

Amtrak Railroad Station

PUB-RR-796

May, 2008

Amtrak Railroad Station and General Mitchell International Airport Parking Lot

5607 to 5727 South 6th Street,
Milwaukee, WI

Milwaukee County

7.8 acres

Location: South side of Milwaukee,
adjacent to Mitchell International
Airport

**A south side Milwaukee property that
had served as a salvage yard for decades
is turned into an asset for Wisconsin's
largest airport.**

History

This 25.2-acre brownfield previously included a park, private residence, and two used auto salvage/parts properties that had been in operation since the 1950s.

Investigation and Cleanup

General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) began the investigation and acquisition of four properties on the east end of the airport, adjacent to 6th Street, for the development of an Amtrak Railroad Station for direct commuter service to Chicago, as well as additional airport parking.



The former salvage yard property prior to investigation and cleanup. The site initially included four different properties, which had soil and groundwater contamination (DNR photo).

Each of the properties were purchased and investigated separately and incorporated into a single property for final cleanup activities.

All four sites were investigated for soil and groundwater contamination. The sites had two to six feet of fill material overlying glacial tills and clays. Groundwater ranged from six to 15 feet deep below the surface.

The majority of soil and groundwater contamination consisted of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals from the salvage and battery dismantling operations.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

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<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>





The new Amtrak station in 2006. The station serves General Mitchell International Airport and commuters coming to and from Chicago (DNR photo).

The two auto salvage sites had more soil sampling due to the visible surface contamination from leaking engines or the storage of dismantled car parts. Another property had a small onsite dump area consisting of empty car battery casings without the interior acid or metal plates.

Remediation of the soil and groundwater consisted of hot spot removal and excavation of 1,183 tons of soil. Monitored natural attenuation, a process allowing natural biodegradation of petroleum contaminants, was chosen as a remedy. An engineered cap for the site consisted of the asphalt parking lot and landscaped areas.

In 1998, following site investigation and remediation, the DNR granted an exemption request to build on an abandoned landfill. In June, 2006, the site received approval for closure from the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program, and was added to the program's GIS database for closed remediation sites. State requirements with the properties' closure addressed residual soil

contamination and maintenance plan for the entire site.

Redevelopment

The majority of the site is a long term parking lot for the airport. In 2005 Amtrak built a railroad station at the west end of the parking lot for commuters traveling to and from Chicago.

Financial, Liability, Technical Assistance

The project, which involved GMIA and Milwaukee County officials and required technical assistance and oversight from RR Program staff, took 12 years to complete, from the initial investigation to cleanup and final redevelopment of the four properties.

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