

Celebrating Success: RSR Corporation Site Dallas, Texas



Superfund
Redevelopment
Initiative



The 275,000-square-foot Goodwill facility provides over 500 jobs. (Source: EPA)

“The Superfund cleanup has been critical to the revitalization of the area.”

- Tim Lott, Vice President of Capital Development, Dallas Housing Authority



DHA's office complex in West Dallas. (Source: EPA)

For more information, please contact Melissa Friedland at friedland.melissa@epa.gov | (703) 603-8864 or Frank Avvisato at avvisato.frank@epa.gov | (703) 603-8949



Lakewest YMCA's main facility on site. (Source: EPA)

For nearly 50 years, the West Dallas area of Dallas, Texas, was home to a major lead smelter operated by the RSR Corporation. Facility operators processed spent car batteries and scrap lead. The company sent resulting waste materials, byproducts and batteries to nearby landfills where these wastes contaminated soils, sediment and groundwater. Wind also transported lead dust from the smelter into nearby parks, schools and neighborhoods. EPA placed the RSR Corporation site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 1995.

The site and surrounding areas lacked access to fresh and healthy food, and public health and community services. Site stakeholders hoped the site's cleanup could provide new development opportunities. RSR Corporation cleaned up nearby neighborhoods by removing contaminated soils from playgrounds, day care centers and gardens. EPA cleaned up the yards of over 400 properties between 1991 and 1994. Much of the lead dust affected a nearby Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) public housing complex. By 1995, DHA had removed the contamination and rebuilt the properties that had been contaminated with lead dust. The cleanup enabled DHA to continue to offer much-needed affordable housing in the area. DHA also maintains offices on site that employ more than 100 people.

Today, following cleanup, the site and the surrounding West Dallas area are a hub of new activity. Goodwill Industries of Dallas acquired 46 acres from DHA and built a 275,000-square-foot facility. Open since 2002, the facility includes offices, meeting space and a retail store. Goodwill Industries of Dallas employs over 500 people. The company focuses on hiring and training disadvantaged workers, benefiting the local workforce. For their remarkable efforts at the site and across West Dallas, EPA Region 6 recognized both DHA and Goodwill Industries of West Dallas with Excellence in Site Reuse awards.

The cleanup provided opportunities for other facilities as well, including several public and private schools and the Lakewest YMCA facility, which opened in 2000. The YMCA offers recreation opportunities for local families and residents and hosts several community services, including a day care, a women's healthcare clinic and a police substation. With residents now benefitting from a new supermarket and shopping center, an animal care clinic, restaurants, and a wider range of housing options, West Dallas will continue to grow. EPA remains committed to working with local groups and agencies to support redevelopment and revitalization efforts as part of ensuring the long-term protection of public health and the environment.