

Celebrating 10 Years of Returning Superfund Sites to Beneficial Use



REGION 4 Success Story

Woolfolk Chemical Works: Fort Valley, Georgia



Remediation of contaminated soils at the site.



The Thomas Public Library was built on a portion of the site.

Through close collaboration with the community and local stakeholders, EPA is helping support the remediation and reuse of the 31-acre Woolfolk Chemical Works site in Fort Valley, Georgia. Pesticides used in daily operations at the Woolfolk Chemical Plant contaminated soil and underlying ground water, resulting in the addition of the site to the National Priorities List in 1990. Cleanup activities involved installing a ground water treatment plant, capping contaminated materials, excavating and treating contaminated soils and sediments, and decontaminating or demolishing affected infrastructure.

In 1997, the Woolfolk Alliance was formed by concerned Fort Valley citizens, elected officials, state legislative representatives, EPA, state and county health representatives, and local business owners in order to regularly discuss the site's status and disseminate knowledge to the community. In 2007, this group engaged in a Superfund Redevelopment Initiative reuse planning process to determine possible ways the 18 acres in downtown Fort Valley could be put back to use.

Through the reuse planning process, the Woolfolk Alliance and EPA have been able to work together closely to put the site back into use in ways that will benefit the community. Additionally, since funding can often limit reuse possibilities, significant efforts have been made by the City of Fort Valley to ensure that resources are available to help redevelop the site without using taxpayer dollars. A new library and tourist information center are already in use on a portion of the site, and plans for further redevelopment include a multi-jurisdictional record storing facility and a new building for nearby Fort Valley University.

“Many of us have been working on this project since the beginning twelve years ago. By meeting together, sharing our feelings, eating lunch together, being aware of some of the personal and family issues of those attending, we established a community. That relationship has helped us solve our problems and built trust through what is, in the best of times, a very difficult process. There will be life after Superfund here.”

—John Stumbo, Mayor, Fort Valley, Georgia

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