



# Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

## Westbrook, ME

### 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 Westbrook was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located west of Portland, Maine, Westbrook (population 16,142) is a small historic mill town originally settled in the late 1600s. The Presumpscot River, which runs through the center of the downtown area, fueled the city's economy for more than 200 years. Like so many older industrial communities, most of Westbrook's lumber, textile, and pulp and paper industries have shut down. The most significant of these closings was that of the SAPPi Pulp and Paper Mill, in 1998. The mill was Westbrook's largest employer and represented 40 percent of the city's municipal tax base. With the closing of the mill, over 2,100 local jobs were eliminated and more than 100 acres of prime industrial land were idled. Even before the mill closed, Westbrook



### Assessment Grant



#### \$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Westbrook for a brownfields assessment grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to inventory and prioritize petroleum-contaminated sites throughout Westbrook, conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments, develop cleanup and reuse plans, and 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 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: City of Westbrook, ME  
207-854-9105

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

residents were among the poorest residents of the greater Portland region. Today, many younger residents of the city are moving primarily due to the lack of affordable housing and employment opportunities. Assessment and cleanup of the city's brownfields properties are expected to help promote economic growth in the area, increase public awareness and participation, and lead to the revitalization of blighted properties.