

# Brownfields Land Revitalization - An Urban Water Community

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# What are Brownfields?

- ▶ Once-productive areas that are abandoned; *some* are contaminated
- ▶ Communities, private and public lenders, investors, and developers fear environmental liability and are more attracted to “greenfields”
- ▶ The result is blighted properties – brownfields
- ▶ U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) estimates more than 450,000 brownfields across the country
- ▶ Brownfields program is a *community* initiated program

# Lawrence, Massachusetts – Brownfields to Parks

- ▶ Lawrence was one of the first planned industrial cities, founded in the 1840s on the Merrimack River
- ▶ Textile based economy located along the Merrimack and Spicket Rivers
- ▶ Decline in Textile industry in 1970s led to vacant properties
- ▶ 1996 the City was awarded its first assessment grant – 2004 first EWD&JT grant





# Lawrence, Massachusetts - A Brownfield Urban Water Example

- ▶ The City of Lawrence has partnered with Groundwork Lawrence and YouthBuild
- ▶ EPA funds Groundwork USA, part of the Rivers and Trails program of the National Park Service, one of our many active partners
- ▶ 700 volunteers removed 17 tons of trash and 200 tires from the Spicket River.



# Lawrence, Massachusetts - Brownfields to Urban Agriculture

- ▶ The City works with Ground Work Lawrence and other partners to turn vacant lots into gardens to address childhood obesity
- ▶ They are working with Harvard University Medical School staff to study the public health impacts
- ▶ The Massachusetts Attorney General recently awarded the City a grant to extend police work that includes building gardens to reduce gang violence



# Current Brownfield Grant Opportunities

- ▶ **Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grants**

- <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-06.pdf>

Due: November 30, 2012

- ▶ **Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) or Cleanup Grant Guidelines**

- <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-07.pdf>
- <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-09.pdf>
- <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-08.pdf>

- Due: November 19, 2012



# National Brownfields Training Conference



May 15-17, 2013,  
Atlanta, Georgia - World Congress Center  
Learn more at: [www.brownfieldsconference.org](http://www.brownfieldsconference.org)