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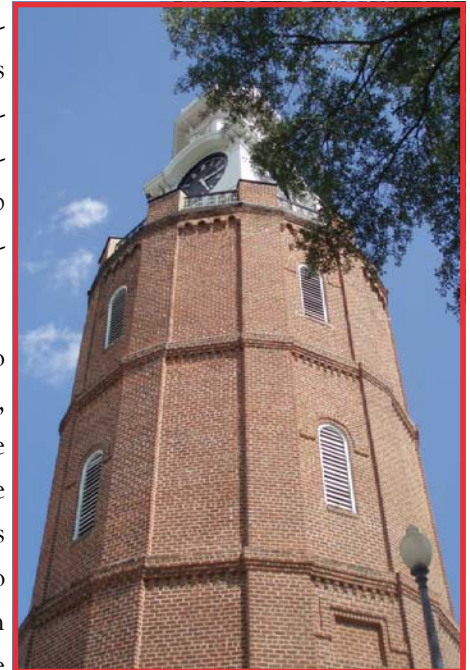
Brownfield Redevelopment Newsletter

What is a Brownfield?

A Brownfield is an abandoned or underused property that is potentially contaminated. Sometimes these concerns are based on real environmental hazards, but sometimes the perception of environmental contamination can make it hard to redevelop a property even when there is little or no actual contamination.

The purpose of the EPA's Brownfield Program is to put these underutilized properties back into service, enhance quality of life for the community, generate jobs, and increase private investment within the City. Contamination is waste or other hazardous materials that are improperly handled and get into the water, soil, or air. If contaminants are found on a site, they usually can be remediated by one of three

approaches: (1) removing the hazardous material, (2) removing and treating the soil or water and then returning to its original location, or in some instances, (3) placing a protective cover of paving, soil, or other type of surface to ensure that it no longer presents a risk.



Program Overview

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the City of Rome a \$200,000 Community Wide Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant and a \$200,000 Community Wide Petroleum Assessment Grant. The City's Brownfield Grant funds are being used to evaluate environmental conditions at properties located within the South Rome Redevelopment area and other areas of the City. In addition, the funds will be used to promote redevelopment and private investments at these properties which will return these properties back to productive use and promote economic development within the City. The City is currently in the process of selecting candidate Brownfield properties. The ultimate goal of the City's Brownfield Program is to put these underutilized properties back into service, enhance quality of life for the community, generate jobs, and increase private investment within the City.



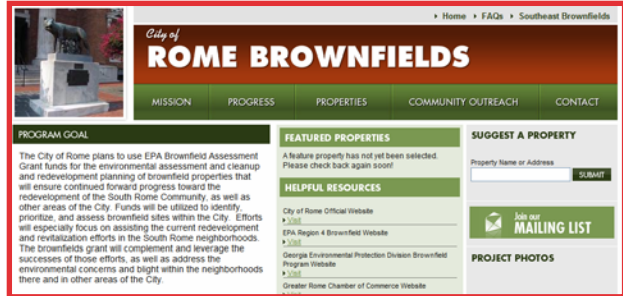
Capitoline Wolf statue in front of Historic City Hall.

Brownfield Website Launched

The City of Rome recently launched a website devoted to their Brownfield Program. The website has pages devoted to community outreach, news and events, and perhaps most importantly, a page devoted to the marketing of properties to prospective developers. The website will help

the City maintain lines of communication with local stakeholders. Updates and progress will be posted to the website regularly.

The website, hosted by Hart & Hickman, PC, will be available to the City even after the Assessment Grant ends.



www.southeastbrownfields.com/rome

A Working Partnership

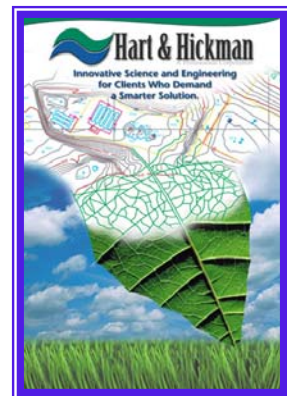
Work on the Brownfield program has already begun, however there is much more to do. The grant was awarded due the diligent efforts of City staff. After soliciting qualifications from a group of environmental consultants, the City hired environmental consultant Hart & Hickman, PC to execute the grant work..”

PC to execute the grant work. Hart & Hickman is a small business with outstanding credentials in evaluating Brownfield properties.

Going forward, the Town’s Brownfield Assessment Program requires a working partnership between the

City of Rome’s staff; the South Rome Redevelopment Corporation; local residents, businesses, property owners, and developers; EPA and State of Georgia environmental regulators; and Hart & Hickman’s environmental scientists and engineers.

“ After soliciting qualifications from a group of environmental consultants, the City hired environmental consultant Hart & Hickman, PC to execute the grant work..”



Benefits to the Community

The Brownfield Assessment Program provides benefits to the community, prospective businesses, and prospective developers.

Community Benefits:

- Reduced number of unused properties
- Attract new residents and businesses
- Create new jobs
- Increase local tax base

Developer and Business Benefits:

- Environmental assessments conducted at no cost to the developer or business
- Reduced environmental liability
- Possible environmental indemnification from the State

Environmental Assessment Process

There are several steps in the EPA Brownfield Grant process. This process includes preparation of Quality Assurance Plans, community outreach, Phase I and II Assessments, and remediation and redevelopment planning.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) refers to inspecting the property, reviewing historical information, and reviewing environmental records to determine if a property is likely to be contaminated.

Throughout this environmental assessment process the community will be kept informed of the City's progress. Newsletters will be mailed, and available at City Hall and community outreach meetings. Please check the website for additional information and future outreach meeting dates.

A Phase II ESA refers to collecting samples of soil, ground water, or other media to determine if the property is contaminated. Quality Assurance Plans describing the type and location of samples that will be collected are discussed with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and are submitted to EPD and EPA to ensure that the data being collected are of the type and quality needed to decide what needs to be done at the site to make it safe for redevelopment.

Next, remediation and redevelopment planning identifies clean-up methods and redevelopment strategies for the properties. EPD approves the actions needed to make the property safe for redevelopment. The developer then completes the specified actions and redevelops the site.

It is important to note that the City is not intending to develop properties, but rather is seeking the interest of prospective developers and businesses who may have a need for such properties.



Potential Brownfield Property

“ remediation and redevelopment planning identifies clean-up methods and redevelopment strategies for the properties.”



Phase II Soil Sampling

How to Participate

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Residents, property owners, prospective developers, and other stakeholders are invited to become active participants in the City's Brownfield Assessment Program. As the grant progresses, we will host public meetings and visit regularly scheduled community meetings. If you have a community group which would like to hear more about the City's Brownfield program, we would be happy to do a presentation at your meeting.

For further information, to schedule a presenter at a community meeting or if you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact Eric Lindberg or visit the City's website at www.southeastbrownfields.com/rome.ga.

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City of Rome, Georgia

The Brownfield Redevelopment Newsletter

Volume 1, Fall 2009

