PSPE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER
OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION FORM – 2025

Project Information:

Name of Project:
Robert A. Borski Jr. Park

Location of Project:
Bridesburg, Philadelphia, PA

Description of Project, Include specific details (use two additional pages if necessary):
Description attached.

Construction Cost: $ 9 Million Completion Date: 7/14/2025 Project or component must be complete in 2025 Primary Engineering Disciplines Represented by the Project (check those that apply):
Mechanical ; Electrical ; Civil X ; Structural ; Chemical

Organizations/Firms That Contributed to the Project and are Responsible for the Achievement (provide additional sheets as required):

Names: Locus Partners Phone: 215.620.9524
Address: 230 S. Broad Street, 17th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19102 Email: spalms@locus-partners.com
Contact Person: Sylvia Palms Title: Partner

Client/Owner: Riverfront North Partnership
Names: & Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) Phone: 215.425.8350
Address: 3460 N Delaware Ave Suite 306, Philadelphia, PA 19134 Email: sp@riverfrontnorth.org
Contact Person: Ms. Stephanie Phillips Title: Executive Director

Submitted by:
Firm/Organization: Langan Engineering & Environmental Services LLC Phone: 215.845.8963
Signature: Dan Slavin Email: dslavin@langan.com & chardgrove@langan.com
To be Presented on December 5th by: Email
Cell Phone: 732 678 6613

A $50 Entry Fee is required and is to be submitted with the Nomination Form.
The entry fee is to be made payable to PSPE, Philadelphia Chapter.
Nomination is due: November 14, 2025 Presentations: Thursday, December 4, 2025
Send by Email or Fax Nomination to: oea@pspe-philly.org or 215-885-3732
Payment of the Application Fee may be check or by credit card.
To pay by credit card, click to PAYPAL BUYNOW button on our website http://www.pspe-philly.org/oea/entryfee.htm

To pay by check please mail to:
Fredric L. Plotnick, Ph.D., Esq., P.E. Chairman, Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards
5000 Boardwalk Apt 1901, Ventnor NJ 08406 Phone: 215-885-3733, Fax: 215-885-3732,
email: oea@pspe-philly.org or oea@fplotnick.com or fplotnick@fplotnick.com

Borski Park (Bridesburg Riverfront Park), Philadelphia, PA

The Robert A. Borksi Park (Bridesburg Riverfront Park) was recently opened to the public as part of Philadelphia's North Delaware Waterfront redevelopment initiative. The new park occupies a 10-acre former brownfield site adjacent to the Delaware River that was historically occupied by a concrete plant and had been abandoned since the late 1980s when the site was acquired by the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development. Initial planning for the park began in 2015 with an interactive engagement process among the Bridesburg community, Delaware River City Corporation (now Riverfront North Partnership), and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation led by Locus Partners.

After the initial community planning phase of the project, Langan led a large, multidisciplinary design and engineering team from concept planning through detailed construction documents for the landscape, architectural elements, environmental remediation, grading and drainage, stormwater management, utilities, site lighting, and complex structural and foundation engineering of the park. Langan also supported the project in obtaining funds from the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) and managing the project bidding and construction administration through PennDOT's Engineering and Construction Management System (ECMS).

Given the site's former use and proximity to the river, Langan provided environmental and geotechnical engineering support including site characterization and remedial investigation, focused soil remediation, soil management planning to limit export costs, stormwater basin design considerations to limit infiltration in areas, design of foundations in the floodplain, and environmental regulatory submissions to agencies. Environmental and geotechnical challenges included a ±10-foot high mound of construction and demolition debris that occupied half the site (over a decade, the mound had been overgrown with vegetation and had become a recovering riparian forest); a river edge made of illegally-dumped concrete and asphalt spoil, which one observer described as "looking like frozen lava"; and potential groundwater contamination from surrounding industrial uses.

In addition to the environmental and geotechnical challenges, site civil engineering and landscape design challenges included providing grading, drainage, and stormwater management design on a flat site adjacent to the river while limiting excavation of and infiltration through potentially contaminated soils. To limit excavation, the existing concrete and asphalt pavement on site was kept in place and clean fill was imported and spread atop the pavement. The fill acted as an environmental engineered cap while providing a planting medium for the lawn. The site grading design utilized overland flow instead of inlets and conveyance piping and a system of underdrains over top of the existing pavement. Stepped rain gardens gradually sloping towards the Delaware River were integrated into the site design to manage the stormwater from the parking area, pavilion areas, and restroom. A geomembrane liner was provided in the rain gardens to prevent infiltration in areas of environmental concern. Pedestrian and vehicular bridges were designed to span over top of the rain gardens to connect the park to the entrance walkway and parking areas. A porous aggregate material was used for the park trails to

limit impervious area, and the landscape design included lush, vegetated areas and new trees throughout the park.

Langan also supported the project in complex waterfront permitting, which included multiple approvals from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the City of Philadelphia Floodplain approval. An additional challenge of the project was that, as construction funding became available, construction occurred in phases after initial permitting for the entire project was completed. This led to several years passing between the original approvals and construction for some parts of the park. Given this timeline, floodplain regulations changed following the original approval which required a change to the restroom's waterproofing design as construction was scheduled to begin. By acting quickly and through coordination with the City Floodplain Manager's group, Riverfront North, and the construction team, we were able to change the strategy to meet the new requirements in time for the restroom to be ready for the park opening.

The park has been open to the public for approximately five months. As funding becomes available, future planned additions to the park include a picnic and stage pavilion, terraced seating, additional paths, and boardwalks that extend over the shoreline and serve as river overlooks.