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News Release

For Immediate Release

EPA awards City \$600,000 for brownfields clean-up

The City of Springfield will receive \$600,000 in supplemental revolving loan funds (RLF) to help clean up and redevelop brownfields properties, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced July 15. This award comprises \$250,000 to address hazardous substances and \$350,000 to address petroleum.

Brownfields are properties whose expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. It's estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and improves and protects the environment.

EPA's Brownfields Program targets abandoned and contaminated sites in the United States to encourage redevelopment, and to provide the opportunity for productive community use of contaminated properties.

EPA selected Springfield to receive RLF funding based on its demonstrated ability to assist communities through effective brownfields redevelopment loans. Revolving loan funds are generally used to provide low- or no-interest loans for brownfields clean-ups. This award is part of \$15 million in RLF assistance that EPA is providing nationwide.

RLF funds enable states, political subdivisions, and Indian tribes to make low interest loans to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields properties. Through these funds, EPA seeks to strengthen the marketplace and encourage stakeholders to leverage the resources needed to clean up and redevelop brownfields. When loans are repaid, the loan amount is returned to the fund and re-lent to other borrowers, providing an ongoing source of capital within a community.

Since 1999, the City of Springfield has received a total of 15 brownfields grants from EPA. Eight of these grants have been to perform environmental assessments, which have helped determine conditions on City-acquired properties and on private properties to facilitate brownfields redevelopment. More than 200 properties have been assessed to date.

Since 2009, the City has also received five grants for environmental cleanups on land in the future Jordan Valley West Meadows, and more than \$1.6 million to establish a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to provide loans to private parties and sub-grants to non-profit organizations to clean up contaminated property.

The Springfield Brownfields Program is working in cooperation with local, state, private, and federal partners to create the second phase of the Jordan Valley renewal project. The initiative, called Renew Jordan Creek, will add green space, trails, activities and economic development spanning 300 acres in center city.

This \$600,000 grant will provide cleanup for four to eight City-wide properties contaminated with either petroleum or hazardous substances.

For more information, please contact Vern Morgan at 417-864-1844 or vmorgan@springfieldmo.gov.

More Springfield Brownfields Project information can be found at www.springfieldmo.gov/brownfields.