



Brownfields 2007 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 cleanup grant. Located in southern coastal Maine along the Presumpscot River in Cumberland County, Westbrook (population 16,142) was settled in the late 1600s. As a historic mill town, Westbrook struggles with the legacy of its industrial heritage. The Presumpscot River fueled the town's lumber, textile, and pulp and paper mills for more than 200 years. Most of these mills have closed in recent years, significantly impacting the local economy. For example, a paper manufacturer closed in 1999. In the process, 3,500 jobs were eliminated, local tax revenues were reduced, and operations from more than 140 acres of prime industrial land were downsized. With the mill closures, the number of families earning



Cleanup Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Westbrook for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the former Haskell Silk Co. Mill site located at 895 Main Street. Beginning in the 1800s, the site was used for commercial and industrial purposes. The site is contaminated with metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons. Grant funds also will be used to develop cleanup 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.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1424

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

Grant Recipient: City of Westbrook, ME
207-854-9105, ext. 226

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.

less than the median income increased from 42 percent in 1990 to 53 percent in 2000. A developer recently expressed interest in redeveloping the target cleanup site with a seven-story, multi-use building and public park. This project will attract an estimated \$10 million in private investment and create about 150 new full-time jobs.