

## EHRENFELD CIRCA 1956



Overlooking the borough of Ehrenfeld, an acidic refuse pile had been on fire and runoff and landslides from the steep slopes caused sediment to clog storm sewers when it rained, impacted water quality of the Little Conemaugh River, and threatened homes. As part of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Ehrenfeld reclamation project, 3.2 million cubic yards of material was removed--enough to fill 979 Olympic-size swimming pools. Regrading, removal of the acidic materials, reclamation, and restoration occurred. This included revegetating the site with a variety of trees, including the American chestnut. Historically, American chestnuts grew here, until a blight devastated the trees throughout the United States. Completion of this project also included transportation and safety features to promote access to the "Path of the Johnstown Flood Trail," which promote outdoor recreation and tourism. This project was completed with federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AML) Economic Development Pilot program funding.

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