



# Washington County

## Planning and Parks Department

### Planning Division

#### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **U.S. EPA Brownfields Grant Awarded to Washington County**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that Washington County will receive a Brownfield Assessment grant totaling \$600,000. In 2013, Washington County formed a coalition with the City of Hartford, City of West Bend, Village of Jackson, Village of Richfield and Village of Slinger to apply for an EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant for Hazardous Substance and Petroleum Brownfields. The grant funds will be used to complete a community-wide inventory and prioritization of brownfield sites within the County, perform Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments on priority sites, complete remedial action plans for select sites and perform community outreach and education related to brownfields.

“As part of the project leadership team working to make this development tool available to the County’s communities, Economic Development Washington County (EDWC) is eager to dig in and put the dollars to work getting targeted redevelopment sites assessed and positioned as shovel-ready,” said Christian Tscheschlok, Executive Director. “By removing unknown predevelopment risk, we bring otherwise important locations back online as viable, if not lucrative, sites for business growth projects,” which, he added, “has a direct benefit to taxpayers by making higher and better use of already existing resources and infrastructure.”

In an effort to effectively redevelop and revitalize brownfield sites throughout the County, a Site Revitalization Steering Committee was formed in 2013 to oversee development and implementation of the grant. “Initially, the funds will target five high priority redevelopment sites that were identified by our Coalition partners as part of the inventory and prioritization completed in 2013,” said Debora Sielski, Deputy Administrator for the Washington County Planning and Parks Department.

“Additional sites will be selected following a comprehensive inventory and prioritization, which will provide opportunity for participation by all communities in the County.”

When asked about the County’s success in receiving the grant, Washington County Board Chairperson Herb Tennes said, “The County looks forward to working with our Coalition partners, the US EPA, Wisconsin DNR, EDWC and other project partners, community-based organizations and stakeholders toward a shared goal of improving economic and environmental conditions, and building a better and more sustainable future for the residents of Washington County.”

More information on the EPA brownfields grant, the County’s Site Revitalization Program and the Site Revitalization Steering Committee process can be found on the County’s website at [www.co.washington.wi.us/SRP](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/SRP).