

A Bird's-Eye View of Stewardship: North Haven Osprey Cam



Osprey with fish

Since first nesting in North Haven, Connecticut in 2006, a pair of fish-loving ospreys has been keeping a close watch on the restoration of the marshes and wetlands that were once the site of an UpJohn chemical plant.

Now, the public can keep an eye on the birds – and the site remediation progress – via a new Osprey Cam at the [project website](#). The Osprey Cam is a great example of Pfizer

colleague-driven innovation that addresses sustainability challenges.

Ospreys are raptors that live near water. The birds typically mate for life, and are known to return to the same breeding place each year. Last fall, several employees on the North Haven project team decided to set up a webcam with a live feed of the osprey nest that would stream to the North Haven website. Now interested citizens, students, and others can watch the birds raise a brood and, in the process, learn about the property's history and Pfizer's efforts to remediate and restore it.

COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY AT FORMER MANUFACTURING SITE

Former manufacturing sites with environmental contamination can present significant challenges to companies and communities. The Environmental Engineering, Remediation & Transactions (ERT) team of Pfizer Global Engineering is responsible for managing environmental remediation at the company's inactive sites and supporting efforts to return idle sites to productive uses. The North Haven, Connecticut site is one current example of Pfizer's efforts to achieve these goals.

The 78-acre former UpJohn site on the banks of the Quinnipiac River came under Pfizer ownership with the Pharmacia acquisition in 2003. Since then, Pfizer has assessed the contamination, developed a remediation plan and secured regulatory and public approval. Remedial design and engineering is under way now.

When the cleanup is complete, approximately 17 acres will be available for commercial or light industrial use. The rest of the site, developed with extensive community input, will be restored to tidal marshes, inland wetlands and upland meadows as an ecological preserve. New open space and an ecological habitat will be created near the Quinnipiac River, with an interpretive trail allowing community groups to visit the site and study the varied ecosystems.

The redevelopment also includes plans to:

- Integrate site cleanup with redevelopment -- install clean corridors for subsurface utilities and enhance open space to improve wildlife habitat;
- Conduct ecological restoration - restore upland meadow, expand freshwater wetlands; and
- Encourage low impact uses such as green roofs, rain gardens and parking lot biocells.

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A Bird's-Eye View of Stewardship: North Haven Osprey Cam (cont.)

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

The ERT team is helping local citizens understand how the vision for site renewal will fulfill Pfizer's responsibility to protect human health and the environment, while transforming the site into an asset for the town and Quinnipiac River region. This multi-faceted community outreach effort includes meetings and discussions with community officials, and the support of conservation groups, including:

- [Local regulatory agencies](#);
- [North Haven Town Council](#);
- [North Haven Citizens' Advisory Panel](#);
- [Quinnipiac River Watershed Association](#); and
- [North Haven Land Trust](#).

Pfizer is also actively supporting environmental and science education for local students from grade school through college. This includes support of the recent construction of local school science laboratories, and presentations and tours of the North Haven site to students from [Yale School of Environmental Studies](#) and local high school Environmental Science AP classes. Support has also been provided for community teacher training in science and math, and for local students majoring in environmental science.

SUMMARY

With community involvement and employee innovation, environmental challenges can be transformed into productive, educational and recreational opportunities.

Note: Users who access the Osprey Cam link for the first time will be asked to install an ActiveX file on their computer to view the live stream.

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