West Meadows Cleanup Begins This Week

Work begins this week on Phase 1 of the environmental cleanup of the future Jordan Valley West Meadows. The work is essential for turning the vacant brownfields sites into an open public green space in the future. The cleanup is the first step in a larger process with the ultimate goal of development of the West Meadows for public use.

The contractor for this project is Webster County Excavating, with Terracon Consultants Inc., and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Voluntary Cleanup Program providing project oversight. The approximately $800,000 project is funded largely through EPA Brownfields Grants, with 20 percent cost share provided through the Community Development Block Grant and Level Property Tax. Cleanup and revegetation is scheduled to be complete in early 2011.

This and other projects in Jordan Valley are developed with guidance and input from the Jordan Valley Advisory Committee citizens group. The City has partnered with Ozark Greenways, Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Conservation, Kansas State University, BNSF Railroad, and other local community partners in efforts to prepare remediation and end-use plans to ensure a successful cleanup and redevelopment of this brownfields area. Key recommendations for the West Meadows outlined in the Jordan Valley and Jordan Valley Park Concept Plan and Design Guidelines include:

- Open space
- Restoration of the Jordan Creek and stormwater management according to the Corps of Engineers Study
- Constructed wetlands
- Greenways trails
- Native vegetation
- Connections to West Central Neighborhood
- Look at feasibility of retaining a rail line for transportation within Jordan Valley
- Investigate a site for a public facility along Main Avenue
- Develop streetscape along Main Avenue
- Improve Fort Avenue

Before redevelopment according to the master plan can occur, the designated brownfields sites must go undergo remediation appropriate for the end use according to Missouri Department of Natural Resources standards.

According to previously conducted environmental assessments, historical use of the land as an industrial area associated with over 100 years of railroad operations resulted in contamination of approximately 75 percent of the site's upper layers of soil by substances such as heavy metals (primarily lead), PAH compounds, PCB and some petroleum. No significant groundwater impacts were identified.

Phase 1 cleanup includes sites now labeled as 1, 2, 3, and 4. Phase 2 includes sites 5, 6, 7 and 8 and cleanup will occur on those sites as funding becomes available. The City of
Springfield, through its Brownfields Program, is currently applying for grant funding for Phase 2.

More information about West Meadows and Jordan Valley can be found online at: http://mosspringfield.civicplus.com/763/Jordan-Valley or on the brownfields website at http://mosspringfield.civicplus.com/139/Brownfields.

Media contact: Olivia Hough, Brownfields Coordinator, (417) 864-1092.