brownfields at-a-glance

EPA-560-F-06-237
August 2006

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, MO
Cleanup Grant

PASEO YMCA

Paseo YMCA Cleanup Preserving History

Address:	1814 Paseo Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64108
Property Size:	1 acre
Former Use:	YMCA and meeting space
Current Use:	Future expansion home of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

EPA Grant Recipient:	**Project Partners:**
The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum received a $165,047 EPA Cleanup Grant for hazardous substances.	City of Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas State University, Senator Kit Bond



For additional data and geographic information for this and other Brownfields Grants, please visit EPA's:
Envirofacts - www.epa.gov/enviro/html/bms/bms_query.html
Enviromapper - www.epa.gov/enviro/bf

Project Background:

Negro league baseball started as early as the 1880s, however, it was not until 1920 in a meeting room within the black men's YMCA that the Negro National League was founded. Located just outside of the 18th and Vine district, the Paseo YMCA building served as a temporary home for black baseball players, railroad workers, and others making the transition to big city life in the Midwest. In recent years, the Paseo YMCA building, which was abandoned as an active YMCA years ago, became blighted and an eyesore within the community. However, despite its declining condition, the YMCA building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Recognizing the importance of the historic building to its history and needing additional space, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum bought the building from the City of Kansas City in late 2005.



The former YMCA facility.

Key Accomplishments:

- Removed contamination which allowed architects and engineers to enter the building and begin work.
- Reviving a blighted, historically significant property.
- Received $500,000 federal earmarked funding from Senator Kit Bond.
- Providing additional archive and educational space to the original museum.

Outcome:

Utilizing a $165,047 EPA Cleanup grant, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was able to address the building contamination, which included aviary waste, asbestos, and sludge. Prior to cleanup, the building was unhealthy to enter, prohibiting architects and building engineers from entering the building and starting work. With cleanup complete, the fundraising campaign to raise $15 million for the historical renovation and redevelopment of the property into the Buck O'Neil Research and Education Center will begin. Currently, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is receiving significant historical information and artifacts from families of the players. The new property will create additional archive, exhibit, education, and research space for all museum materials.