

NEWS

Environmental Remediation Project Receives National Recognition

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(EVANSVILLE, IN) – June 30, 2011 – Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel is pleased to announce that the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) named the General Waste Products, Inc., Main Yard Site Remediation Project as the recipient of its 2011 National Environmental Excellence Award in the category of Environmental Stewardship.



The abandoned General Waste Products site, located southwest of the intersection of the Lloyd Expressway and Fulton Ave., had been plagued by the environmental impacts of more than 150 years of heavily industrialized use. Through this project, the 4.5-acre site has been completely transformed into the Mead Johnson Trailhead of the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage, which includes the Shirley James Gateway Plaza and interpretive display of local transportation history.

“The Mead Johnson Trailhead serves as a tangible symbol of what can be achieved – environmentally, recreationally, culturally, artistically, and historically – through collaboration and creativity,” said Mayor Weinzapfel. “This site was literally turned from trash to treasure.”

The project was the product of a team effort, with contributions and leadership from the City of Evansville, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Metropolitan Development, and other City agencies and officials; the Evansville Greenway and Remediation Trust, led by Trustee Kathleen Lucas of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, and Trust Counsel Michael Nelson of Hunsucker Goodstein & Nelson PC, which filed an action in Federal court and worked diligently to secure more than \$4.3 million to complete the project by seeking insurance restitution from the original property owners; and Apex Companies, LLC, which performed the environmental remediation of the property under the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Voluntary Remediation Program.

In addition, Mead Johnson Nutrition donated \$250,000 toward the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage trailhead, named in honor of the company’s donation; Federal Transportation Enhancement funds were utilized for the Mead Johnson Trailhead; and costs associated with the Shirley James Gateway Plaza were reimbursed through a historical mitigation grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Joe Weslock of Apex Companies, Mike Nelson of Hunsucker Goodstein & Nelson, and Dan McNerny

from Bose McKinney & Evans jointly presented a plaque commemorating this award to Mayor Weinzapfel at the Shirley James Gateway Plaza this morning. The 2011 National Environmental Excellence Awards were formally announced during the NAEP Award Ceremony on April 27 in Denver, Colorado.

“By working as a team with the City of Evansville, Apex was able to leverage a number of important provisions in State law that enabled remediation at a fraction of the originally estimated cost,” Weslock said. “It was a great challenge, but in the end we were able to design a solution that was fiscally responsible and adhered to regulatory requirements. Committed professionals like Kathy Lucas and Mike Nelson along with the leadership of Evansville made this possible and I am proud to be associated with this team effort.”

Nelson and Lucas agree that this project demonstrates that through hard work, perseverance and cooperation, even contaminated industrial areas can be transformed into safe, beautiful public parks and productive commercial properties.

“By working as a team with Apex and the City of Evansville, the Trust was able to leverage a number of important provisions in State law that enabled remediation at a fraction of the originally estimated cost,” Lucas said. “It’s my hope that this serves as an example that the cost-effective restoration of brownfield property is possible even when the odds are stacked against you.”

The Evansville Greenway and Remediation Trust is a sole-purpose non-profit entity that was specifically created by order of a Federal judge to oversee the investigation and remediation of General Waste Products Inc., Main Yard Site and its sister site, the River Yard Site. Although used in other states, the formation of the Trust for the purpose of managing the environmental interests of multiple parties was a new concept for Indiana, but one that worked well to achieve a mutual objective.

“There was a truly diverse set of stakeholders that had divergent interests, but a common goal,” Nelson said. “By establishing the trust we were able to align interests during the decision making process and were ultimately successful in addressing the long-term environmental hazards of this site and transforming it into a healthy new trailhead.”

In addition, the Trusts’ remediation of the General Waste River Yard Site is underway and the Trust anticipates that this location will be put back into productive use as an enhanced commercial shipping facility.

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