

AML Site 1832 • Lynnville Park

History of the Site

Lynnville Mine was operated by Lynnville Coal Company from 1955-1965. The 1,100-acre mine was subsequently owned by Peabody and donated to the small coal town of Lynnville to serve as a water supply and for recreational purposes. The mine site was then converted to Lynnville Park. The park features a 275-acre lake, mining museum, campground, observatory and bike trails, and has hosted the Black Coal National Enduro.



A Significant Safety Hazard to Visitors

The town of Lynnville contacted the Indiana AML Program about a dangerous highwall threatening public safety in their community park. A feature known as Lynnville Falls had become an attractive nuisance and was responsible for numerous injuries requiring emergency response.



Construction Challenges

The characteristics of the existing features and their layout, including the surrounding landscape of the abandoned mine land site, caused difficulties in achieving reclamation. The project limits encompass 75 acres along the east edge of the 1,100-acre pre-law mining area. The site is bounded on the west by a mapped floodway, the town of Lynnville to the east, and a cemetery in the northeast. This made access to the falls possible only by crossing an approximately half mile of rugged mine spoil ridges punctuated by ancient haul ways.



Innovative Design

It was important to make the proposed design understandable to the public, so Carlson Precision 3D Topo was used to create mock flyover animations comparing the existing and proposed surface. These animations were presented at public meetings.

A Sonarmite Echosounder was used to model the pit floor. LIDAR was used to model the surface topography. The proposed surface was a geomorphic design including ridges, valleys, and meandering perennial, annual, and ephemeral streams as well as shallow and open water wetlands.

Public Opinion

The project had full support from local law enforcement, emergency responders, the town board, and DNR. The "falls" were an attractive nuisance, causing multiple law enforcement calls and emergency rescues, but the proposed project was met with skepticism in the community. The "falls" had been used as a gathering point for years and had created fond memories for many people. This was evident during public meetings. Ultimately, the town board decided to move forward with the project, and they were rewarded with the beautiful recreation area that exists there today.



Community Benefits

This reclamation project gave the town a camping area, access road, and beach area that would not have been possible without AML funding. Lynnville citizens can now access areas of the park that were previously unavailable due to being water locked and it being an extremely rugged postindustrial landscape. Access was provided for citizens to safely access the beach area, campground, and cascades, greatly increasing recreational opportunities.