



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Region 1 Planning Council Awarded \$1 million Brownfields Grant

ROCKFORD, IL — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Region 1 Planning Council (R1) \$1 million to conduct environmental assessments and develop cleanup and re-use plans for brownfield properties in Rockford, Loves Park, Belvidere and in unincorporated areas of Boone and Winnebago Counties.

Brownfields are properties where redevelopment is hindered due to real or perceived environmental contamination. Grant proceeds will be used to conduct 40 Phase I and 16 Phase II environmental assessments and to develop eight cleanup plans, five re-use plans and support community involvement activities. R1 will work in partnership with Boone County, Winnebago County, and Rockford Mass Transit District to execute the grant.

“Region 1 Planning Council is excited to be awarded the U.S. EPA Brownfield Coalition Grant Award,” **said Loves Park Mayor Greg Jury, R1 Board Chairman.** “This funding allows R1 and its partners - Boone County, Winnebago County and Rockford Mass Transit District – to assess the need for brownfield remediation along critical industrial corridors, ultimately positioning the two-county region for private investment and redevelopment.”

R1’s award is among \$7.3 million that the U.S. EPA awarded to Illinois communities as part of its Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) Grant Program, which is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

“The announcement of U.S. EPA awarding Region 1 Planning Council one of the Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Awards is great news for Northern Illinois,” **said Winnebago County Chairman Joe Chiarelli.** “Winnebago County, along with Boone County and Rockford Mass Transit District as partners, welcome the funding to accommodate brownfield assessments of industrial corridors that are vital to the regional economy. Our region will be better positioned for private investment and redevelopment along these corridors thanks to the U.S. EPA’s award.”

ABOUT R1: Region 1 Planning Council (R1) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities. A regional council depends on intergovernmental collaboration to foster economic and community growth; through planning, research, federal funding, and data. For more information, visit <http://r1planning.org>.

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