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Boston receives \$503,500 EPA brownfields grant to help pay for the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of 3 sites

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The city has been awarded three EPA brownfields cleanup grants totaling \$503,500. Brownfields grants aid communities in the process of revitalizing former industrial and commercial sites, transforming them into green-space and turning them back into community assets.

Through a competitive national selection process, EPA awards brownfields grants to help pay for the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned contaminated parcels - brownfields. Often these parcels are abandoned or not dealt with because they are too expensive or risky for a community to address or invest in with the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substances or pollutants.

The three sites targeted for cleanup are in the Dorchester, Roxbury and Hyde Park neighborhoods. Hazardous substance grant funds will be used to clean up the 191 Bowdoin St. site in Dorchester, where elevated concentrations of heavy metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons have been detected.

Grant funds will also be used to clean up the former Modern Electroplating and Enameling facility at 2430 Washington St. in Roxbury where a variety of metals and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) have been found on the premises.

The third portion of grant funds will be used to clean up the former Lewis Chemical property on Fairmount Court in Hyde Park. This facility's primary function was to collect, process and transport hazardous waste until it closed in 1983. Significant concentrations of VOCs and PCBs have been found in the soil and groundwater at the site.

"This generous grant from the EPA means that we can not only ensure the public safety of these sites in our neighborhoods, but we can also begin to revitalize these areas for productive use," said Mayor Menino from the site of the former Modern Electroplating and Enameling Facility in Roxbury. "These grants will help us to evaluate the properties, clean up the problems, and begin moving forward with the process of restoring them to a useful state."

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