

Brownfields

Success Story

Former Football Field Scores a Victory at Home

Newell, West Virginia

For more than 60 years, young athletes enjoyed use of the Newell Memorial Field in Newell, West Virginia. As a home to both Wells and Oak Glen High Schools, as well as Wells Junior High, the field hosted youth football games from 1950 through 2011, when a new football stadium opened elsewhere in town.

The old stadium was dismantled and its parts—from scoreboards to the press box to bleachers—were sold and scattered across the country from Lafayette, Louisiana to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. But what to do with the old field? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded funding that would help local planners find a way to repurpose the site.

The Assessment

The Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning and Development Council received an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant to help determine any possible environmental and socioeconomic factors that might influence redevelopment options on the property. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment revealed no major environmental hazards, clearing the spaces for redevelopment.

The Benefits

Following the assessment, Hancock County Commissioners sold the 3.5-acre site to a developer. A few years and \$5.5 million later, Hancock County Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram opened its doors. The dealership, which employs an estimated 50 full-time workers, has not only been a success for its owners but also has had a positive impact on the local community.



The former Newell Memorial Field served as the football home for local high school and junior high school students for more than six decades.

EPA Grant Recipient:

Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning and Development Council

EPA Grant Type:

Brownfield Assessment

Former Use: Football Field

Current Use: Car Dealership

“ Local residents have been very supportive of the dealership in their community. ”

*General Manager,
Hancock County
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram*

For more information:

Visit the EPA Brownfields website at www.epa.gov/brownfields or contact Joe Nowak at 215-814-3303 or Nowak.Joseph@epa.gov.