



Superfund
Redevelopment
Program

SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROFILE

Tulsa Fuel and Manufacturing Superfund Site

Collinsville, Oklahoma



Tulsa Fuel and Manufacturing Superfund site (Source: EPA)

Site Location: 1.3 miles south of downtown Collinsville, west side of Old U.S. Highway 169, Collinsville, Oklahoma 74021

Size: 61 acres

Existing Site Infrastructure: Access to roads, railways and electric utilities.

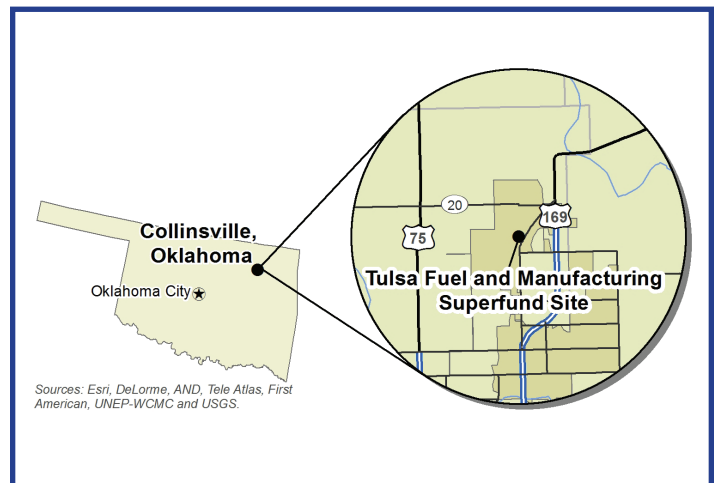
Current Site Uses: Pollinator habitat is on site. Two companies operate honeybee farms on site.

Use Restrictions: Since 2017, institutional controls require perimeter fencing and groundwater monitoring, and prohibit soil excavation and construction of buildings. Land uses are restricted to commercial and industrial use.

Surrounding Population: within 0.5 mile, 119 people; within 2.5 miles, 13,272 people; within 4 miles, 27,793 people.

The 61-acre Tulsa Fuel and Manufacturing Superfund site is in Collinsville, Oklahoma, just north of Tulsa. With collaboration from EPA, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), the Cherokee Nation and local stakeholders, this former zinc smelter site has been transformed into a pollinator habitat that supports the local honeybee population.

A zinc smelter operated at the site from 1914 to 1925 and helped meet the demand for zinc during World War I. The smelting operation used nine furnaces, which are believed to have been fueled by nearby natural gas wells. While active, large amounts of ore were stored on site. Historical smelting operations contaminated soil, sediment and surface water with arsenic, cadmium and lead. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1999.



Location of the site in Collinsville, Oklahoma.

SITE HISTORY AND REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- 1914 - 1925** Zinc smelter operated at the site.
- 1992 - 1994** Oklahoma state agencies conducted site investigations.
- Jan. 1999** EPA added the site to the NPL.
- Sept. 2001** ODEQ signed a cooperative agreement with EPA for cleanup of the site.
- 2004** ODEQ installed perimeter fencing on the site.
- 2005 - 2007** ODEQ performed site investigations to determine cleanup activities.
- Nov. 2008** EPA selected cleanup activities.
- 2012 - 2014** ODEQ led cleanup design and planning.
- Jun. 2015** EPA updated selected cleanup activities.
- Jun. 2015 - Sept. 2016** ODEQ also led cleanup activities.
- Jul. 2017** EPA confirmed completion of cleanup activities.
- Spring 2019** Shadow Mountain Honey Company and Ide's Gary Avenue Gold Honey installed honeybee hives on site.
- Sept. 2019** EPA's first Five-Year Review confirmed the remedy's continued protectiveness.
- 2019** EPA Region 6 presented stakeholders with its Greenovations Award.
- Sept. 2020** EPA removed the site from the NPL.
- Ongoing** ODEQ conducts operations and maintenance activities.

“ODEQ is incredibly proud of the work done at the former Tulsa Fuels and Manufacturing site. The efforts of our staff and our partners have transformed this once-contaminated land into a green pasture that is home to honeybees and other wildlife. Successful Superfund projects such as this are vital to Oklahoma’s future.”

– Scott Thompson, ODEQ Executive Director

In 2015, ODEQ began cleanup activities. Cleanup included demolition of site structures, institutional controls, and on-site consolidation and capping of 186,000 cubic yards of smelter waste and contaminated soil and sediment. ODEQ consolidated waste into a 10-acre containment cell on site and installed groundwater monitoring wells, as well as fencing and signage around the perimeter of the cell. ODEQ vegetated the cap and site with a mix of smooth brome grass, annual ryegrass, tall fescue, and red and white clover. Clover planted during site restoration makes an ideal habitat for bees. ODEQ completed cleanup in 2016 and continues to monitor vegetation and groundwater at the site. EPA removed the site from the NPL in September 2020.

The restored area attracted the attention of local beekeepers James and Courtney Deming and Jay Ide. Today, Shadow Mountain Honey Company and Ide’s Gary Avenue Gold Honey operate 30 honeybee hives on site. The beekeepers provide free honeybee swarm rescue and removal to the community and then relocate the bees to one of their hives.



Jay and Sheryl Ide with a honeycomb from a hive on site.
(Source: EPA)



Jay Ide collecting honey from hives at the site. (Source: EPA)

The rescued bees produce honey, which the companies sell in small batches and use most of the proceeds to support the rescue and preservation of the local honeybee population. The bee rescuing team has plans to expand the number of hives on site in the future. In 2019, EPA Region 6 presented stakeholders with its Greenovations Award. The award recognizes their efforts to achieve sustainable and ecological revitalization with the construction of ecological enhancements on the cap.

The Tulsa Fuel and Manufacturing Superfund site's successful cleanup and reuse shows how effective partnerships and collaboration between diverse site stakeholders can transform formerly contaminated Superfund sites into areas that provide significant environmental and public health benefits. In this case, a pollinator area now provides valuable habitat for native pollinators and plants, well-suited to supporting the protection of bees and production of high-quality honey.

A Passion for Pollinators

After learning about the importance of bees and other pollinators for the environment and food supply, James Deming and Courtney Deming became interested in honeybee rescue. In 2013, they purchased two beehives and started the Shadow Mountain Honey Company. In 2014, they rescued their first bee swarm and began a campaign to educate the public about how to identify and protect bee swarms. In 2016, the company partnered with a fellow beekeeper Jay Ide to form the Tulsa Swarm Hotline, which has since enabled the rescue of nearly 100 honeybee swarms each year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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