

BRUCE VENTO NATURE SANCTUARY

St. Paul, Minnesota
Cleanup Grant

Former Railroad Maintenance Facility Cleaned Up and Transformed Into Nature Sanctuary

ADDRESS:	265 Commercial Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
PROPERTY SIZE:	27 Acres
FORMER USE:	Railroad maintenance facility and bulk petroleum storage
CURRENT USES:	Nature sanctuary along the Mississippi River
EPA GRANT RECIPIENT:	PROJECT PARTNERS:
The City of St. Paul received a \$200,000 Brownfields Petroleum Cleanup grant and a \$200,000 Brownfields Hazardous Substance Cleanup grant in 2003.	More than 25 partners including the Trust for Public Land, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. National Park Service, Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and the City of Saint Paul Environmental Services Division



For additional data and geographic information for this and other Brownfields Grants, please visit EPA's:

Envirofacts - www.epa.gov/enviro/html/bms/bms_query.html

Enviromapper - www.epa.gov/enviro/bf

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The targeted property had once been used as a railroad maintenance facility that included coach yard buildings, a carpet and paint shop, oil house and power house structures, a coach unwheeling shop, and coal storage areas. The property later became the site of a bulk petroleum storage facility and a manufactured gas plant. The land was left degraded and vacant from the 1950s until 1997, when activists from the East Side neighborhood joined with the Lowertown community to reclaim this area in the hopes of creating a nature sanctuary. The City of St. Paul received EPA grants to assist with cleanup of petroleum and other hazardous substances on the property.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Cleaned up heavy metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).
- Created a greenspace area with new trails and bicycle paths.
- Leveraged more than \$5 million and partnered with over 25 organizations in order to purchase the property.

OUTCOME:

Having completed cleanup in December 2004 with the assistance of neighborhood groups, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary now provides essential greenspace for residents of the City of St. Paul. A portion of the property was restored as a natural habitat, while another was redeveloped for recreational use. The sanctuary opened to the public in May 2005. Prior to EPA's involvement, project partners raised more than \$5 million for acquisition of the property, which has reestablished the floodplain forest and wetlands and provides a new home for migratory birds and other wildlife.



Volunteers help reestablish native vegetation at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.