



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Alma, MI

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 Alma was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in rural central Michigan, Alma (population 9,275) has a history that includes a thriving lumber industry, agricultural economy, and industrial manufacturing that has deteriorated over time. The city's poverty rate is 11.5 percent, and the unemployment rate is 8.7 percent. The social, economic, and health problems associated with disinvestment trends are amplified by a concentration of low-income housing adjacent to existing or former industrial operations. When brownfields are cleaned up, they will be part of a development of retail, office, and residential facilities organized around a series of waterfront plazas and parks. The development will connect to a Rails to Trails project. Brownfields redevelopment will expand the tax base, promote private investment, create jobs, and increase property values.



Cleanup Grant

New
2006

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Alma for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the Alma Iron and Metal property at 115 North State Street, which is contaminated with volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, PCBs, and heavy metals. The site had been used for lumber and coal storage and handling, and is now used for scrap metal storage and processing. Funds will be used for soil removal, groundwater treatment, and 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 at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Alma, MI
989-463-8336

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