



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Brownfield Certificate of Completion Presented to City of Conway

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), Division of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Arkansas Brownfield Program will present a Certificate of Completion to the City of Conway on June 17, 2021, to commemorate completion of the Brownfield cleanup requirements for the Conway Scrap Metal property.

The City of Conway received a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield cleanup grant for the site and has been enrolled in and received funding from DEQ's Arkansas Brownfield Program. The Arkansas Brownfield Program provided a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and a Comprehensive Site Assessment totaling \$108,939.37 to start the project. The City of Conway applied for a \$200,000 EPA Cleanup Grant in the fall of 2014 and was awarded the grant funds on October 1, 2015. The Arkansas Brownfield Program was able to provide additional funds of \$20,346.93 for cleanup planning and oversight.

"This is an excellent example of local and state partnerships creating environmental solutions," E&E Secretary Becky Keogh said. "We applaud the City of Conway and appreciate the partnership. With successful completion, I am pleased to announce that the former Conway Scrap Metal site is ready for reuse and development."

"We're appreciative of the Division of Environmental Quality for partnering with us on this important project," Conway Mayor Castleberry said. "It's a great example of how state and local government can work together to transform Conway. The program and this site in particular is a great example of reclaiming a property and redeveloping it into a signature public space in the heart of Conway."

The City of Conway intends to develop this property as part of the ongoing redevelopment between the Hendrix College campus and the rapidly changing downtown Conway area. The City of Conway acquired the property, which formerly operated as Conway Scrap Metal Yard, in 2014. The corridor between Hendrix College and downtown Conway, known as the Markham Street Corridor, has been awarded grant monies by a regional planning authority as part of a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) initiative. The Conway Scrap Metal Yard was identified as the seed project for this redevelopment effort and will be redeveloped as a public park.

The Conway Scrap Metal site is currently vacant and awaiting construction of the proposed park. Funding has been acquired for design and construction, and the process is underway. The proposed park plan can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H57IEuf1h0M>.

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