

Indian Orchard Brownfields Site

BROWNFIELDS PROJECT

Site Location:
Client:

Springfield, Massachusetts
Springfield Planning Department

The Chapman Valve manufacturing facility in the Indian Orchard section of Springfield, Massachusetts was formerly one of the largest producers of valves in the world. The factory opened in the mid-19th century, was purchased by Crane Company in 1959, and finally closed in the 1980s. Factory operations included metal casting, finishing and packaging, and even testing using radio-nuclear materials. O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc. (OTO) was retained in 2000 under an United States Environmental Protection Agency (U. S. EPA) Brownfields grant to investigate and remediate the many environmental concerns on the property. These concerns included the presence of at least seven large underground storage tanks, solvent contaminated soils and groundwater, transformers and electrical equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos materials, and heavy metal laden dusts on building rafters.

OTO assessed environmental conditions that existed at the site and provided recommendations for addressing future industrial hygiene and environmental issues during demolition and renovation. These tasks were complex considering the scale of the project: the manufacturing park is approximately 138,000 square feet in area, and is polluted not only with oil, metals, asbestos, and PCBs, but also with radioactive waste. OTO completed Phase II and Phase III investigations in 2004, which allowed the redevelopment process to proceed. The demolition, which is expected to be finished in 2008, will boost Indian Orchard's economy and provide an improved lifestyle for its residents.

