

FACT SHEET

EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant for Africatown



Background

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the City of Mobile a 2020 Brownfield Assessment Grant for the historical Africatown community. Africatown, located 3 miles north of downtown Mobile, AL, is rich in history, and has been surrounded by industrial development since the 1940s.

What is a Brownfield?

A Brownfield 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,” such as lead- based paint, asbestos, PCBs, VOCs, and heavy metals.

Why Redevelop Brownfields?

Brownfield redevelopment creates many benefits for local communities such as increases in residential property value and local tax revenue. These sites, once cleanup is completed, can be returned to productive use along with job opportunity. “Through fiscal year 2020, on average, \$20.13 was leveraged for each EPA brownfields dollar and 10.3 jobs were leveraged per \$100,000 of EPA brownfields funds spent on assessment and cleanup activities.” (source: www.epa.gov/brownfields)

What is EPA's Brownfields Program?

EPA's Brownfields Program is built on four pillars:

- 1 Protecting the Environment
- 2 Promoting Partnerships
- 3 Strengthening the Marketplace
- 4 Sustaining Reuse

The program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields.



What to expect (in a 3-year period)

Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs): Phase I ESAs include a site inspection, interviews with persons knowledgeable about the history of the property, and a review of environmental records to determine if potential environmental conditions exist.

Phase II ESAs: If the Phase I ESA identifies potential environmental conditions, additional investigation may be needed to determine if adverse conditions exist. Phase II ESAs can include soil, surface water, and groundwater testing; asbestos surveys; lead-based paint surveys; and endangered species studies.

Cleanup Planning: If a brownfield site is found to be impacted, the grant will pay for developing site-specific cleanup plans and analysis of brownfield cleanup alternatives (ABCAs).

Community Engagement: There will be opportunity to educate the community about the Brownfields Assessment Grant and to obtain feedback from the community to align the assessment and potential development activities with the Africatown Neighborhood Plan. Ultimately, promoting unity of the Africatown Community with the City of Mobile and Mobile County Government to align future economic development interests.



A revitalized brownfield site reduces threat to human health and the environment, creates green jobs, promotes community involvement, and attracts investment in local neighborhoods

Where can I get more information?

The City of Mobile wants to keep you informed about our efforts with assessing brownfield sites in Africatown.

For questions or more information, you may visit our website at: www.cityofmobile.org

send an email to: AfricatownBrownfields@cerm.com

or contact:
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