

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

USTFIELDS

The USTfields Initiative was developed by EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks to address abandoned or idle industrial and commercial property where redevelopment is hindered by petroleum contamination from abandoned, federally-regulated underground storage tanks. These properties are often former gasoline service stations, car dealerships, or other industrial sites that have been abandoned and left undeveloped due to fears of liability and expensive cleanup. They have been redeveloped for a variety of uses including residential, recreational, ecological, commercial, and public.



West Washington Street—Chicago, Illinois

From the 1960s to the 1980s, 2759 West Washington Street was used as a gas station and auto repair shop. In 1994, the City of Chicago, through its Abandoned Service Station Program, took action to remove this neighborhood hazard and eyesore. The city removed eight underground storage tanks, investigated the site, and demolished a 12,000 square foot building on site. The investigation confirmed that the soil was contaminated. After the site sat idle for several years, the state and the city planned a cleanup strategy for the remaining soil which was funded by an USTfields Pilot. The city enrolled the site in the Illinois Voluntary Site Remediation Program and completed cleanup work, making the site safe for residential use. It is now used for low income housing.

Residential



West Ogden Avenue—Chicago, Illinois

The abandoned gas station at 3139 West Ogden Street once tarnished the landscape for the surrounding community and was a potential threat to human health and the environment. The City of Chicago, under its Abandoned Service Station Program, removed 11 underground storage tanks and over 1,500 tons of contaminated material. Because the neighborhood was in need of open space, the city turned this former gas station into a park for the community. **This site was not addressed through the USTfields program, however, recreational reuse, such as this, is occurring at USTfields Pilots.**

Recreational/Ecological



Whitney Screw—Nashua, New Hampshire

The 5.4-acre Whitney Screw site once housed a screw manufacturer and hand crank ice cream machine producer. The property contained a large area of floating gasoline product from an out-of-service underground storage tank. Under the USTfields Pilot, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services assessed and conducted oversight in the removal of four underground storage tanks from the site. Tank removal and site investigation work, completed by the City of Nashua, helped to establish State Petroleum Reimbursement Fund eligibility for cleanup of the gasoline. One portion of the site is now occupied by the largest wholesale/retail bicycle facility in New England and the other portion of the site will be used for retail shops. As part of the redevelopment, several historic industrial buildings were restored.

Commercial



West Ward—Trenton, New Jersey

Trenton's West Ward is a primarily residential area along the Delaware River. The city found leaking underground storage tanks and contaminated soil on an abandoned 1.5 acre West Ward property that was once a local newspaper, pizzeria, and an auto service station. With help from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the city removed the underground storage tanks from the site, cleaned up 95 tons of contaminated soil, and investigated the site to identify any residual contamination. The state used USTfields Pilot funds to leverage funding from the New Jersey Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund to help the city with the cost of the environmental investigation and cleanup at the site. In 2001, all buildings on the site were demolished and the construction of a new firehouse began in early 2002.

Public