

MAKE IT:

SKATEPARKS

NICER, RIGHT?

Here is what the skatepark site looked like before construction began. It was an ugly, neglected, and polluted area.

BEFORE



Since the first **skatepark** was built in the 1960s in the United States, there have been hundreds more built, especially in the past decade. And who better to design a skatepark than a landscape architect—especially one like Mike McIntyre, who is a former sponsored skateboarder and BMX racer? **The Lynch Family Skatepark in Cambridge, Massachusetts**, across the Charles River from Boston, is one of the newest. It has 76,000 square feet of competition-level skating under a highway underpass. It's also popular among **BMXers** and **in-line skaters**. And it's all legal!

MAJOR CLEANUP

The spot where the skatepark sits was a brownfield—another word for polluted land. It sits between a railroad yard and a gravel plant. Working with engineers and others, McIntyre's design team figured out how to remove contaminated soils and then seal in any remaining contamination before pouring concrete on top of it. This made the unappealing site attractive and safe for people.