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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Springfield receives \$400,000 brownfields grant from EPA**

Springfield was one of 11 entities in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska to be selected for award on May 8 for a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to assess, clean up and revitalize brownfield properties. The EPA allocated a total of \$4.5 million in the Region. Springfield received \$400,000.

Brownfields are properties whose expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. It's estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and improves and protects the environment.

EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants (ARC) target underserved and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, where environmental cleanups and new jobs are most needed.

Since 1999, the City of Springfield has received a total of 15 brownfields grants from EPA. Eight of these grants have been to perform environmental assessments, which have helped determine conditions on City-acquired properties and on private properties to facilitate brownfields redevelopment. More than 200 properties have been assessed to date. Since 2009, the City has also received five grants for environmental cleanups on land in the future Jordan Valley West Meadows, and more than \$1.6 million to establish a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to provide loans to private parties and sub-grants to non-profit organizations to clean up contaminated property.

The Springfield Brownfields Program is working in cooperation with local, state, private, and federal partners to create the second phase of the Jordan Valley renewal project. The initiative, called Renew Jordan Creek, will add green space, trails, activities and economic development spanning 300 acres in center city.

This \$400,000 grant will provide environmental assessments and cleanup planning for at least 30 City-wide properties potentially contaminated with either petroleum or hazardous substances.

For more information, please contact Olivia Hough, City of Springfield Brownfields coordinator at 864-1092 or [ohough@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:ohough@springfieldmo.gov).

More Springfield Brownfields Project information can be found at [www.springfieldmo.gov/brownfields](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/brownfields).