

FORMER WILSON PACKING PLANT

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
128(a) State and Tribal Grant

An Omaha Community Builds Salvation on a Former Brownfield

ADDRESS:	27 th Street, "W" Street and 30 th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68107
PROPERTY SIZE:	16 acres
FORMER USE:	Auto auction facility, salvage yard and meat packing plant
CURRENT USE:	Salvation Army Omaha Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
EPA GRANT RECIPIENT:	PROJECT PARTNERS:
The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) utilized \$31,299 in EPA Brownfields Section 128(a) State & Tribal funding.	City of Omaha, HDR, Inc., Omaha Nebraska Salvation Army, Heritage Services



For additional data and geographic information for this and other Brownfields Grants, please visit EPA's Cleanups in My Community - <http://iaspub.epa.gov/Cleanups/>

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Former Wilson Packing Plant property consists of three-square city blocks historically used as an auto auction facility, a salvage yard and a meat packing plant. A Phase I environmental investigation revealed the presence of solvents, refrigerants, metals and petroleum products in the soil and ground water, but the extent of contamination was unknown. In May 2006, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) conducted a Phase II environmental investigation of the property using \$31,299 in EPA Brownfields Section 128(a) State & Tribal funding revealing possible soil contamination. Additional soil sampling funded by Heritage Services concluded that cleanup of the property was not required.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Phase II environmental investigations removed key barriers impeding the reuse of the property.
- Leveraged \$60 million to construct and endow the Salvation Army Omaha Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.
- Built in an under-served part of the city, the Center now serves as a community node and central gathering place.



Award-winning design of the Salvation Army Omaha Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center courtesy of HDR Architecture.

OUTCOME:

On March 20, 2007, The Salvation Army awarded \$60 million of its \$1.6 billion estate gift from philanthropist, Joan B. Kroc, to the City of Omaha to build and endow The Salvation Army Omaha Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center on the property. Having opened its doors on November 16, 2009, the Community Center benefits a traditionally under-served part of the city where individuals, seniors and families now have access to educational, recreational, and arts programs. Community Center activities include aquatics, an outdoor "festival plaza" for hosting neighborhood events, outdoor soccer fields, a fitness center, and learning/educational facilities.