



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

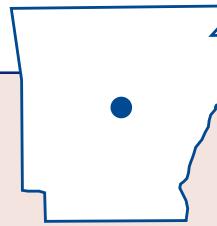
## *Main Street Argenta, North Little Rock, AR*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development 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

Main Street Argenta was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Main Street Argenta is North Little Rock's Main Street organization. The downtown area of North Little Rock (population 60,433) has lost residents over the last ten years due to urban sprawl. The city has developed a master plan to reverse this trend. Part of the plan, which involves the project site, the Smarthouse Way Property, calls for maintaining and promoting a mix of housing types and sustaining the area as a safe place to live. The target site is located in and adjacent to census tracts where the median household income is approximately two-thirds of the city median, the poverty level is nearly three times the city level, and more than 60 percent of the residents are minority. Once cleaned up, the master



### Cleanup Grant



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

EPA has selected Main Street Argenta for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct community involvement activities, prepare a remedial design, and excavate and dispose of contaminated soil at the Smarthouse Way Property. The site is contaminated with metals and other hazardous substances as the result of years of industrial use, including a stave mill, lumber mill, asphalt plant, and general dumping operations.

### 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 at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team

214-665-6736

[http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/  
sfbfhome.htm](http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm)

Grant Recipient: Main Street Argenta, AR  
501-975-8777

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

plan calls for redevelopment of the site as an upscale, multi-family residential facility. The plan also supports nearby redevelopment efforts, including a minor league baseball stadium, a new city marina, and a trolley line. The overall effort to revitalize the downtown area will provide jobs, housing, entertainment, and leisure activities that will enhance the quality of life for the region. Revitalization of the downtown area will also bring conveniences not currently available to area neighborhoods, such as community grocery and convenience stores, additional service merchants, and employment opportunities.