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Ongoing

## Re-Envisioning Nottingham Way: A Comprehensive Response to East Trenton's Post-Industrial Landscape

Within the city with the famous slogan "Trenton Makes, the World Takes," there lies a unique neighborhood known as East Trenton. Formerly a vibrant area buzzing with factory workers and manufacturing, it is now a lower-income, minority community adjacent to a 99-acre stretch of post-industrial wasteland. While residents have faced discrimination and neglect for decades, recent neighborhood revitalization efforts have begun to bring change. A standout element of these revitalization plans is the proposal for an Assunpink Greenway Park along the Assunpink Creek and its abandoned wasteland sites, an echo of the unrealized 1907 greenway masterplan created by the Olmsted Brothers' firm for the same stretch of properties.

Mindful of social and ecological stewardship, the design thesis used a layered approach to examine this former industrial landscape through various lenses. These served as a framework to envision new concepts of use for public space that culminated in an ambitious, yet achievable proposal of design and programming solutions.

Preliminary research uncovered recurring themes which informed the project's design criteria, which in turn formed the framework for the research, inventory, and analysis. Further synthesis and suitability analysis,

supplemented by communication with key stakeholders and information from recent community engagement events, pointed to the Nottingham Way portion of the area as a good catalyst for the greenway.

While this project is still underway, the design phase is nearly wrapped up, and features a public space that maintains pioneer vegetation typologies, addresses site contamination, demonstrates resiliency during flood events, and repurposes industrial-era infrastructure. The final product is a park for both locals and visitors to enjoy, learn, explore, and engage with the site's history, ecology, and opportunities for passive recreation. Now in the middle of a global pandemic, with adequate public space for socially distancing hard to come by in densely packed cities, it is more important than ever to design with these priorities in mind. Especially in an underserved neighborhood like East Trenton, sufficient and accessible public open space is a vital asset, and hopefully this project can provide insight for future development of the greenway.

Click here for the full thesis: <https://www.tbd.com>

# Re-Envisioning Nottingham Way: A Comprehensive Response to East Trenton's Post-Industrial Landscape

by Jason Cincotta



Synthesis map of the East Trenton Neighborhood & its vicinity.



Rendered Site Plan for former Clinton Commerce Center and Storcella properties.



As a student in the Landscape Architecture department's dual-degree program at Rutgers University, **Jason Cincotta** earned his BS in 2019 and is expected to graduate with an MLA in October of 2020. During his time at Rutgers he has gained substantial experience through a study abroad program in Germany, a design internship with the Rutgers Golf Course, several campus landscape design installations, as well as design work for private clients. With an interest in creating resilient and sustainable cities, he wants to address social and environmental challenges through his work, eventually becoming a licensed Landscape Architect.

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