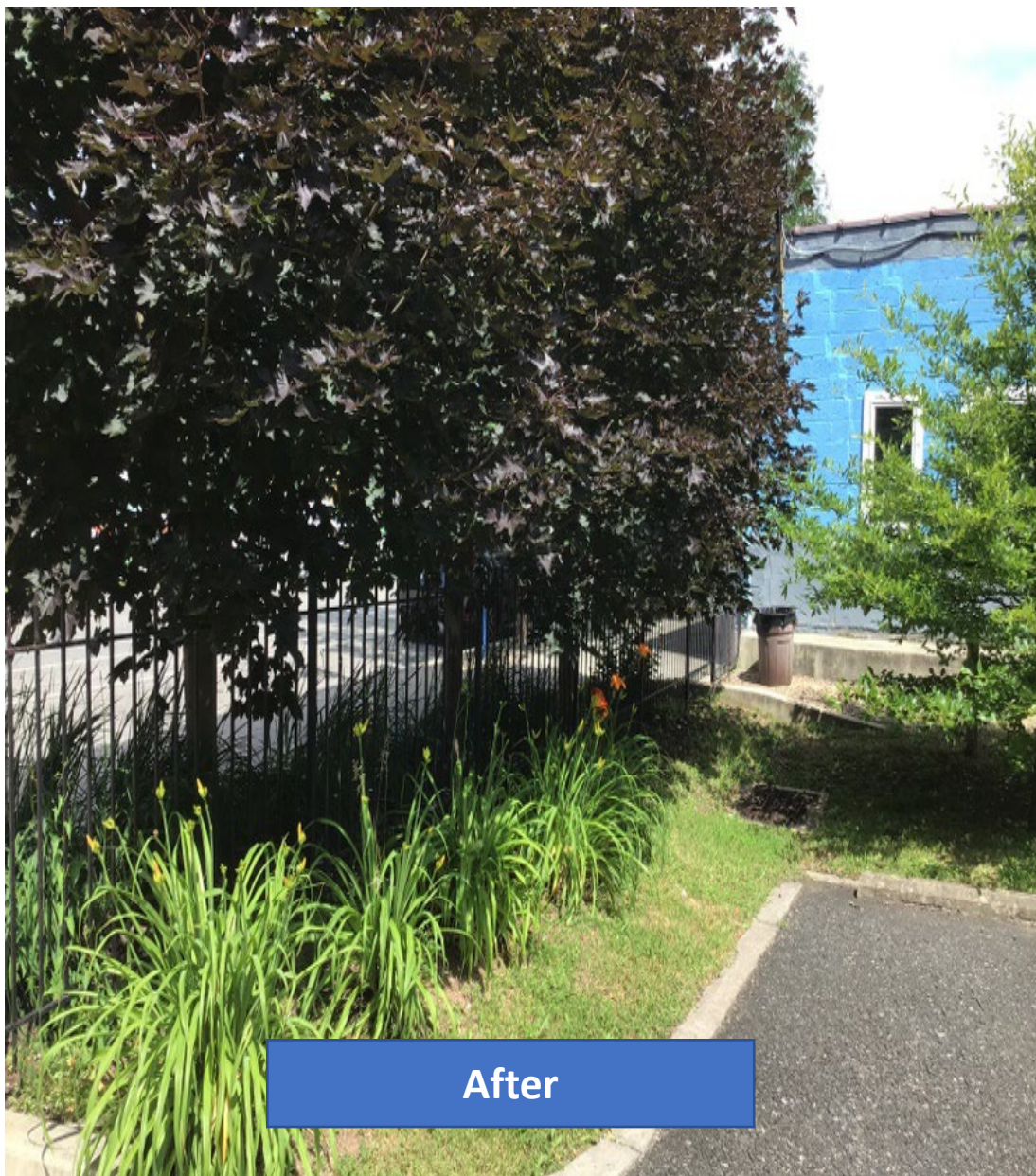




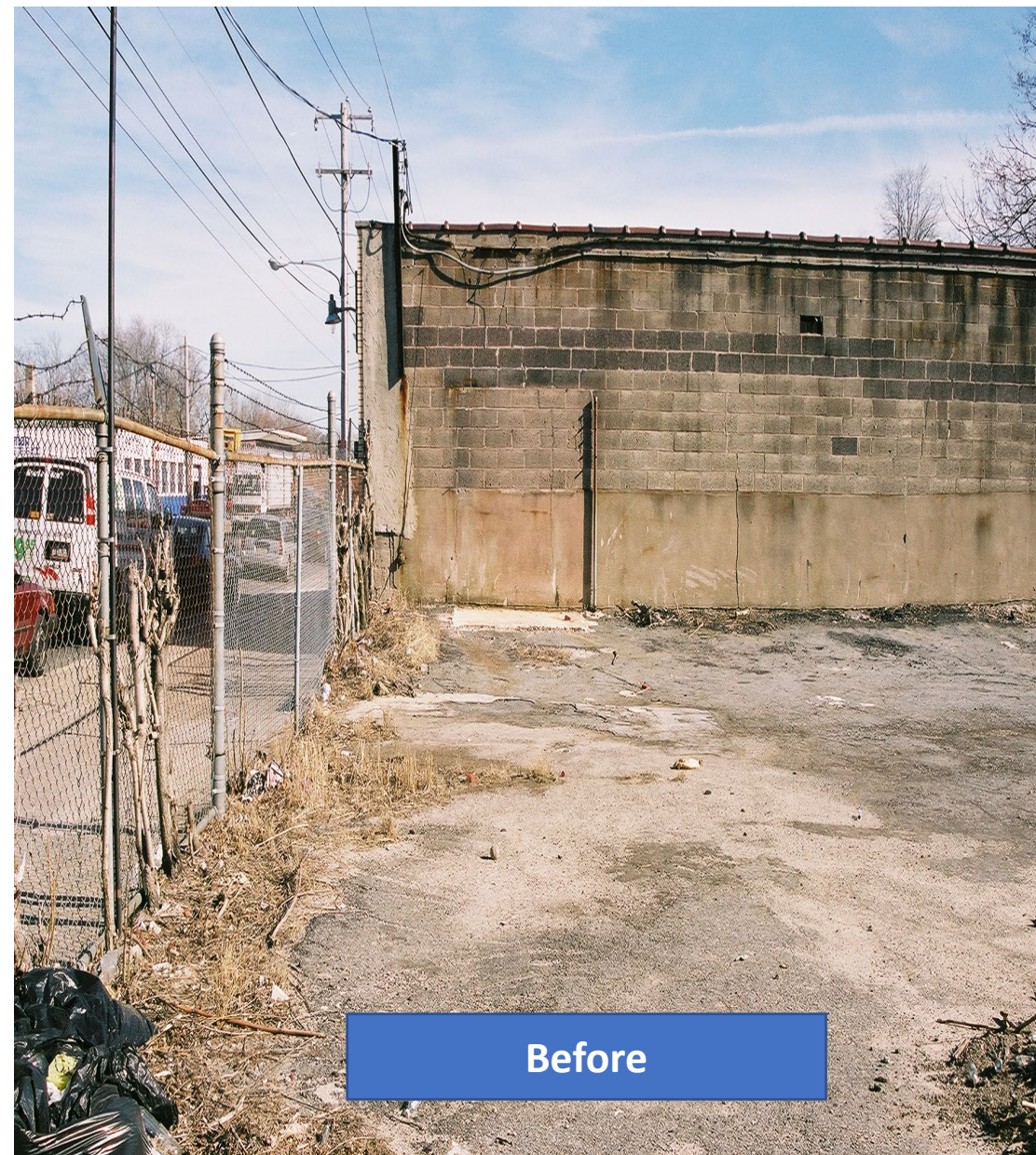








After



Before





Before



After











# EPA Environmental Education Grant

- The Overbrook Community Science (OCS) Project will increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues and provides program participants with the skills necessary to make informed decisions and to take responsible actions in their community.
- The OCS project will support EPA's priorities for **Community Projects** that increase public understanding of the benefits of environmental stewardship through community collaboration on issues of climate and environmental sustainability; **Environmental Education Capacity Building** with our municipal and Commonwealth partners the OCS will provide resources from the city and state; Educating stakeholders in non-formal settings on **Career Development** about environmental issues, and solutions. The OCS project will also teach about **Environmental Justice** and local environmental issues.





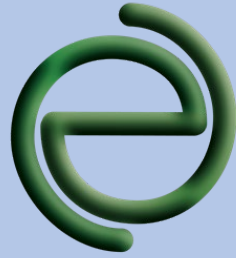
# EPA Environmental Education Grant



The OCS Project has five primary objectives:

- 1) Develop a replicable pilot to fulfil **community-identified needs** for adapting to burdensome climate and environmental exposures,
- 2) Support **community-led air protection** efforts that include the installation of air monitors, in approximately 42 homes,
- 3) Increase **lead safety** practices with 50 families and 30 disadvantaged renovators in the Overbrook / Wynnefield section of Philadelphia by providing training to minimize lead exposure risks in pre-1978 built homes,
- 4) Inventory **vacant lots** in the West Philadelphia (zip codes 19131 and 19151) to recommend best practices for future use, create employment and reduce exposures to lead and other metals, and to promote a healthier use of parcels for community benefit, and
- 5) Develop a community-based outreach and training on environmental justice and “**brownfield to greenfield**” strategies for the Overbrook neighborhood.





**OVERBROOK ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION CENTER**

**Jerome Shabazz,  
Executive Director  
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Overbrook Environmental Education  
Center**

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# Questions?



- ❖ Elizabeth Hughes, Earth Conservancy
- ❖ Russ Zerbo, Clean Air Counsel
- ❖ Nguyen Le, Chesapeake Bay Trust
- ❖ Jerome Shabazz, Overbrook Environmental Center



*Thanks for attending!*

*Thank You!*

Standby for closing remarks  
from Regional Administrator  
Adam Ortiz.



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## *Closing Remarks*

Adam Ortiz  
EPA Mid-Atlantic  
Administrator



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