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NEWS RELEASE

June 2, 2017 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EPA Awards Dubuque \$200,000 for Brownfield Cleanup

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the City of Dubuque a \$200,000 grant through the agency’s Brownfields Program.

Dubuque was one of 172 communities across the country to be selected for the program to fund environmental assessments or cleanups of vacant or abandoned properties so they can be returned to new and productive uses. The City will use the funds to assist in the cleanup of the former Blum Company property, a former scrap yard and recycling facility located at 411 E. 15th Street in Dubuque.

The 1.3-acre property was acquired by the City in December 2016 as part of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. The City used EPA Brownfield funds from a previous grant to conduct an initial assessment of the property which found lead, arsenic, and other hazardous substances in the soil and groundwater. Based on the findings, the property is not suitable for future residential, commercial, or industrial purposes without remediation.

Cleanup activities include deconstruction of the structures on the property and excavation and offsite disposal of the contaminated material. The City will enroll the property into the Iowa Department of Natural Resources’ (IDNR) Land Recycling Program. A qualified environmental professional will oversee the cleanup in conjunction with IDNR. A certified contractor will complete all asbestos mitigation and will comply with all documentation and notification requirements issued by the IDNR Air Quality Bureau. In addition to the \$200,000 Brownfield grant, the City estimates the cleanup efforts to cost an additional \$300,000.

Acquisition and cleanup of the Blum site builds on existing EPA-supported remediation efforts. The scrap yard and recycling facility at 501 E. 15th St. was purchased in December 2015, and is currently undergoing cleanup. Reuse plans for the two properties include a bike trail, playground/athletic use area, public bathroom, and a 5,500-square foot building to serve the adjoining Bee Branch Creek. The property will also provide important connectivity to the national Mississippi River Trail.

The EPA reports there are an estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites in America. As of May 2017, more than 124,759 jobs and \$24 billion of public and private funding has been leveraged as a result of assessment grants and other EPA Brownfields grants. On average, \$16.11 was leveraged for each EPA Brownfields dollar and 8.5 jobs leveraged per \$100,000 of EPA Brownfields funds expended on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements. EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields sites. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/brownfields.

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