



Landfills As Neighbors

Modern landfills may surprise you. Families live down the street, kids go to school next door, and parks are built beside them. These photos show real examples from North Carolina, where landfills and everyday life exist side by side.

Landfills As Neighbors

Across North Carolina, communities have grown next to landfills without problems. Schools have been built beside them, businesses have opened nearby, and families have chosen to live close by.

In Concord, NC, one of the largest racetracks in the country — the Charlotte Motor Speedway — partially sits on top of a closed landfill. The active landfill is still operating right next door.

The only part of a landfill where waste is visible is a small “working face,” often just an acre in size. On a site as large as this one — 735 acres surrounded by trees — that small spot is hidden from view and seen only by the workers.



A photograph of Jay M. Robinson High School in Concord, NC. The school is a large, modern building with a yellow and red facade and a dark red roof. In the foreground, a parking lot is filled with several yellow school buses. To the left, there are some white storage containers and a few other vehicles. In the background, a large, brown, grassy hill rises, which is identified as the Speedway Landfill. The sky is clear and blue.

Schools

Jay M. Robinson High School (Concord, NC)

Cabarrus County's largest high school was built beside the Speedway Landfill in Concord.
That "hill" in the background is a landfill.

Schools



Pitts School Road Elementary (Concord, NC)

Built in 2005, this elementary school and playground are located next to the landfill. The landfill sits just on the other side of the trees.

Homes + Neighborhoods



Speedway Landfill (Concord, NC)

This subdivision, located across from the landfill, was built while the landfill was fully active. Families choose to live here, and homes sell at market value.

Homes + Neighborhoods



Horry County, SC

New homes and golf courses surround the 735-acre landfill built near Myrtle Beach.

Community Facilities



Fulton Family YMCA (Winston-Salem, NC)

Located beside the Hanes Mill Road Landfill, this is just one example of community centers and health clinics that have been built beside landfills.

Parks and Green Spaces

A person with long dark hair, wearing a bright yellow-green tank top and black shorts, is running away from the camera on a wide, light-colored gravel path. The path curves gently to the right and leads up a grassy hill. The surrounding landscape is a vast, open field of green grass under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, a large, light-colored rock sits on the left side of the path.

Green Hills County Park (Raleigh, NC)

Closed landfills often become community assets — like Green Hills Park in Raleigh, the former Durant Road Landfill — with trails, playgrounds, and open fields.

This image provides an overview of development around the former Durant Road landfill. It includes homes, schools, and businesses.



Landmarks



Charlotte Motor Speedway (Concord, NC)

One of North Carolina's biggest attractions, Charlotte Motor Speedway, was partially built on top of a closed landfill.

This image provides an overview of the development around the Speedway Landfill, including the Charlotte Motor Speedway, subdivisions, and schools.





Myrtle Beach Golf Courses (Conway, SC)

Several golf courses are located just south of the Horry County landfill in Conway, SC, including Wild Wing Plantation Golf Course.

This image provides an overview of the development around the Horry County Landfill in South Carolina, including golf courses, homes, and schools.

