

Return to the River

In addition to the unprecedented amount of new construction taking place in Camden, new open space projects are also taking place across the city. Not since the industrial revolution more than 100 years ago have Camden's residents had this much riverfront property available for their recreation and enjoyment.

Our return to the river started in North Camden's Pyne Poynt Park. In just a few short years, the park has gone from a vandal-ravaged plot of ground to a field of dreams for area children. The revitalization at Pyne Poynt Park included new pathways, increased drainage and stormwater management at the 15-acre park.

Just downriver, a new park will be connected to Pyne Poynt Park by the brick promenade that begins at the Battleship New Jersey. Cooper's Point Park sits on the other side of the Ben Franklin Bridge from Wiggins Waterfront Park on land reclaimed from the site of the former Riverfront State Prison.

The Freeholder Board and the CCMUA are also creating a new park in Cramer Hill on the site of the former wastewater treatment plant that served Camden City more than 30 years ago. The Cramer Hill Nature Preserve will be a 35-acre urban forest along the banks of the Delaware River adjacent to Pennsauken Township.

This area has been uninhabited for approximately 25 years, since the decommissioning of the plant. Soon, it will be open to the public so everyone can enjoy this amazing natural treasure. In addition to the scenic views of the river, the wildlife on the grounds include deer and unique birds. State funding was utilized to preserve the



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wetlands at the preserve. It will compliment Petty's Island, a historical Camden County landmark which is slated to become state parkland in 2020.

In addition, the state Department of Environmental Protection is redeveloping the Harrison Avenue Landfill into the Cramer Hill Waterfront Park. The plan calls for a major transformation of the 62-acre landfill where the Delaware and Cooper rivers join.

This redevelopment will create freshwater tidal wetlands, connect greenway trails to other neighborhoods and further improve the area for possible community gardens.

Last year, the Freeholder Board and CCMUA opened the final phase of Phoenix Park in Camden's Waterfront South neighborhood. This project opened a section of the Delaware River that was largely cutoff to the community through prior industrialization. This was not only an important step toward improving the quality of life for the CCMUA's neighbors in the Waterfront South community, it also captures storm water runoff and prevents it from entering Camden's combined sewer system.

These park projects are truly transformational for the neighborhoods they serve and will reconnect residents back to one of the region's greatest assets, the Delaware River.

For more information, please visit www.camdencounty.com. If you have any other questions about County services, please call me at (856) 225-5466, or email me at Jeff.Nash@camdencounty.com. Also, you can like us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/camdencountynj and follow us on Twitter @ [camdencountynj](https://twitter.com/camdencountynj).