

Region 5 Brownfields Success – City of Rock Falls, IL Riverfront Park construction on Site of Former Reliant Fastener Company

Opportunity:

In 2006, the City of Rock Falls wanted to revitalize its downtown and riverfront, but was faced with a challenge. Multiple old factories along the City's riverfront, including a closed and abandoned 1907 nut and bolt manufacturing plant (Reliant Fastener) were closed and deteriorating, precluding any redevelopment opportunities.

Targeted Investment: Rock Falls approached IEPA and USEPA for assistance in assessing and cleaning up its riverfront properties.

- Two phases of cleanup were performed by the USEPA Superfund Emergency Removal program on the Reliant Fastener site.
- The City successfully applied for three USEPA Brownfield grants in 2005 and a fourth in 2014 focused on assessment and cleanup of properties along its riverfront and elsewhere
- In 2009, Illinois EPA made a \$257K loan to the City of Rock Falls from its USEPA Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan fund, for the cleanup of the Reliant Fastener Site
- The City has received \$240,000 in brownfields grants from Illinois EPA. This work cleared the way for Rock Falls to envision a mixed-use revitalization of their riverfront, the RB&W (Run, Bike and Walk) Redevelopment District.

Results: As a result of ten years of targeted investment, the Reliant Fastener site and other associated sites have been cleaned up and demolished. A hotel has been constructed on a portion of the Reliant site, and the first phase of construction of a riverfront public park has begun on the remainder of the site. Ongoing Brownfield and redevelopment work will expand the footprint of this visionary redevelopment over time.

