

Sites in Reuse Cascade Park Gasification Plant Superfund Site

Intersection of Gadsden & Bloxham, Tallahassee, Florida 32301



Images from left to right: View from the site looking northwest toward downtown Tallahassee; remedial activities at the site began with a ground breaking ceremony on November 15, 2005; and the scenic St. Augustine Branch traverses the site.

Site size: Approximately 7.8 acres Planned Site Reuses: Recreation and open space

INTRODUCTION

The remediation of the Cascade Park Gasification Plant Superfund site has become a key component of an ecological and cultural heritage planning effort in Florida's capital city. With ongoing coordination and support for site remediation from EPA Region 4, the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, Blueprint 2000, and a group of local stakeholders have developed a conceptual revitalization plan for the Cascade Park site.

The Cascade Park site occupies a culturally and ecologically significant place in the history of Tallahassee. Located south of the state capitol building, the site is named for a scenic waterfall along St. Augustine Branch. In 1823, the City of Tallahassee's founders discovered the cascade and were inspired to select a nearby site as the location for Florida's capital. Historically, the Cascade Park site was also the location of an important community recreation field and gathering place for Tallahassee's residents.

Today, the City of Tallahassee is planning a new recreational park system, which aims to preserve the city's natural resources and to celebrate the Cascade Park site's cultural heritage. The city and Blueprint 2000, a local, taxpayerfunded Intergovernmental Agency, have developed a community-wide plan, linking recreational trails, community gathering places, public parks, and stormwater management facilities. The city's Capital Cascades Trail Master Plan incorporates the reuse of the Cascade Park site, illustrating how remediation and community visioning processes can combine to

transform abandoned industrial sites into valuable community resources.

Tallahassee, Florida

SITE HISTORY

From the early 1900s until the mid-1950s, the City of Tallahassee operated a manufactured gas plant (MGP) on the southeastern edge of the Cascade Park site, near the intersection of Gadsden and Bloxham Streets. The plant converted coal reserves into gas to provide lighting and heating fuel for the city's residents. Certain waste products associated with this process were released at the site, and municipal solid wastes were deposited in a city-owned landfill on the southern portion of the site. Industrial MGP operations ended at the Cascade Park site in the 1950s.

Historically, the northwestern portion of the Cascade Park site was used for recreational purposes. In 1926, the Centennial Field athletic park was constructed to celebrate Tallahassee's 100th anniversary. Throughout the midtwentieth century, Centennial Field was the home of several little league baseball and football teams, a minor league baseball franchise, and various Florida State University teams. Since the closure of Centennial Field in 1975, the Cascade Park site has remained vacant.

REUSE PLANNING PROCESS

Cascade Park site that aims to recognize and preserve the site's cultural and natural heritage. The planning process, which integrates Superfund site remediation and green infrastructure planning, is helping to bring about three key outcomes at the Cascade Park site: the protection of human health and the environment, the development of a recreational park system, and the improvement of the city's stormwater infrastructure.

At the Cascade Park site, contamination is being addressed through a non-time critical removal action. EPA issued a Removal Action Memorandum in April 2004 outlining a plan to excavate contaminated soils, to cap the landfill portion of the site, and to monitor the site's contaminated ground water.

Officials from EPA, the site's potentially responsible parties, the City of Tallahassee, and the State of Florida developed a plan to integrate contaminant excavation and infrastructure improvements. The selected removal action recommends soil excavation to a depth of approximately 40 feet near the site of the former manufactured gas plant. After the removal action is complete, an impermeable liner will be installed at the base of the excavation to prevent stormwater infiltration. The excavated area will be suitable for future use as a stormwater retention basin.

The removal action at the Cascade Park site began in November 2005. Environmental remediation contractor WRS Infrastructure & Environment, Inc. is conducting the removal, while the City of Tallahassee and State of Florida are funding the remedial work at the site.

When the removal action is complete, the Cascade Park site will become a part of a larger public park system. A group of stakeholders is currently working with Blueprint 2000 to complete a conceptual design for the Capital Cascade Trail Master Plan. The plan proposes a city wide system of recreation trails and parks, including public gathering places, recreation areas, and preservation corridors along portions of the St. Augustine Branch stream. At the Cascade Park site, conceptual plans envision a public park, trails, a stormwater detention pond, and open space areas.

According to Koren Taylor, who headed the assessment

phase of the Cascade Park project for the City of Tallahassee, the City is excited to be at a point where the removal action can be implemented. The contaminated soil excavation was completed in 2006 and a monitoring program is currently underway. Planning for the Capital Cascade Trail system is also underway and the Blueprint 2000 team is presently working with stakeholders to develop construction plans for the site.

In several years time, soil contamination at the Cascade Park site will be remediated, and city residents will be able to enjoy a new public park and trail system. And in the near future, stormwater infrastructure upgrades and stream corridor preservation will help reduce flooding in southern Tallahassee. The efforts underway at the Cascade Park site demonstrate the effectiveness of coordinating site remediation, infrastructure revitalization, and recreational reuse planning.



The proposed Capital Cascade Trail Master Plan is set to transform the Cascade site into a valuable community asset. The highlighted area marks the approximate boundary of the site.

FOR MORE INFROMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Site Owner: EPA:

Site Owner: Jennette Curtis, City of Tallahassee Cascades Park Project Manager 300 South Adams Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301 Phone: (850) 891-8850 Email: curtisj@talgov.com

Bill Denman Superfund Reuse Coordinator Superfund Division US EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Phone: (404) 562-8939 Email: denman.bill@epa.gov Site Summary: www.epa. gov/region4/waste/npl/nplfln/ cascadfl.htm