

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Evanston, WY

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

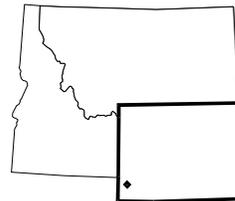
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and 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, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance 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 selected the City of Evanston to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. The city (population 12,458) originally was a railroad hub, and in 1913, the Union Pacific Railroad built a large yard with a 63,000 square-foot roundhouse and 11 adjacent buildings. Since 1972, Union Pacific has donated more than 290 acres to the city, including the 265-acre Union Center parcel and the adjacent Roundhouse/Rail Facility, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The perception of contamination at these sites has hindered redevelopment. Like many small towns, the city has limited resources to address its brownfields challenges.

Evanston has been working to redevelop the Union Center property into a museum and industrial business park. Cleanup and redevelopment of this property will restore a higher-paying job base to the area and reconnect sections of the city that have been fragmented by rail operations. The city's original Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot targeted the Union Center and the Roundhouse/Rail Facility for assessment, cleanup planning, and

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Evanston, Wyoming

Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$150,000

Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the historic Roundhouse/Rail Facility and Union Center in the center of Evanston and a 17-acre parcel that is integral to the development of greenspace amenities along the Bear River within Evanston city limits.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 8 Brownfields web site at:
http://www.epa.gov/region08/land_waste/bfhome/bfhome.html

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/>

redevelopment planning. The original pilot was used to conduct a Phase I environmental site assessment on Union Center and partial Phase II site assessment work of the Roundhouse/Rail Facility.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The city's primary goal for the area is to redevelop the sites and establish sufficient economic activity to justify long-term maintenance costs. Supplemental assistance will be used to conduct additional testing on specific portions of the Roundhouse/Rail Facility, continue conducting Phase II assessments on the portions of Union Center owned by the city, and modify cleanup and redevelopment plans based on the results of the assessments. The supplemental assistance also will be used to involve the community in redevelopment planning.

The pilot will use the greenspace funding to assess a 17-acre parcel that is integral to the Better Environment and River (BEAR) Project parkway. The BEAR project takes a comprehensive approach to development of the Bear River, which flows through Evanston, into a pathway, ice ponds, and recreation area. The targeted parcel is particularly

important to residents separated from the rest of Evanston by the railroad and the river. The site was used as a residential, commercial, and industrial dump for 20 years. Greenspace funding also will be used to conduct community involvement and related planning to determine appropriate cleanup activities.

The Pilot plans to:

- Conduct additional testing on specific portions of the Roundhouse/Rail Facility;
- Complete a Phase II assessment of Union Center;
- Conduct outreach activities to involve the community in planning for the cleanup and redevelopment of the Roundhouse/Rail Facility and Union Center;
- Modify cleanup and redevelopment plans based on results of the assessments; and
- Assess a 17-acre parcel that is slated to become a recreational area as part of the BEAR Project master plan.

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