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Framingham receives \$200K brownfields grant

By Dan McDonald/Daily News staff

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FRAMINGHAM — The town has received a \$200,000 grant that will fund the assessment of contaminated properties.

The grant came as part of a state bundle of federal money that included nearly \$2.7 million from the Recovery Act and \$4.4 million from the Environmental Protection Agency brownfields general program funding. The idea of that program is to help revitalize former industrial and commercial sites, turning them from problem properties to productive community use, according to the EPA.

"EPA's Brownfield's program has been an incredibly powerful economic engine, helping communities throughout New England to assess, clean and reclaim abandoned parcels, returning property to productive uses," said Ira Leighton, acting regional administrator of EPA's New England office through a statement. "We are proud that with an additional \$2.7 million for Brownfields work in Massachusetts the Recovery Act will be helping to jump start local economies, putting people to work creating a cleaner and healthier environment."

This is the second round of funding the town has received to assess Brownfields.

This money will be used to assess sites suspected of being contaminated by petroleum products, said Alison Steinfeld, the town's community and economic development director.

Ultimately, said Steinfeld, the town will apply for Brownfield cleanup funds.

"Cleaning and reusing contaminated properties provides the catalyst to improving the lives of residents living in or near brownfields communities," said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in a statement. "Revitalizing a brownfields site reduces threats to human health and the environment, creates green jobs, promotes community involvement and attracts investment in local neighborhoods."

(Dan McDonald can be reached at 508-626-4416 or dmcdonal@cnc.com.)

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