



Brownfields 2010 Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet

Chattanooga, 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

The City of Chattanooga was selected to receive two brownfields cleanup grants. The Alton Park area of Chattanooga (population 155,554) was once home to the foundries, chemical plants, and textile mills that made the city a thriving manufacturing hub. For nearly a century, the area bustled with industrial jobs, local businesses, and residential neighborhoods. As conditions declined, vacant properties in the area and the Chattanooga Creek were used as illegal dumping sites. The population declined, and today 96 percent of residents are African-American. An estimated 55 percent of Alton Park residents live below the poverty level. A recent inventory of sites has identified more than 206 brownfields. Cleanup of the target sites will reduce human and environmental exposure to contamination and help change the negative perceptions that inhibit reuse of the sites. The city plans to use the Old 36th Street Landfill site, which anchors the planned Chattanooga Creek Greenway, for recreational space. Cleanup of the Old Railroad property will make part of the site suitable for commercial redevelopment, improve the safety of the Alton Park Safe Walk area, and allow for the use of restored wetlands as an educational experience for area residents.

Cleanup Grants

\$400,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Chattanooga for two brownfields cleanup grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 54-acre Old 36th Street Landfill site at 100 E. 36th Street in the Alton Park neighborhood. The site is contaminated with polyaromatic hydrocarbons, predominantly from foundry sands from numerous foundries in the area. Grant funds will be used to design an effective cleanup plan and support community involvement activities. Grant funds also will be used to clean up the 9.5-acre Old Railroad property consisting of three adjacent parcels, two on Tennessee Avenue and the third on W. 37th Street. The parcels were used for unauthorized dumping before the city acquired them. The site is contaminated primarily with multiple polyaromatic hydrocarbons and metals. Grant funds will be used to clean up area wetlands and support community involvement 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
404-562-8660

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region4/bflr/brownfields.html>)

Grant Recipient: City of Chattanooga, TN
423-424-4231

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.