

TRANSFORMING A VACANT BROWNFIELD TO THE “MOON RIVERFRONT PARK”

Moon Township Moving Forward on Applications for U.S. EPA & Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Brownfield Cleanup Grants



Moon Township and the Moon Township Municipal Authority (MTMA) seek to move forward on an initiative to transform the vacant and polluted RB&W Bolt Manufacturing property on the Ohio River near the Sewickley Bridge into the “Moon Riverfront Park”. This project will create a riverfront park, trail and recreational area, improve the road-rail track intersection, protect the community’s drinking water source, and prevent pollution impacts on the Ohio River.

Since acquiring the closed factory site from the previous owners in 2002, MTMA has invested nearly \$500,000 for demolition of most the vacant structure and stabilization of the site to prevent pollution impacts. Moon Township has secured grants and invested resources in the creation of a bold plan for a “Moon Riverfront Park Master Plan” (see www.greenway.ohiorivertrail.org/index.php/moon-township-riverfront-park-master-plan), and secured U.S. EPA grant funding in partnership with Beaver County PA for additional site engineering for final demolition, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment of the riverfront site as a new park.

Moon Township and MTMA now seek to obtain \$200,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) “Brownfield Cleanup Grant” funding, and \$1 million in “Industrial Sites Reuse Program” grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Already, MTMA has worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under the Act 2 Land Recycling Program to conduct cleanup activities and, with additional funding, MTMA can complete the Act 2 process and ensure that the site is permanently protective of public health and the environment under the parks master plan. The EPA and DCED funding sought now will help complete this cleanup, which will involve the removal and crushing of remaining factory slabs, columns and asphalt pavements; the capping of the former factory area with a geotextile fabric, gravel layer, and impervious HDPE line; the installation of a liner drain and stormwater controls; measures to ensure continued protection of the community’s drinking water intake wells; and the further covering of the site with clean soils, landscaping and park materials.

Once the brownfield cleanup is completed, Moon Township will have the opportunity to move forward on the vision for a Moon Riverfront Park with 1,750 linear feet of riverfront access and potential amenities including a Great Lawn, meadows, a dog park, an Urban Riverfront Beach, a landform playground, a boardwalk with piers, a day dock, and a canoe/kayak launch, a Headhouse structure with bathrooms, concessions and other functions, a Jet Plaza spray park, pavilions, an environmental education area, a boat rental and storage building, parking, and other features. Access will be enhanced and improved with the deployment of a segment of the regional Ohio River Trail, and a better intersection at the railroad crossing.

*For more info, contact Assistant Township Manager Scott Brilhart at sbrilhart@moontwp.us
or MTMA General Manager John Riley at riley@moontma.com*