When Pfizer purchased the C.K. Williams Company in 1962 as part of a business diversification strategy, the Slatington, Pennsylvania, site became part of the Minerals, Pigments, and Metals division. While Pfizer exited the minerals business in the early 1990s, certain sites and properties were retained.

Now, however, Pfizer has donated the 12-acre parcel of land in the state’s scenic Lehigh River Valley for community use as a recreational area replete with river access and boat ramp for residents and visitors.

Pfizer Global Engineering’s Environmental Engineering Remediation and Transactions Team (ERT) group is responsible for remediating, or restoring, the environmental condition of this sort of site. Once the restoration is complete, the properties are divested in a manner that maximizes their value both to Pfizer and the community.

At the Slatington property, for instance, the land has been returned to a natural state following demolition of the former buildings and structures and completion of environmental cleanup activities. The property adjoins a plot of land that Pfizer previously remediated in partnership with Lehigh County.

That partnership allowed the county and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission to design, permit and construct a river access boat ramp that builds upon Pfizer’s remedial activities. Given the site’s proximity to the Lehigh Gap Nature Center, the Appalachian Trail, and Delaware and Lehigh Rails to Trails, today the boat ramp is an important regional access point to the Lehigh River.