



# Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

## Sprague, CT

### 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 Town of Sprague was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in southeastern Connecticut, Sprague (population 2,971) is a suburban community historically dependent on thread and cotton mill operations. Because Sprague is not easily accessible to major highways and places of industry or interest, the decline of the mill industries has had a particularly severe impact on the local economy and population. Sprague has two brownfields sites known to be contaminated and nine additional potentially contaminated sites. It ranks in the lower third of Connecticut's towns for median family income and has the lowest population growth rate of any town in southeastern Connecticut. Most Sprague residents are underemployed and work minimum wage jobs in casinos located approximately 20 miles south of town.

### Cleanup Grant



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

EPA has selected the Town of Sprague for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up antimony and arsenic contamination on a 12-acre portion of the Mukluk Preserve Pond site, a former hunting preserve and skeet range at 239 Pautipaug Hill Road. Grant funds will be used to obtain permits; post restricted access signs; remove trees and vegetation; and remove and dispose of shell casings and targets associated with the skeet range.

### 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 1 Brownfields Team

617-918-1424

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Town of Sprague, CT  
860-822-3000

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

The town plans to clean up a 12-acre portion of the 280-acre Mukluk Preserve Pond site, a former sportsmen's club that is contaminated by metals from its use as a skeet range. The pond is part of the Shetucket Heritage Corridor, a breeding ground for a variety of important fish species. Cleanup of this site will ensure that sediment from the pond is prevented from migrating into the Shetucket River, causing possible downstream contamination of fish and other resources. Initial cleanup will mitigate potential exposure pending complete soil and sediment cleanup. Once it is cleaned up, Sprague plans

to use the site as open space that will provide the public with access to the waterfront and a safe place for hiking, fishing, and sightseeing.