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EPA awards the city of New Orleans 2 million for environmental remediation of NASA

NEW ORLEANS – Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally awarded the city of New Orleans \$2 million to support the environmental remediation of the former Naval Support Activity Complex (NSA) in the city’s Bywater neighborhood. Officials from the city, LDEQ, EPA and Limitless Vistas were on hand at the presentation ceremony at Stallings Recreation Center. The award is from the EPA’s Brownfields Cleanup Grant program, funded by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

“Both of these recipients have been our partners in Brownfields for over two decades, It been a pleasure to work with everybody.” Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Roger Gingles said ”Brownfields is not just getting a place cleaned up and putting a fence around it but getting beyond that.”

“The Brownfields Program helps communities that have experienced long periods of disinvestment,” EPA Region 6 Section Chief Althea Foster said.

The former NSA complex was completed in 1919 by the United States Navy and was used as a logistic station to protect the Port of New Orleans from attack, a shelter and training center for the unemployed and homeless during the Great Depression and later as a recruiting and training station for multiple military branches. It was deactivated and sold to the City of New Orleans in 2011 to facilitate its redevelopment.

Future development of the property will create mixed-use buildings with 295 affordable residential units. A local grocery store will be the primary first floor retailer included in the development plan. The vacant lots included in the development will be transformed into a recreational area for residents, in addition to hosting public events.

EPA has selected local nonprofit organization, Limitless Vistas, for a Brownfields Job Training grant. Limitless Vistas plans to train 200 students and place at least 120 in environmental jobs. Students who complete the training will earn up to three federal certifications. Limitless Vistas is targeting students from New Orleans. Partners include the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, Louisiana DEQ and the Urban League of Louisiana.

“We have free training (environmental). Sherry Calloway Limitless Vistas Executive Director Sherry Calloway said. “We hope to support the Brownfields projects with technical training for people.”

The City’s application for the Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program was submitted by the CPC’s Brownfields Program, in coordination with Mayor Cantrell’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Task Force. The City created the multi-departmental IIJA Task Force in January 2022 to analyze infrastructure needs within the City and secure funding from the new infrastructure law.

More information on the EPA Brownfields programs and awards can be found here: [Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup \(MARC\) Grant Application Resources | US EPA.](#)

