



TARGETED BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT CALUMET REGION AREA WIDE PLANNING PROJECT

Chicago, Illinois

September 2017

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Brownfields Assessment, or TBA, Program assisted the Chicago Park District, or CPD, in developing a comprehensive strategy for a connected network of ecological and recreational resources in southeast Chicago

for the CPD. The plan supports community health, ecological importance and economic development in the region through the creation of strategies for brownfield reuse and access improvements. It provides the critical information needed to transform the brownfields located in Southeast Chicago into world-class public parks and recreational areas.

The project involved nine sites in Southeast Chicago, including seven CPD-owned or leased properties and two private properties. The seven CPD-owned properties are Park 562 (Van Vliissingen Prairie / Marian R. Byrnes Natural Area), Park 564 (Big Marsh), Park 566 (USX), Steelworkers Park, Park 565 (Indian Ridge Marsh), Hegewisch Marsh, and Park 576 (Whitford Pond / O'Brien Lock) (See map). The two private properties are the Lake Calumet Site and Mittal Woods. These sites have undergone varied levels of assessment, remediation and development over the past 20 years.

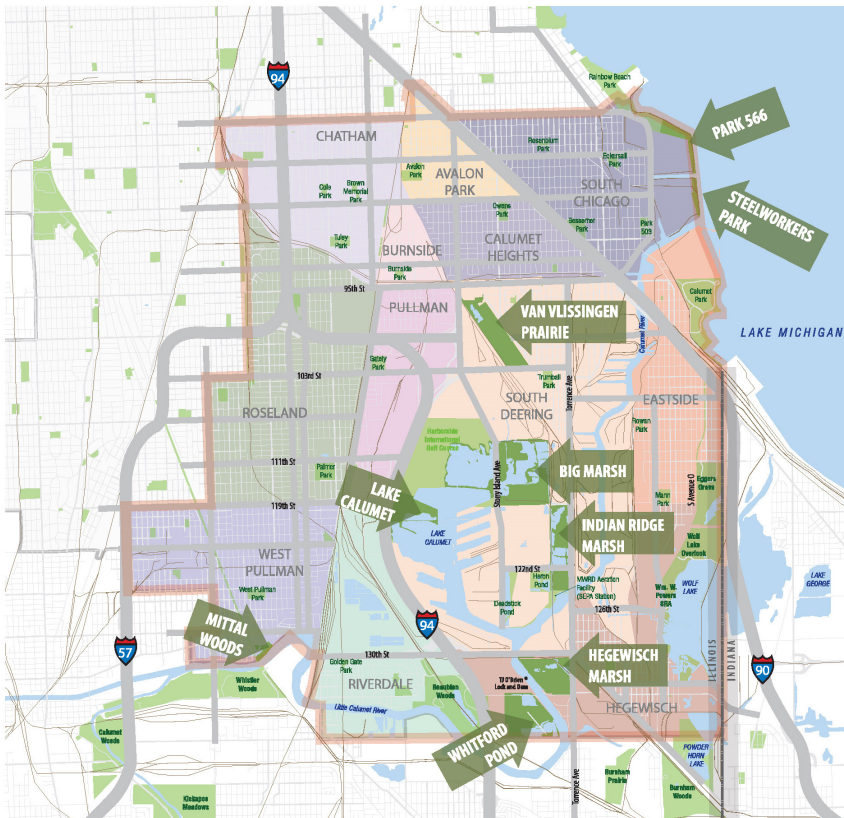


Figure 1. Southeast Chicago Area Wide Plan Natural Area Sites

Southeast Chicago Area Wide Plan Natural Area Sites.

What is a Targeted Brownfields Assessment?

U.S. EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment, or TBA, program provides technical assistance to states, communities and non-profit organizations, to minimize the uncertainties of contamination on brownfield sites. U.S. EPA, at no charge to the community, will characterize a brownfield to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The assessment will be conducted by environmental consultants currently under contract with U.S. EPA. Results are provided to the community to assist them in redevelopment planning. The site must be known to be contaminated or suspected to be contaminated with hazardous substances or petroleum product.

DETAILS OF U.S. EPA'S SITE ACTIVITIES

U.S. EPA reviewed environmental reports and assessed the existing conditions of each of the targeted sites. The Agency reviewed land use; transportation and utility infrastructure; and environmental, public health and market conditions for the sites. U.S. EPA also assembled an executive committee, working groups and hosted community workshops to obtain input on the potential redevelopment scenarios. The resulting information was compiled into a preferred comprehensive strategy for area transportation and land use.

REPORT/INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

In May 2017, a report summarizing the existing social, economic and environmental conditions at the sites as well as recommended redevelopment plans considered most suitable for each of the sites. This report, called the Southeast Chicago Area-Wide Plan, was submitted to the project stakeholders. The findings of the report indicated that the sites are well-suited to be redeveloped for recreational purposes, which will provide significant positive impacts to the Southeast Chicago area.

REUSE/REVITALIZATION DETAILS

The planned reuse of the various properties includes: areas for community events such as passive recreation, education and restoration; preserved marshland for bird habitat; and development of areas for active eco-recreation activities including a “state-of-the-art” climbing wall, a sledding hill, a bike park and hiking trails. Big Marsh is also planned as the site for the forthcoming Ford Calumet Environmental Center – which will support the areas ability to function as a regional gateway for visitors to Chicago’s southeast side. In addition, industrial, entertainment and residential development opportunities exist at the USX property.



CONTACT US

Brad Stimple

TBA Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5 Brownfields
stimple.brad@epa.gov
440-250-1717

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on TBAs or to request a TBA:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-illinois-indiana-michigan-minnesota-ohio-and>

Information on U.S. EPA’s brownfields program and brownfields grant information can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is a Brownfield?

A: Brownfields are 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.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for a TBA?

A: Eligible entities include state, local and tribal governments; general purpose units of local government, land clearance authorities or other quasi-governmental entities; regional council or redevelopment agencies; states or legislatures; or nonprofit organizations.

TBA assistance may only be used at properties that meet the statutory definition of a brownfield. The TBA program does not provide resources to conduct cleanup or building demolition activities. Cleanup assistance is available under U.S. EPA’s cleanup or Revolving Loan Fund, or RLF, grants. Information on U.S. EPA’s brownfields cleanup and RLF grants can be found on the U.S. EPA brownfields website at www.epa.gov/Brownfields.

Q: What kind of technical assistance is provided in a TBA?

A: Generally, a Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessment. U.S. EPA can also provide analysis for risk assessment to potential contaminants and recommendations for site cleanup.