



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

City of Mt. Pleasant receives Brownfields 2012 Cleanup Grant for Mt. Pleasant Center property

MT. PLEASANT, Mich., June 6, 2012 – Cleanup for the Mt. Pleasant Center Project is getting a boost through a \$200,000 brownfields cleanup grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to help clean up the former Mt. Pleasant Regional Center at 1400 W. Pickard St. Grant funds also will be used to support cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

The brownfields cleanup grant for the Mt. Pleasant Center property was part of \$69.3 million in grants awarded to 245 communities and tribes in 39 states across the country. This grant funding is for new investments to provide communities with funding necessary to clean and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and create jobs while protecting public health.

“This grant will be helpful to begin putting a financing plan in place for the demolition of the existing buildings on the site to ready it for redevelopment,” said City Manager Kathie Grinzinger.

The regional center closed in 2009, yet several of the buildings on the 300-acre property have been closed or vacant for decades. Some of the buildings are in extreme disrepair and are contaminated with lead and asbestos. The Mt. Pleasant Center property consists of 21 buildings totaling more than 300,000 square feet of space, along with a road network, power plant and tunnels.

About the EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is 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. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act were passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

For more information on EPA Brownfields, visit <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>. Contact the EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team at 312-886-7576.

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