

Brownfields

are contaminated or potentially contaminated sites which could be targeted for assessment, cleanup and reuse. When the responsible party is unable to afford this remediation, Brownfields program funding and other support can help.

The Old Matanuska Townsite is a Potential Brownfield Site

NVE submitted an EPA Brownfields Site Eligibility form



From AK DEC Contaminated Sites Web Map

Site located at:
East D Street and South 2nd Street
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Native Village of Eklutna
Brownfields Program
26339 Eklutna Village Rd.
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

The Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) Contaminated Sites Program

can help with planning, coordination and development of assessment, cleanup and reuse of contaminated lands, particularly Brownfield sites near our community. NVE can work with affected landowners to develop assessment and, if needed cleanup grants.

We are evaluating whether Old Matanuska Townsite landowners are interested in pursuing contaminants assessment, cleanup and reuse, possibly as wetlands mitigation or conservation easement of their Matanuska Townsite lands.

The Mat-Su Borough has secured many of the surrounding lots as wetlands conservation areas because of the habitat value. NVE will also work with the Borough's Brownfield Coalition Program to engage landowners and address the Old Matanuska Townsite.

We would appreciate communicating with you, to review options, discuss plans you may have for your property and work to answer any questions you may have.

Contact Information:

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One of many examples of contaminants and debris before cleanup at the site included these estimated 40 drums, at least 7 with fluid on the right of way by the source property.



Old Matanuska Townsite source property included a drum storage area with an estimated 52 drums stored on flatbed trailer and pallets behind the truck. Many of the drums were actively leaking. ADEC contracted removal and disposal of these drums.



Aerial photograph of Matanuska Townsite before cleanups.

A private party, now deceased with heirs insolvent, stockpiled large amounts of contaminants, including military surplus petroleum products, PCBs, antifreeze, junk vehicles, glycol and other hazardous substances in a partial wetland. Much of this has been cleaned up.

Up to 10 nearby properties may be contaminated secondarily through groundwater. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) recommends that parties involved continue to look for other funding resources to assist in contaminants characterization and cleanup. NVE can work with landowners to apply for free ADEC assessments or EPA assessment grants.



General setting of Old Matanuska Townsite Properties. In the floodplain of Cottonwood Creek and near Rabbit Slough, both productive salmon streams. Contiguity with protected habitat including Palmer Hay Flats and subsistence species like salmon, moose, and waterfowl make this site a good candidate for protection of these lands in an undeveloped state by conservation easement, wetlands mitigation banking, or continuation of the Palmer Hay Flats, once it is assessed free of contamination or cleaned up. The wetlands character of the site may make it more suitable and valuable for conservation arrangements than for other types of development.

Photos on this page from:
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
Matanuska Townsite Lot 15 Block 4 East
Matanuska Spur Road
Eklutna Incorporated, March 2009