



# Brownfields 2007 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 two brownfields cleanup grants. Located in rural central Michigan, Alma (population 9,275) has a history that includes a thriving lumber industry, agriculture, petroleum refining, and manufacturing. Changing markets and technology have seriously impacted the city's industry and commerce. Industries have deteriorated, depressing the local economy and decreasing neighborhood property values. Low-income housing is concentrated near existing or former industrial operations. The city's unemployment rate is 8.7 percent, and the poverty rate is 11.5 percent. Cleanup of the C&O-CSX and the former Alma Iron and Metal properties will help facilitate the city's waterfront redevelopment project to convert the space into a mix of retail, office,



### Cleanup Grants



#### \$400,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Alma for two brownfields cleanup grants. Grant funds will be used to clean up the former C&O-CSX property between Lincoln Avenue and North State Street and the former Alma Iron and Metal property at 115 North State Street. The sites were formerly used for lumber and coal storage and handling, and are currently scrap metal storage and processing facilities. Soil and groundwater at the sites are contaminated with PCBs, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals. Funds from both grants will be used for 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](http://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 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.

and residential facilities surrounding a series of waterfront plazas and parks. Brownfields redevelopment will expand the tax base, promote private investment, and create jobs in the community.