



Superfund  
Redevelopment  
Initiative

# SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROFILE

Southside Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site

Indianapolis, Indiana



Crossroads Greenhouses uses landfill gas from the site as an alternative energy source. The business is located next to the site. (Source: EPA)

**Site Location:** 2561 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46221

**Size:** 312 acres

**Existing Site Infrastructure:** All major types of infrastructure are located on site.

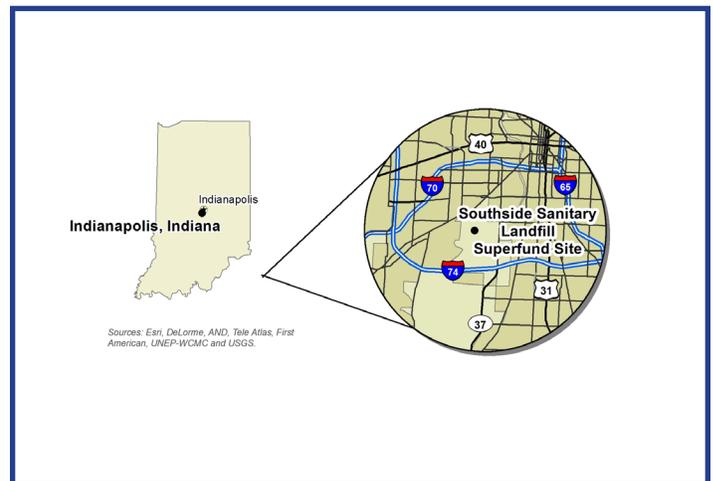
**Current Site Uses:** The site landfill is still in operation. Buffer Park Golf Course, a nine-hole course, operates on part of the site. Nearby businesses – Crossroads Greenhouses and a Rolls Royce Allison Aircraft Engine Plant – use methane gas from the landfill to power operations. An environmental education center is also located on site.

**Use Restrictions:** No use restrictions recorded.

**Surrounding Population:** 820,445 people live in Indianapolis, Indiana (2010 Census).

Innovative thinking by site stakeholders has turned the Southside Sanitary Landfill Superfund site into a leading example of alternative energy, commercial and industrial reuse. In addition to hosting a municipal solid waste landfill in continued use, the 312-acre site in Indianapolis, Indiana, now supports a variety of new land uses. Reuse activities include methane gas production for local businesses, a golf course and an environmental education center.

The municipal landfill opened in 1971. Landfill operations resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989. EPA required that the owners of the landfill prevent further migration of contamination, collect and treat landfill liquid, and monitor groundwater. After cleanup, EPA deleted the site from the NPL in 1997. Today, more than 100 landfill gas recovery wells



Location of the site in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## SITE HISTORY AND REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- 1971** Southside Landfill began operating on site.
- 1989** EPA listed the site on the NPL.
- 1989** Crossroads Greenhouses began operating next to the site.
- 1989 - 1997** EPA led site cleanup activities.
- 1997** EPA took the site off the NPL.
- 1998** Rolls Royce Allison Aircraft Engine plant started to use methane from the site.
- 1999** Buffer Park Golf Course opened on site.
- 2003** The landfill donated land for environmental education center.
- 2018** Landfill operations are ongoing. Crossroads Greenhouses and the Rolls Royce Allison Aircraft Engine Plant continue to use landfill gas to power operations.

*“This truly has been a “win-win-win-win” situation for Rolls-Royce, Granger, Southside Landfill and the environment.”*

– Thomas Jennings, Manager of Power & Utilities at Rolls-Royce

and an intricate pipeline system collect and transport methane gas from the landfill to nearby businesses for use in alternative energy power production.

Since 1989, Crossroads Greenhouses, one of the largest methane-powered greenhouses in the United States, has pulled more than 2.2 million cubic feet of methane gas from the landfill each day. All energy used in the 6.5-acre greenhouse is extracted from decomposing waste in the adjacent landfill. The greenhouse grows and supplies more than 400,000 poinsettias, bedding plants and hanging baskets each year.

In addition, the Rolls Royce Allison Aircraft Engine Plant signed a multi-year contract through Granger Energy in 1998 to obtain methane gas from the landfill. Because methane burns more cleanly than other fuels, use of this energy source has reduced nitrogen oxide emissions from the plant by 22 tons a year. Some of the landfill gas collected is also used to heat the Rolls Royce vehicle maintenance shop and power the landfill’s liquid pumping system.



Buffer Park Golf Course, a nine-hole course, is also located on part of the site. (Source: EPA)



The greenhouse grows and supplies more than 400,000 poinsettias, bedding plants and hanging baskets each year. (Source: EPA)

In 2003, the landfill donated land for the Indianapolis School Board to use for environmental education. Local schoolchildren tour the site as part of their curriculum on landfill science. The landfill provides tours to about 6,000 people every year. The landfill offers resources to educators for use in the classroom in preparation for their visit to the facility.

Cleanup of the Southside Sanitary Landfill Superfund site has enabled continued landfill operations and supported the growth of alternative energy and educational uses, providing multiple community benefits.

*“This project is an excellent example of what can be achieved when all parties are working together for a common goal. We hope to use this project as a model for additional new projects.”*

– Joel Zylstra, President of Granger Energy

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)