

Interlock

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For over 60 years, the future site of the Voorhees Environmental Park has been altered to operate as a technological component in the Voorhees municipal infrastructure. From the late 1950's it served as the site for a gravel and sand quarry. And, shortly after, began to accept municipal and industrial waste through landfill operations. From the landfill closure until today, it functions as a site of remediation, in an attempt to correct the contamination issues introduced during the landfill period.

The master plan design, INTERLOCK, connects the former technological and industrial uses of the site with new forms of technology as well as the potential of reestablishing natural processes once endemic on the site. First, INTERLOCK integrates the sustainable technology of solar energy production at the upper end of the site. Secondly, INTERLOCK introduces reforestation through segments of the central and lower portions of the site. Lastly, the design establishes and maintains the first stage of succession with an open meadow at the lower portion of the site near the pond area.

Programmed spaces for passive recreation vary; yet, follow a similar design typology, throughout the site. The main programmed areas of the site include an entrance plaza surrounded by a bosquet, a café and cultural center, a sun deck looking out from the middle of the solar panel array, grass lawn gathering areas surrounded by elevated soil volumes planted with various bosquets of different species and successional growth of vegetation, and a half mile boardwalk meandering through the meadow and pond areas. INTERLOCK endeavors to provide a functional gathering area and community park to all residents in Voorhees. Particular attention was paid to increasing pedestrian connections between nearby neighborhoods such as Centennial Mills, Alluvium, Alluvium Woods, Traditions, Wilderness Lakes and Lost Tree, as well as the future Haddonbrook development, increasing walkability between neighborhoods. Elements to ease pedestrian access across the busy Centennial Boulevard from Centennial Mills were implemented by establishing a center tree island that functions both as a traffic 'choking'/slowing device and a place where pedestrians may come to rest after crossing one lane of traffic. In total, approximately two-miles of pedestrian pathways have been designed throughout the site.