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 Jersey City was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Jersey City (population 241,789) is located along the west bank of the Hudson River across from New York City. The city's numerous brownfield sites are remnants of a once thriving and extensive manufacturing and shipping center. The Morris Canal, located near the targeted Berry Lane Park site, was built to connect the New York metropolitan area with the northern Delaware River. The unemployment rate in the neighborhood where the site is located is higher than the national average, and the per capita and median household incomes are lower than the national averages. Cleanup of the Berry Lane Park property will help reduce the threat of exposure to contamination, and help Jersey City move forward with its plans to add needed recreational and open space in this densely populated city.

Cleanup Grant

$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Jersey City for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Berry Lane Park site at 125 Woodward Street. This 2.2-acre site was used for engine recycling and used car sales. Site soil is contaminated with polyaromatic hydrocarbons, PCBs, and metals. Groundwater is contaminated with PCBs and metals. Grant funds also will be used to support 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 2 Brownfields Team
(212) 637-3260
EPA Region 2 Brownfields Web site

Grant Recipient: City of Jersey City, NJ
(201) 761-0822

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.