

Celebrating 10 Years of Returning Superfund Sites to Beneficial Use



REGION 2 Success Story

Hiteman Leather Company Site West Winfield New York



Pictured: Hiteman Leather site prior to remediation. (Source: EPA)



Pictured: Hiteman Leather site following remediation. (Source: EPA)

Working together, EPA and the Village of West Winfield's Redevelopment Committee successfully incorporated reuse considerations into the cleanup of the Hiteman Leather Company Superfund site. The site is located at the heart of the Village of West Winfield in Herkimer County, New York. Home to tannery operations for over a century, the site was abandoned in 1968 and contaminated structures, backfilled lagoons, sediments, and soil were left on site. Preceding the site's listing on Superfund's National Priorities List in 1999, EPA's initial cleanup efforts included demolishing contaminated, structurally-unsound buildings and fencing the property to restrict access. In hopes of one day reclaiming the property, the Village sought and was awarded a 2001 Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Pilot Grant, which it used to develop a Reuse Assessment Plan. The Reuse Plan incorporated extensive input from a variety of community members and recommended the land be put to public, recreational, and commercial use.

Staff from EPA's Removal and Remedial Programs worked together to perform an expedited cleanup at the site. EPA's cleanup activities, which were performed from February to September 2008, included excavating and consolidating contaminated soils and sediments on site and installing a site-wide soil cover. The Reuse Plan was used to ensure that the remedy would not unnecessarily restrict anticipated future land uses. Cleanup was completed in 2008, and the site is ready for reuse. In the coming years, the Village hopes that the site will be home to new Village employee offices, a library, a police station, a senior citizens' facility, soccer fields, nature trails, and a fitness and pool area.

The cleanup was chosen as the "Top Story of 2008" by the *West Winfield Star*, a local newspaper, in its December 31, 2008 issue "...not only for its impact on the present but for the potential impact it may have on this area's future."

"The Reuse Plan is probably what made redevelopment possible at this site; it jumpstarted the entire project. Without that plan, I think we'd still be looking at an old foundation and an overgrown jungle out there. The site went from a real mess to something that, hopefully, will become an area of real value to this community. It has been a fantastic experience working with EPA to make this possible." – *Jim Murphy, Chairman, West Winfield Redevelopment Committee*

"We used the Reuse Plan during our cleanup to ensure that we did not do anything to unnecessarily impede reuse at the site. It also made it clear to us what sort of institutional controls were needed to protect the remedy and support reuse. I think that everyone that was involved came away from the experience extremely satisfied." – *Jack O'Dell, EPA Remedial Project Manager*

For more information, please contact **Melissa Friedland** at friedland.melissa@epa.gov or **Frank Avvisato** at avvisato.frank@epa.gov