

State and Tribal Response Program Highlights

EPA Funding Provided to States and Tribes to Address Contaminated Land in their Communities

REGION 1

MAINE—Thompson’s Point, a 25-acre peninsula located along the Fore River in Portland, was originally developed as a railroad yard in the late 1880s. The decline of rail and shipping in the area led to the demolition of many railyard buildings on the peninsula. From the 1990s to early 2000s, Thompson’s Point was primarily used for the storage and distribution of various industrial materials. In 2018, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an environmental assessment on the property. Due to decades of industrial use at the property, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), arsenic and petroleum were found in soils. In 2019, a Brownfields Cleanup grant was used to cleanup the contamination and install stormwater storage tanks as a part of the flood risk management plan to protect the groundwater by directing stormwater away from the remaining contaminated soil. The Children’s Museum and Theatre of Maine, started in 1923 on Free Street in Portland’s Art District, was outgrowing its space and looking for a new location. The organization launched a fundraising campaign that raised over \$15 million and allowed the museum to buy a 1.12-acre property on Thompson’s Point and eventually build their new museum. The Children’s Museum and Theatre of Maine officially re-opened on June 24, 2021. The new 300,000 square foot location is now home to the oldest continuously operating children’s theatre in the country, which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2023. The museum’s interactive exhibits reflect the culture and natural environment of Maine.



Redeveloped Children’s Museum and Theatre of Maine

REGION 2

NEW JERSEY—The General Motors auto parts plant, located in Ewing Township, was built in 1938. During World War II, the plant was converted to aircraft production line for the U.S. Navy. After the war, the plant returned as an automobile manufacturer and made headlines as the site of the world’s first industrial robot in 1961. The plant closed in 1998 and sat vacant for several decades. In 2017, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight of the massive cleanup efforts. After cleanup was completed in 2021, the former plant property was transformed into the Ewing Town Center, a retail and residential complex near the Trenton-Mercer Airport. The redevelopment features a combination of “Main Street” retail space along Parkway Avenue, a mix of restaurants and commercial space lining the Center’s entrance, and a community of new market rate and affordable residential rental units with a 10,000-square-foot clubhouse. Bike and walking paths line the community’s neighborhoods and link to the township’s trails.



Parkway Town Center apartment complex in Ewing

REGION 3

WEST VIRGINIA—In 2021, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight of the cleanup of the three-acre Robrecht riverfront property in downtown Wheeling. The property at the mouth of Wheeling Creek along the Ohio River was a former railroad right of way dating back to the mid-1800s. The property along Main Street once included the Robrecht Grocery store, which is adjacent to the Celeron Plaza and other

commercial properties that have been revitalized in recent years. Since the 1970s when railroad operations ceased in the downtown the Robrecht property had fallen into deterioration. The redevelopment plans include creating the Robrecht Riverfront Park that will include the development of a new pedestrian trailhead facility and connections to the Wheeling Heritage Trail, new landscaping and a paved parking lot, a ramp to the river with a kayak and canoe launch, and boardwalks over the creek. Because the property is in the floodplain, the park design will incorporate open spaces and green infrastructure to assist with managing surface water run-off and flood risk management.

REGION 4

SOUTH CAROLINA—Built in the 1940s, the 24-acre Victor Textile Mill operated for several decades in Spartanburg County. In the early 2000s, several of the former building that were located on the property were demolished and in 2006 a portion of a warehouse on the property was destroyed by a fire. The property was covered with large expanses of building debris as well as high grass and other overgrown vegetation. In 2014, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an environmental assessment of the property. In 2015, the county received a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund loan to cleanup the property. In 2021, the property was transformed into Lively at Victor Park, a mixed-use commercial and 318-unit multifamily residential apartment complex. The property also includes 7-acres of green and open space with connections to the city and county trail system.

REGION 5

OHIO—Over a century ago, a portion of Lick Run in Cincinnati was diverted into a 20-foot-wide tunnel as a part of a combined sewer overflow (CSO)—allowing sewage and stormwater to mix under high flow conditions to prevent sewage backups into basements. With the increase of heavy rains and runoff that make these high flow events more common, the city began to look at ways to reduce the half a billion gallons of sewage-tainted stormwater escaping downstream into the Ohio River. In 2020, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to provide oversight of the assessment of brownfields properties in the Lick Run area. The project included the removal of contaminated soils and green redeveloping solutions for underutilized properties. After cleanup, the tunnel was removed to “daylight” Lick Run, the stormwater and wastewater have been separated, and the stormwater is directed to the Mill Creek through a mile-long urban stream. The Lick Run Greenway project has eliminated nearly 500 million gallons of CSOs annually into the Mill Creek. Completed in 2021, the Greenway includes walking and biking paths along the urban

stream and pond; a new playground, spray park, basketball courts, two picnic shelters, and a stage area; and the Lick Run Heritage Trail, a series of educational signs about the Greenway and area’s ecological history and cultural heritage.



Lick Run Greenway in Greater Cincinnati

REGION 6

ARKANSAS—Built in 1902, the Gus Blass Wholesale building was a department store serving as a central downtown shopping center and one of the first high-rise buildings in downtown Little Rock. After many years as a downtown hub, it was abandoned in the 1970s and sat vacant on Main Street in downtown for over 40 years. In 2012, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an assessment on the building and property. In 2016, the Pulaski County Brownfields Program assist with the cleanup to remove asbestos, lead-based paint, and biological waste. The building, now called Mulberry Flats, is a historic building renovated under the National Park Service’s guidance. Mulberry Flats is home to offices, commercial retail space, and a sports bar and grill. This revitalization has led to the healthy growth of businesses in the downtown area and has brought new life to Main Street.

REGION 7

NEBRASKA—The Harold Warp Pioneer Village in the City of Minden has attracted tourists and history buffs from across the county since it first opened in 1953. The 20-acre Village is comprised of 28 buildings that house over 50,000 items that showcase America’s history and westward expansion. Over the past 70 years, exposure to the elements has caused several of the buildings to begin deteriorating, particularly the roofing materials. Some buildings, including the now defunct restaurant, are in such poor condition that the Village plans to demolish them to make room for building additions or new parking space. In 2021, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to complete an asbestos-containing materials (ACM) survey on all 28 buildings. The

results of the ACM survey showed that fifteen buildings contained materials that tested positive for asbestos, and the Village began to prioritize buildings for renovation and seek additional grants and financial assistance for asbestos abatement and roof repair. The Village secured additional grants and funds for the necessary roof repairs and numerous individuals from the non-profit organization “A Year to Volunteer” have donated their time to refurbish several of the buildings, signs, and some of the historical artifacts to help bring the Village back to its historic glory.

REGION 8

YANKTON SIOUX—Founded in 1924, formerly know as the St. Paul Indian Mission School, the Marty Indian School is a K-12 boarding school that currently has about 200 students with many of the students residing in the campus dormitories. While many of the original buildings are still in good condition, several of the structures are deteriorating. The former Guest House, the two-story wood-frame building used to house Marty Indian School staff, has been vacant since 2010. The Yankton Sioux Tribal Environmental Department used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to assess and cleanup the asbestos containing material and lead-based paint in the structure before it was demolished. This assessment and cleanup have led to additional clean up of Marty Indian School buildings and has paved the way for the development of a master redevelopment plan to repair and expand the school.

REGION 9

NEVADA—The State Hotel was constructed in 1938 as a gambling hall, hotel, and restaurant in the City of Carlin. The hotel operated in the community for nearly 60 years before it was abandoned in the late 1990s. After sitting vacant for many years, the City of Carlin used an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant to conduct an environmental assessment on the property in 2015. In 2018, the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to address asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint contamination that were identified in the environmental assessment. After cleanup activities, the building was demolished, the debris were disposed of at appropriately permitted facilities, and the property was restored to existing grade as a vacant lot ready for redevelopment. In 2021, the property was redeveloped into a First Choice Physical Therapy facility.

REGION 10

IDAHO—In 1904, the Barber Lumber Company built the Barber Dam for hydroelectric power for the sawmill operation and the surrounding residences. Above the dam, the Boise River created the “Barber Pool,” a pond and wetland area. Next to the “Barber Pool” were wastewater lagoons that collected sewage from the surround neighborhoods. In 1978, the lumber company gifted Idaho Foundation for Parks and Land over 12 acres of land, including the wastewater lagoons. After several decades of use, in 2012, the use of the wastewater lagoons was phased out. In 2015, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to conduct an environmental assessment on the property. Idaho DEQ then provide oversight for the removal and disposal of over 3,270 tons of biosolids from the property and the restoration of the property. The property is now part of the Barber Pool Conservation Area, a wildlife refuge teaming with over 300 native species of plants and wildlife. The conservation area’s goal is to enhance the habitat to support native wildlife populations, increase diversity of plants and pollinators, foster non-destructive human use opportunities, and reverse the decline of riparian vegetation in the area.



Barber Pool Conservation Area