

# Regenerative Remediation

Creating sustainable post-remediation  
human and ecological value from  
impaired properties

Donnie Seward  
John Bleiler  
Aimee Ruiter

# Sustainability Initiatives of the Carter Presidency (1977-1981)



A trained nuclear engineer, served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, where he worked on pioneering nuclear submarine technology. His technical expertise and hands-on experience with nuclear power greatly influenced his energy policies as President.

## Creation of the Department of Energy

Consolidated energy policy, focused on conservation, renewable energy, and nuclear regulation

1977

## Soil and Water Conservation Act

Required national soil and water conservation plans, enhancing sustainable land management

1977

## National Energy Act

Promoted energy conservation, renewable energy, and reduced dependence on foreign oil

1978

## Superfund Act (CERCLA)

Enabled federal cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spurred environmental remediation projects

1980

## Public Lands and Alaska Conservation Act

Protected 100+ million acres of Alaska's land, advancing habitat preservation and ecosystem stewardship

1980



# Agenda

- 01 Global Remediation Market
- 02 Remediation & Nature-Based Solutions
- 03 Regenerative Remediation Solutions
- 04 Leading the Industry

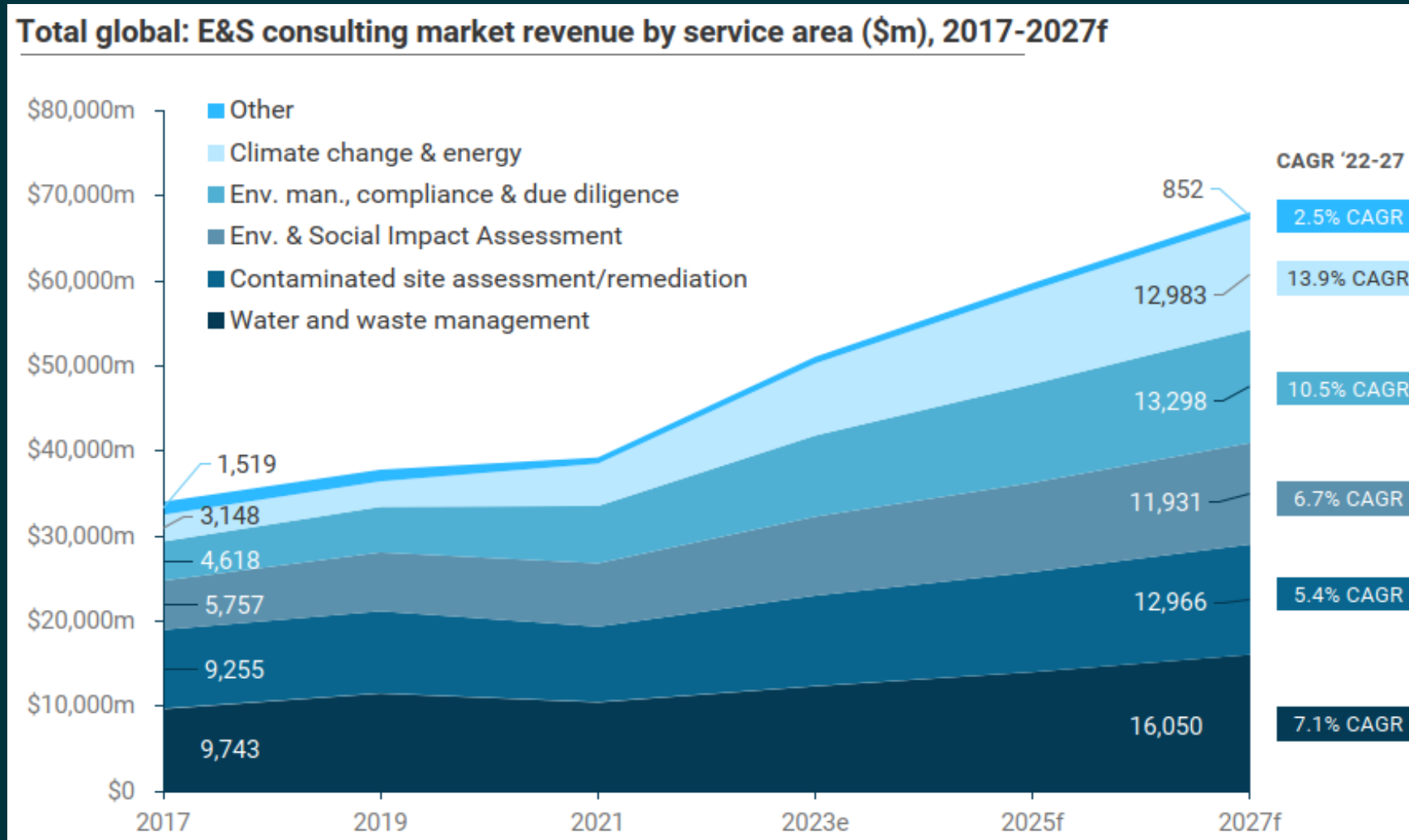


# Global Remediation Market

Growth Projections



# Global Demand for Environmental Consulting Services



- Remediation is expected to grow 5+% annually
- All other Environmental Consulting Services are expected to grow twice as fast
- Why settle for 5%?



# Environmental Justice

Policy makers are elevating environmental justice

The focus here is on hazardous waste sites, not so much climate justice

- The early industrial revolution saw factories sited near waterways
- Communities grew around those factories
- Factories closed, hazardous waste sites and blighted communities remained

Remediation projects can elevate ecology & communities

- Think rewilding instead of mowing
- Parks instead of chain link fences





# The Owner Predicament

## What do multinational corporations and defense agencies have in common?

- Vast portfolios of idle or “environmentally distressed real estate”
- Compliance has been the cost-effective approach
- But accelerated “asset retirement” is the goal
- And while ESG has lost some emphasis in some places
- Boards would love to reduce environmental liabilities....
- ...and celebrate uplifting community success stories







# The Opportunity – Part 1

**Nature based solutions** are an easy one

- Employing and adapting natural approaches can shift the paradigm away from resource-intensive solutions
- Try as we might, remediation requires expenditures of finite resources and contributes to our carbon footprint
  - Some remedies are energy and resource intensive, and may have unintended social or environmental consequences
  - Nature based solutions can minimize impacts on the environment and surrounding community and optimize solutions





## The Opportunity – Part 2

**Regenerative remediation** is a bit harder, a bit more site-specific

- Yes, we should all seek opportunities to embed environmentally and socially beneficial elements into our site cleanups.
- But for regenerative remediation to truly work, we need to do a bit more
- Understand the community, the stakeholders and their needs
  - Is there a land use goal or development driver?
  - A legal driver or regulatory policy objective?
  - Are there opportunities to align functions within the owner organization that might not typically be joined at hip?
- With this framework understanding, truly tailored solutions can be developed





## The Opportunity – Part 3

- With a truly **regenerative solution**
  - Regulators may accept more attainable end points
  - Stakeholders can support an accelerated approvals process
  - Corporate or government investment can be unlocked
- Collectively these features and drivers can accelerate completion
- And regenerative remediation often requires a multidisciplinary approach, providing for more interesting and fulfilling work
- On an industry scale this could lead to higher revenue growth...
  - Remember the 5%?



A large teal circle with a bright cyan outline is centered on the page. Inside the circle, the text "Regenerative Remediation Solutions" is written in white. The background of the entire slide is a photograph of a construction site for a waterfront park. In the foreground, there is a gravel area with some construction equipment and orange traffic cones. In the middle ground, there is a body of water with a concrete and stone retaining wall. In the background, there are several large brick buildings and a city skyline across the water.

# Regenerative Remediation Solutions



# Possum Point (Virginia), Dominion Energy

- CCR pond closure:  
4.7 MCY landfill
- Coordinating with  
local citizen task  
force for post-  
closure site uses





# Diverse Community Programming

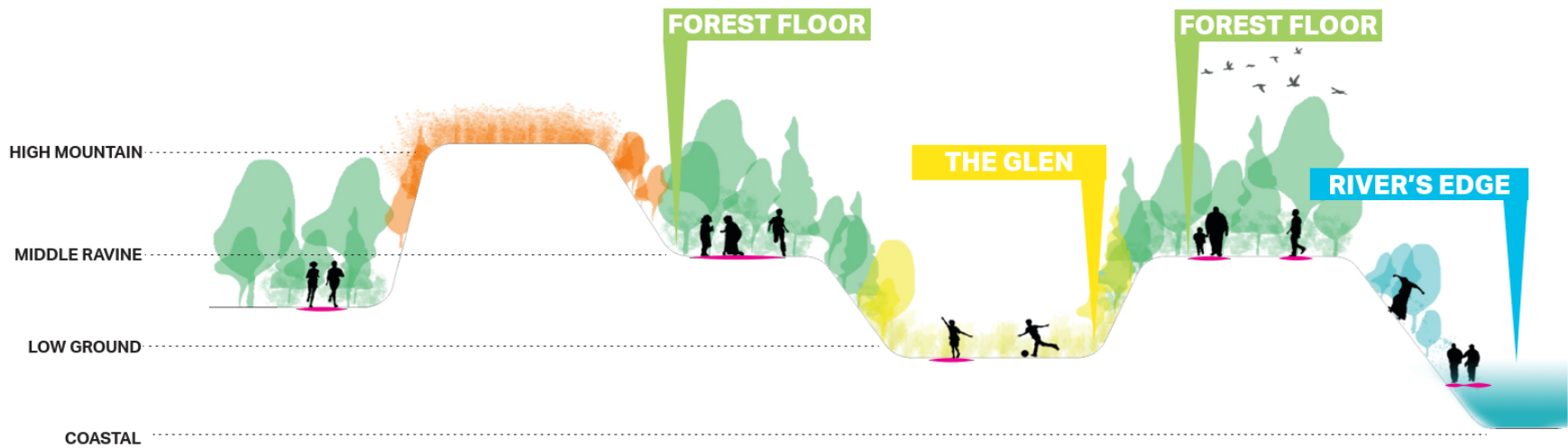
## Layered Ecologies

A unique vertical landscape created by the remediation process provides opportunity for restoration of historic ecologies intertwined with new human experiences.



A variety of site uses strategically located along a network of paths and trails provide an array of site experiences.

- PROGRAM:**
- Trail Networks
  - Canoe / Kayak
  - Boat Slips / Boat Launch
  - Overlook
  - Parkway Drive
  - Picnic Area
  - Climbing
  - Boardwalks
  - Renewable Energy Education
  - Cross Country Skiing
  - Sledding Hills
  - Zip lines / Ropes Courses
  - Wildlife Viewing
  - Central Lawn





# Mystic River Boathouse Park

## Ecological uplift

- Green engineering living shoreline solution to increase biodiversity



## Community uplift

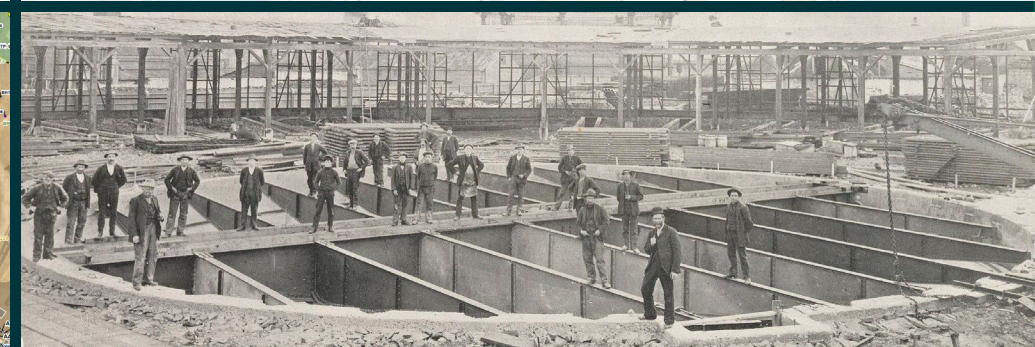
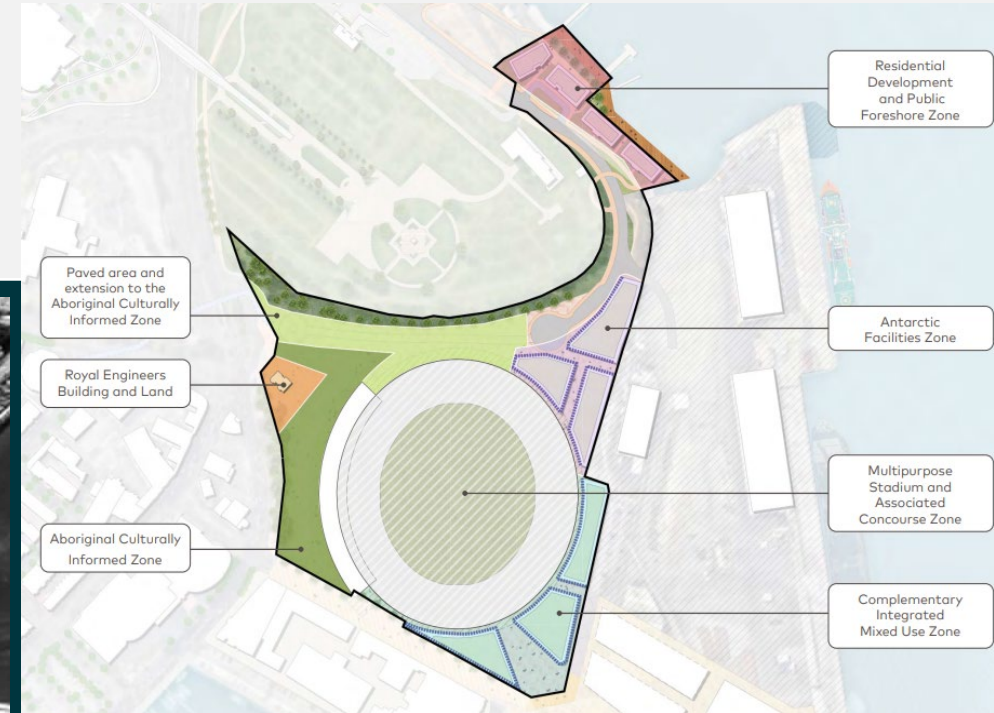
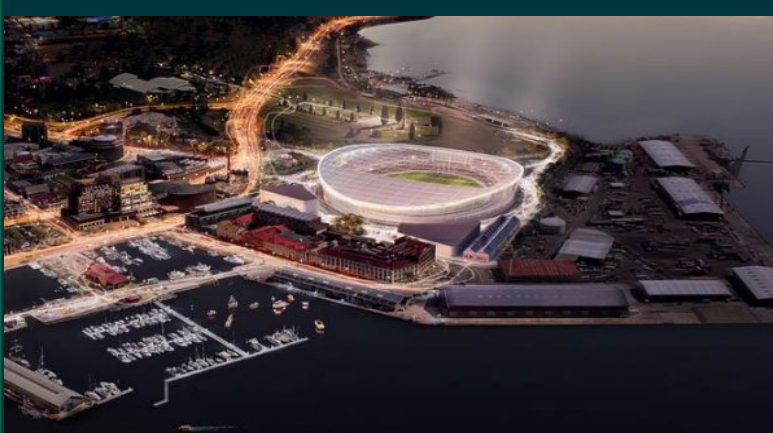
- Enhanced public use including rowing club river
- Public river access, boat docks and ramp
- Modern boat house for rowing club
- Elevated grade to address sea level rise and level site



# Macquarie Point

**Macquarie Point Redevelopment Project** – restoration of a 9.3 ha site in the heart of Hobart impacted by former land reclamation, gasworks operations, bulk fuel storage and handling, and railway activities

Remediation is enabling the return of the site to the community for a proposed multi-purpose stadium, an Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone, an Antarctic Facilities Zone, residential housing and commercial use, and public open space





# BASF East Newark, New Jersey

an Environmental Justice Community

## East Newark 2020 US census data

- 2,594 population
- 86% non-English speaking
- 33% below NJ median income
- 24% in poverty

## Site Impacts

- 1875 – wharf built over flood plain with urban fill
- 1930 – thread manufacturing shifts to the US south, wharf area used for jewelry manufacturing
- Contaminated urban fill and hot spots remain





# BASF East Newark

- BASF developed a creative project-based agreement with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to settle a Natural Resource Damages Assessment (NRDA)
  - Provides the community it's first municipal park
  - Provides the government flexibility in establishing the damages assessment
  - Accelerates the government's recovery of the assessment by 10 years
- Provides credits to BASF for NRDA claims at two other contaminated sites:
  - Diamon Alkali Superfund Site: , which is the lower 17-mile stretch of the Passaic River
  - Berry's Creek Study Area: , a wetland and 6.5-mile-long tributary to the Hackensack River
- Allows BASF to maximize the value of the project
- Avoids high cost of Litigation



# BASF East Newark

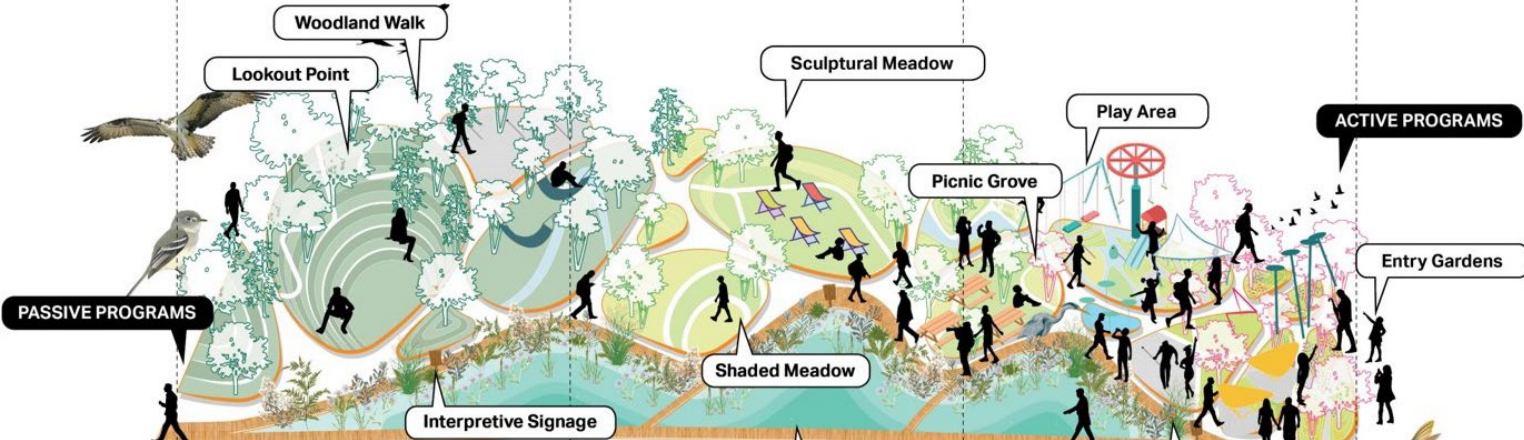
- Remediation – state Led
  - PCB and metals hot spot removal
  - Two-foot clean fill barrier placed over “historic urban fill”
- Restoration - Trustees Led (US DOI FWS & NOAA)
  - Design focused on biodiversity and human | ecological connectivity
  - Pollinator gardens, meadows, wooded areas, native plantings
  - 300-meter riverfront boardwalk weaving through natural landscapes – deciduous and evergreen forest, pollinator habitats, rain gardens, scenic overlooks
  - Playground and wooded amphitheater
  - Rain Gardens capture 100% stormwater provide a green infrastructure educational centerpiece



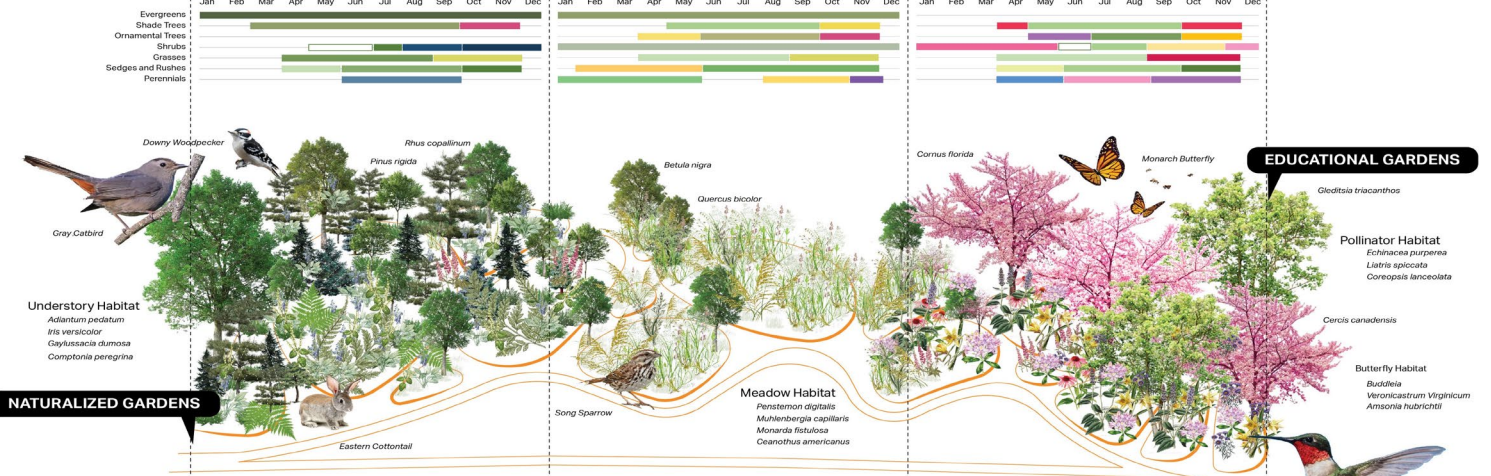
# East Newark Key Features



## Upland Ecologies



## Human Features



## Biodiversity Showcase





# BASF East Newark, NJ

## Upper Left

Board walk and rain gardens along river, forested amphitheater

## Lower Right

Pollinator gardens and shade features





# BASF East Newark, NJ

View from park entrance  
with planters in mid-ground





# BASF East Newark, NJ

Amphitheater less  
future forest, view upstream





# BASF East Newark, NJ

View from atop amphitheater,  
looking down “spine” to the left, with  
raingardens and the boardwalk to  
the right and City of Newark.

Construction Camera – 10/22/24



A Few Clouds, Temp: 81F (feels like 81F)  
Dew Point: 52F, Wind: 5.7mph  
Pressure: 30.23in, PCPN: hr 0.0





# Leading the Industry

The argument for regenerative remediation is strong

- Projects achieve better environmental and social outcomes
- Clients can accelerate asset retirement
- Regulators can achieve faster closure and community benefit
- Consultants can leverage multidisciplinary teams to create more meaningful projects





# THANK YOU!

[donald.seward@aecom.com](mailto:donald.seward@aecom.com)

[john.bleiler@aecom.com](mailto:john.bleiler@aecom.com)

[aimee.ruiter@aecom.com](mailto:aimee.ruiter@aecom.com)