



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CITY OF ROCKFORD AWARDED \$200,000 BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT

ROCKFORD, IL - The City of Rockford is very pleased to announce that it has successfully applied for and been awarded a Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$200,000 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. These funds will be received in October 2015 and will be used to perform environmental site assessments (ESA) for former and underutilized commercial and industrial properties that are being considered for redevelopment.

The assessment grant provides the funding for both the initial environmental site assessment work, the Phase I ESA, as well as the more comprehensive Phase II ESA work that includes soil sampling, groundwater sampling and testing to determine if environmental cleanup is required for a site. Assessment grants followed by cleanup grants were used at the Ingersoll building to prepare the site for the Sportscore Downtown redevelopment. The assessment grant program has also been used at the Tapco site and the Amerock building, now the site of the downtown hotel redevelopment by Gorman & Company. Another recent example is the 1900 block of West State Street where two former gas stations are now part of the new grocery store. The Winnebago County Justice Center and the Federal Courthouse are other major projects that initially used assessment grants.

“The City is very pleased and very fortunate to again have this important source of funds to assist with its brownfield redevelopment efforts,” said Wayne Dust, planning administrator. “Only a small percentage of applicants receive these competitive grants in any given year and these funds will allow the City to begin addressing the backlog of potential sites.”

The new assessment grant will be used to perform environmental assessments at sites within several of the City’s industrial and commercial corridors. Industrial corridors would include Preston Street, the Southeast Rail Corridor, the South Main Street Water Power District and Rail Yards, among others. Some of the commercial corridors include West State Street, Auburn Street and Kilburn Avenue.

The City will soon update its website to include information about the assessment grant and a list of industrial and commercial corridors that will be included in this program. The City would like to extend a special thanks to U.S Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos who supported the City's efforts and announced the grant award.

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