

Black Rock Sanctuary
Phoenixville Borough
Chester County, PA

Project Description:

Black Rock Sanctuary was originally one of 21 Schuylkill River silt basins constructed to remove waste discharged from coal mines in the 1940's. The soil, therefore, is composed mainly of clay particles mingled with coal silt but does not hazards. Chester County Parks this 120 acre natural area for passive park with large wetlands environmental interpretation. With from DCNR matched with County Open Space Program, will be completed. This includes interpretive stations and many stations, paving of an parking lot, and landscaping.

Habitat World, Geo World, Amphibian World, Plant World, and Bird World, provide interpretive signage and interactive displays. The Sanctuary also features vernal pools and ponds that provide valuable wetlands for a healthy amphibian population and waterfowl habitat. The trail is fully ADA compliant and the parking lot features native tree and shrub plantings to reduce stormwater runoff.



Quote: Glenn H. Nelson, Education Coordinator, Chester County Parks and Recreation

“The Black Rock Sanctuary offers park visitors a relaxing and educational walk along a discovery trail with history, geology, habitat and wildlife interpretive stations along the way.”

impose any environmental and Recreation selected redevelopment as a and extensive the latest \$195,000 grant funds from the Chester Phase III of the Sanctuary construction of new interactive displays at existing .8-mile trail and These stations, such as



The Sanctuary is accessible by way of the Phoenix Iron Canal Trail, which will intersect with the proposed route of the Schuylkill River Trail in Phoenixville. The site is also located less than five miles from the Audubon Society's Mill Grove Wildlife Sanctuary. Black Rock is a frequent stop for many migratory waterfowl that utilize the habitats along the Schuylkill River, and is being considered as a Pennsylvania "Important Bird Area" by the Society.

The Black Rock Sanctuary has multiple educational, environmental, and economic benefits. Visitors are able to see the connection between water, geology, and a variety of wetland habitats and their local habitat. The Sanctuary demonstrates a successful restoration of an industrial site to a natural area.

Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

2005: \$195,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund

Matching Funds – All Phases

William Penn Foundation: \$380,587

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service/North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA): \$260,708

PA DCNR, Keystone Fund: \$100,000 (Phase II interpretive trail)

T. H. Properties (private developer): \$5,000, plus approximately \$12,000 in in-kind services for the installation of a water line. This was in exchange for a stormwater easement valued at \$17,000