



# Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

## Rockford, IL

### 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 Rockford was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants and three brownfields cleanup grants. Located in northern Illinois, Rockford (population 150,115), which was once a thriving manufacturing community, has since experienced decades of decline. The city is a diverse community where 31.6 percent of residents are minorities, and 14 percent live below the poverty level. The city's unemployment rate is 8.1 percent. In some of the target area neighborhoods, that rate exceeds 20 percent. As businesses have closed and relocated, the city has been left with clusters of brownfield sites. Brownfields are located in older, economically distressed, and underserved areas of Rockford. Several large industrial concentrations are located along the Rock River. Assessment of brownfields will help the city coordi-



### Assessment Grants

New  
2007

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**  
**\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the City of Rockford for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct seven to nine Phase I and three to five Phase II environmental site assessments. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct eight to ten Phase I and four to six Phase II environmental site assessments. Funds from both grants also will be used for community outreach activities. Efforts will focus on the west side of the city.

### Cleanup Grants

New  
2007

**\$600,000 for hazardous substances**

EPA has selected the City of Rockford for three brownfields cleanup grants. Grant funds will be used to clean up the Rock Street Frontage property at 1200 Rock Street, and the River Street and former Machine Shop sites at 110 and 150 Loomis Street, respectively. All three sites are part of the former Barber Colman manufacturing facility. They are contaminated with metals and volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. Contaminant migration to groundwater also is a concern since the sites are close to the Rock River. Funds from all grants also will be used for 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 5 Brownfields Team  
312-886-7576  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Rockford, IL  
815-987-5636

nate and stimulate much-needed redevelopment. When the Rock Street Frontage, River Street, and Machine Shop sites are cleaned up, they will be used for greenspace, and retail and residential facilities. Brownfields redevelopment will reduce potential risks to human health and the environment, restore public access to the riverfront, create a walkable community, and increase the tax base.

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.