

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Land & Community Revitalization

BROWNFIELDS SUCCESS IN NEW ENGLAND

30 ALLEN STREET

SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS



Property Details

Property Address:	30 Allen Street, Somerville, MA
Property Size:	0.12 acres
Former Use:	Residential, vacant lot
Contaminants Found:	Coal and wood ash, VOCs, EPH, PCBs, Metals
Current Use:	Community Garden and passive park
Current Owner:	City of Somerville

Project Partners

US EPA, Community Action Agency of Somerville, City of Somerville; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services; Groundwork Somerville

Funding Details

EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant	\$25,000
EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant	\$200,000
HUD CDBG Funds	\$71,641
Urban Self Help Grant from MDCS	\$56,251

Project Highlights

- Leveraged \$40,000 for cleanup activities
- Leveraged eight cleanup and redevelopment jobs
- Created the eighth community garden in Somerville



Motivation for Development:

The project site sits just outside the heart of the Union Square, which is the City's most densely developed neighborhood as well as its most historic. From 2005 to 2007,

neighborhood residents, Somerville Community Corporation, and the Ward 2 Alderman engaged in a community-driven planning process to identify the desired use for the lot at 30 Allen Street. After reviewing various local area maps, participating in small group discussions, and ultimately developing a proposal to submit to the City, the involved parties decided the best use for the space would be to create a community garden where area residents would have a place to relax, as well as to grow flowers and vegetables.

Property History: Located in the densest neighborhood of Somerville, the vacant 30 Allen Street property was used for residential purposes until the 1950s. From the 1950s until the present day, the property was vacant, but had a history of illegal dumping occurring during the past 50 years. In 1996, the city was awarded a \$350,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. The EPA assessment of this property revealed that the soil and water were contaminated with coal and wood ash, VOCs, EPH, PCBs and metals.

Project Results: Funded by an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant, cleanup activities began in January 2007. The cleanup activities included removal of contaminated soil and replacement with clean fill. The community created a series of raised bed gardening plots, including the City's first purpose-built American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible plot. In addition to garden space, the park includes sitting areas, shade trees and open space as its central design features. In a section of the city that is starved for open green space, the Allen Street gardens are delivering upon a previously unmet need in New England's most densely developed city. This project represents successful in-fill development through effective partnering, reuse of site materials, and organized community involvement. In September 2007, the garden was dedicated to the citizens of Somerville and also specifically to a recently deceased local city resident, Mrs. Beverly Lipinski, who had worked tirelessly on behalf of affordable housing and many other revitalization efforts in the Union Square neighborhood.

Project Timeline

October 12, 2004	Phase I Assessment Completed
September 15, 2005	Phase II Assessment Completed
December 2006	Project Planning
March 2007	Site Cleanup and Preconstruction
May-July 2007	Park Construction
August 20, 2007	Cleanup Completed
September 19, 2007	Community Garden and Passive Green Space Dedicated to Somerville Citizens and Mrs. Beverly Lipinski

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