

Shields Creamery

PUB-RR-779

November, 2007

Shields Creamery

N5983 CTH N
Town of Shields, Wisconsin
Marquette County

11.71 Acres

Location: Southeast corner of the intersection of County Road N and 18th Drive in the town of Shields

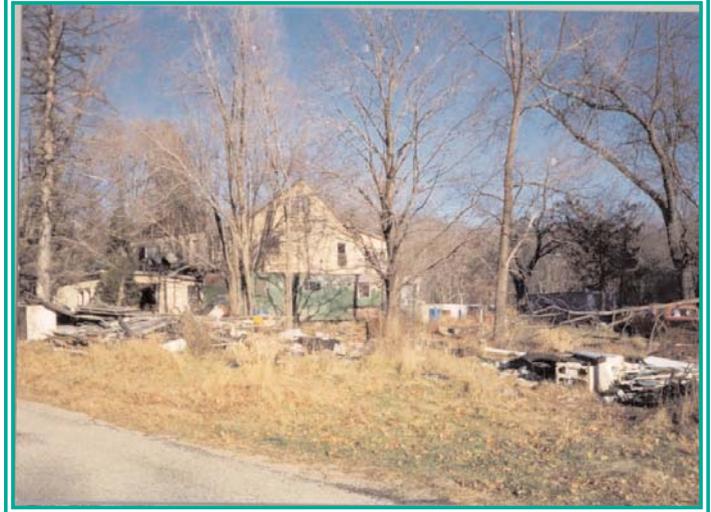
The former brownfield, a blighted area located adjacent to the pristine Mecan River, is no longer a safety hazard and eye-sore to this popular canoeing-kayaking destination.

History

Shields Creamery operated at this site from the early 1900s through the 1960s. The creamery primarily produced cheese, but also produced milk food from processed whey. In the early 1990s the property operated as a scrap yard, accumulating and processing scrap appliances, metal, storage tanks, vehicles and other assorted scrap metal and solid waste. The town of Shields acquired the property in 2000.

Investigation & Cleanup

The property had a number of environmental hazards that posed significant safety problems to local residents and the environment.



The Shields property in 1997. Shields Creamery operated there from the early 1900s until the 1960s (DNR photo).

Assessment and initial cleanup activities were completed in 1995, including the excavation of two underground storage tanks, which were left left on site for salvage. Investigation of the soil indicated petroleum contamination. As part of the cleanup effort, the site was eventually referred to the state Department of Justice (DOJ) for enforcement action. The DOJ action resulted in the property owner filing bankruptcy and the town taking title to the property, utilizing the state's local government liability exemption,

Working with the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program, the town received a Brownfields Site Assessment Grant (SAG) to help move the property toward cleanup. City officials conducted Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, a partial site investigation, removed asbestos, demolished three structures and removed 15 abandoned containers.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>



Redevelopment

The site was also littered with numerous piles of scrap metal, solid waste, abandoned vehicles, appliances, storage tanks and plastic and metal drums. The town aggressively recycled the metals and safely removed, recycled or disposed of all other debris and materials. After cleanup, the site remains a greenspace within the town of Shields.

Financial, Liability, Technical Assistance

The town received a \$30,000 DNR Brownfield Site Assessment Grant for assessment activities on the property. They also received a the local government liability exemption through bankruptcy proceedings. The exemption protects the town from future liability at the site.

Through upfront cooperation by town officials and with RR Program staff providing guidance for property acquisition and grant support, this difficult issue was finally resolved, and helped enhance community safety and quality of life for the Shields community.

Contacts

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The Shields Creamery greenspace, after cleanup was completed in 2002 (DNR photo).