



Brownfields Response Program

Site Remediation | Oil and Gas Division

Artist Boat

The 207-acre former historic oilfield site on West Galveston Island that is part of Artist Boat, a non-profit group working to preserve and restore over 1,400-acres of coastal lands with the Coastal Heritage Preserve. In 2013, the tract of land owned by Artist Boat was entered into the RRC's Brownfields Response Program. The RRC conducted environmental investigations and the site was found to have no contamination impacting human health resulting in the RRC's Certificate of Completion. The property is intended to be used for kayaking, hiking, and camping, as well as for educational purposes.



Source: Houston Chronicle

The RRC's Brownfields Response Program was created in 2002, when the Commission was awarded Brownfield Grant funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act Section 128(a). A "Brownfield" site is defined by the EPA as a real property of which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

Similar to the Voluntary Cleanup Program, the Brownfields Response Program was created as an additional means to incentivize the remediation of properties contaminated by oil and gas-related activities. The RRC's Brownfields Response Program provides FREE environmental investigations and cleanups of these sites, which makes it a great resource for economic development in communities across Texas. Participation in the

Brownfields Response Program not only helps protect the environment, but it also helps create jobs, and revitalize communities by increasing property values and tax revenue.

Who is eligible for the Brownfields Grant Funds?

- State, local, and tribal governments
- Non-profit organizations
- Quasi-governmental agencies
- Private landowners with community-supported projects
- Universities and school districts
- Economic Development Corporations

Since the RRC began participation in the program, the Commission has been awarded \$2,484,350 in EPA Brownfield Grant Funds. Staff of the program have conducted environmental investigations at 31 Brownfield properties and have issued 14 Certificates of Completion to participants.

Email us at SR-VCP-BRP@rrc.texas.gov for more information.