



# **Brownfields 2009 Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet**

## **Hamilton County, TN**

### **EPA Brownfields Program**

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### **Community Description**

Hamilton County was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. The target site is in the City of Chattanooga in Hamilton County (population 307,896). Hamilton County's industrial history dates back to the late 1800s and extends into the 1960s, when chemical manufacturing hit its peak in Chattanooga. For years, many area industries used Chattanooga Creek and vacant land as dumping sites. A 7.7-mile stretch of the creek runs through Alton Park, the location of the target site. When businesses and factories closed, they left behind 150 acres of land, including abandoned commercial buildings. This land includes 41 known or suspected hazardous waste sites. Ninety-six percent of Alton Park's residents are minorities, 52 percent of households live below the poverty level, and the neighborhood has a 23 percent unemployment rate. Cleanup of the target site will remove hazards and blight from the community and make Alton Park more appealing for business investment. County plans call for redeveloping the site as a community recreation complex.

### **Cleanup Grant**

#### ***\$200,000 for hazardous substances***

EPA has selected Hamilton County for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the former Charles A. Bell Elementary School site located in Alton Park at 3501 Central Avenue in Chattanooga. The 10-acre site was an elementary school from 1960 to 1990. Site soils are contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and other contaminants. Grant funds also will be used to conduct community outreach activities.

### **Contacts**

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team  
(404) 562-8792

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Web site  
(<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf>)

Grant Recipient: Hamilton County, Tennessee  
(423) 209-7810

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.