

# City of Wilmington Brownfields Assessment Project



On June 6, 2011 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the City of Wilmington was a recipient of a 2011 Brownfields Assessment Grant under the EPA Brownfields Program. The City was awarded \$200,000 for Hazardous substance sites assessment and \$200,000 for petroleum contaminated sites assessment for a total of \$400,000.

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers local governments and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield sites. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Brownfield sites include, but are not limited to specific types of properties eligible for funding:

- Sites contaminated by controlled hazardous substances
- Sites contaminated by petroleum or a petroleum product;

The city's grant is being used to inventory potential public and private brownfield properties and perform Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) on selected priority sites. This information will aid prospective developers in understanding the costs and liabilities associated with purchasing and redeveloping brownfield sites thereby improving their ability to secure financing. The areas identified in the grant for the initial inventory are highlighted on the map.

The city has received brownfield grants in the past. The assessment and redevelopment plan of the old Love Grove Landfill was made possible in part by a brownfield grant and resulted in the ability to develop the Archie Blue Park on that site. This grant will lay the groundwork for the city to develop a comprehensive brownfield program to facilitate private redevelopment of brownfield sites as well as make the city eligible in the future for clean up grants on city-owned brownfield sites or revolving loan fund grants for private property cleanup.

