



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Hammond, IN

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Hammond for a Brownfields Pilot. Hammond (population 180,858) is located in the middle of an industrialized area of Northwest Indiana and contains the George Lake watershed, which is one of the few remaining natural areas in the region. The area has a 45 percent minority population and is home to severe environmental degradation from heavy industrial use, such as steel mills, refineries, and chemical plants.

George Lake is surrounded by several former industrial facilities with possible environmental contamination, including the Federated Metals hazardous waste dumpsite, the Amoco Oil Company research center, the Union Carbide Company disposal site, and the Bairstow site, a 97-acre former steel mill slag waste dump. Hammond has already assessed the Bairstow site, and the property is part of the lake's restoration project that includes the construction (already underway) of an affordable youth golf course, as well as the creation of an adult golf course, protection of sensitive wooded uplands associated with migratory birds, and the enhancement of the lake and its two basins.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Hammond, Indiana

Date of Announcement:
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the industrialized and degraded George Lake watershed for transformation into a public recreation area.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's goal is to help redevelop and restore the George Lake watershed by completing environmental assessments and cleanup plans at brownfields surrounding George Lake. The Pilot will complement the George Lake watershed restoration project, whose goals are to identify and quantify all environmental contamination in the watershed, restore natural areas of the lake, and clean up impacted lake property for redevelopment as an accessible public recreational and natural resource.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments of targeted brownfields in the George Lake watershed;
- Planning and designing site cleanup options with input from the community; and
- Continuing and expanding the community involvement strategy for the George Lake watershed restoration project, including monthly site planning meetings, computer modeling and displays of soil, surface water, and groundwater contamination, and a hotline to answer questions concerning the project.

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