

CARE-Funded Minnequa Lake Brownfields Site Assessment, Pueblo, Colorado

This is first Brownfields site to be funded by the Pueblo CARE project and the first Brownfield site to be applied for by the City of Pueblo. This site brings together the City and the community in a collaboration which will lead to other Brownfield applications.

Site History and Current Status

Lake Minnequa was established in 1873 to supply water to the residents of the new town of South Pueblo. Following the establishment of the CF&I Company, the lake provided the water for making steel. The original intent of the company may not have been to open the reservoir for recreational purposes, but immediately after the lake was completed, the townspeople started using the lake to swim, fish, boat or ice skate in the winter season. For over 75 years, between 1874 and the early 1950's, Lake Minnequa was described as "quite a resort". From 1976 to present the lake has been closed to all recreational uses and there has been limited use of the lake for industrial purposes at the CF&I steel mill.

Revival of Lake Minnequa as a public recreation and park area has brought about new interest in the redevelopment of properties south of the lake along Pueblo Boulevard (SH 45) and along Lake Avenue (east of the lake). The City's Urban Renewal Authority is poised to establish a new Urban Renewal District from St. Mary-Corwin Hospital to the Lake Avenue/Pueblo Boulevard intersection. The end product of the project will be the acquisition of the most significant open space area within the City's corporate boundary and the development of regional park facilities needed to serve the Pueblo community.

Current Status: The Phase I Assessment has been completed. A slag pile was identified at the site, however, it has been provisionally determined not to be hazardous. The State of Colorado has indicated that it will likely issue a letter of "No Further Action", thereby clearing the redevelopment of the site.

Partners: The Pueblo CAREs project, the City of Pueblo, Rocky Mountain Steel, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Region 8 EJ and Brownfields teams.

Outputs and Outcomes: This assessment has cleared the way for reuse of the site. This initiative will result in the largest recreational expansion in Pueblo's history. Initial phases will focus on stormwater management and have a value of approximately \$7,000,000. Subsequent phases involve expanding recreational facilities and activities at the lake will cost an estimated \$20,000,000.

