



Brownfields 2008 Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet

Richmond, IN

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. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields 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 Richmond was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located along the Ohio border about 80 miles east of Indianapolis, Richmond (population 39,124) has been experiencing a decline in population that started in about 1990. Within the past three years, the city has lost at least 500 jobs as a result of industry relocation. More than 56 percent of city residents earn low-to-moderate incomes, and the citywide poverty rate is nearly 16 percent. The city has about eight brownfields, including railroad properties, manufacturing sites, and scrap and salvage yards. Richmond plans to clean up the Indiana Gas Building, a site listed on National Register of Historic Places. It is strategically located in the Whitewater Valley Gorge, blocking the completion of a sector of the Gorge Trail. Contamination at the site is a health hazard and a barrier to development. Cleanup of the site is expected to lead to the creation of greenspace, and make way for the completion of another section of the trail that will connect to the 70-mile-long Cardinal Greenway Trail.

Cleanup Grant

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Richmond for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 1.4-acre Indiana Gas Building of the Whitewater Valley Gorge at 16 East Main Street. The site was used from about 1855 until about 1941 to manufacture gas. It is contaminated with cyanide, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and benzene. Grant funds also will be used to conduct sampling and oversight, and 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 5 Brownfields Team
(312) 886-7576
EPA Region 5 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields>)

Grant Recipient: City of Richmond, Indiana, IN
(765) 983-7222

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.