

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region | Brownfields Program



Stone Creek Outdoor Classroom and Community Park Pennington Gap, VA

Site Description

Mine-scarred lands have become a persistent problem in many communities due to the economic and environmental challenges of cleaning up and reusing mine-scarred lands. Stone Creek Tipple Site in Pennington, VA was selected as one of the six National Brownfields Mine Scarred Land Demonstration Projects across the US.

Site after cleanup was completed



Located at the former Osborne Coal Tipple Yard along Straight Creek near St. Charles, Virginia in the Stone Creek Community in Lee County, this site served as a transfer station where trucks delivered coal for train pickup and delivery. The coal operations ceased and the site was abandoned. With extensive partner support and collaboration both behind the scenes and on-the-ground, the Stone Creek Outdoor Classroom and Community Park is a reality.



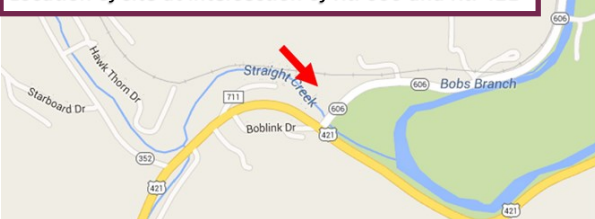
Aerial view of abandoned coal tipple site

Cleanup and Revitalization

EPA provided technical assistance through a Targeted Brownfield Assessment to assess the property and identify contamination levels to support redevelopment of the site. In 2010, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable received funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Environmental Contaminants Program to purchase the land at the former tipple site and transfer ownership to Lee County. Coal facilities, structures, and surface coal deposits were removed then two feet of soil was put on top of the site and seed was planted. The transformation continued with stream bioengineering, native plant restoration, recreational trails, learning stations with interpretive signage, public parking, recycled material benches, handmade pavers, and fencing.

Some of the money and help with the project came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of a settlement of a coal slurry spill years ago. A score of other businesses and organizations also contributed money, materials and time such as planting trees and creating a walking trail. Today the site is used by Lee County Students, local farmers, and residents of all ages.

Location of site at intersection of Rt. 606 and Rt. 421



For Further Information:

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"It was the perfect site, the site of an identified contributor of sediment to the Powell River watershed. We thought it was a good potential restoration project,"
Anne Condon with the FWS says.

