

Portfields

Revitalizing Port Communities



NOAA and Brownfields

- Site assessment where coastal resources impacted;
- Partnerships with state coastal zone management programs;
- Habitat restoration;
- Portfields Initiative



Portfields

What is Portfields?

- A NOAA led interagency effort to address brownfields in port and harbor areas;
- Emphasis on development of environmentally-sound port facilities, community revitalization and environmental restoration;
- Originated from the National Brownfields Partnership



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Why Portfields?

- 95 percent of U.S. foreign trade through ports;
- Waterborne commerce contributes \$742 billion to GDP, and employs 13 million people;
- Volume at U.S. ports expected to double by 2020;
- Open space is limited in many ports areas, while brownfields are common;
- Brownfields clean up can facilitate port redevelopment, and provide economic, environmental, social, and homeland security benefits for port communities



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Portfields Federal Agencies

Department of Commerce

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Economic Development Administration

Environmental Protection Agency

US Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Department of Labor

Department of Transportation

- Maritime Administration



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Portfields Implementation

- Partners provided targeted and integrated resources to three pilot ports: New Bedford, MA; Bellingham, WA; and Tampa, FL (2002);
- Portfields builds on Port's efforts to be both an engine of commerce and a good steward of the environment;
- Federal agencies partnered with port communities to:
 - Redevelop coastal brownfields
 - Revitalize waterfront areas
 - Improve marine transportation system
 - Restore and protect coastal resources
 - Enhance homeland security



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Portfields Goals

- Improve federal, state, and local coordination
- Focus delivery of federal assistance (funding and technical services)
- Identify and apply effective tools and techniques to coastal brownfields redevelopment, and actively transfer best practices to other port communities
- Restore productive, environmentally-sound uses of port and harbor areas, providing environmental, economic, social, and homeland security benefits to the port community



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Introduction to New Bedford, MA

- Population 100,000
- On Buzzards Bay, convenient to large NE ports, rail access
- 30 foot navigation channel
- Break-bulk, fishing fleet, ferries, marinas, ship repair, fish processing
- State Designated Port Area (DPA)
- Superfund site cleanup ongoing



New Bedford Portfields Issues

- Marine Transportation System (MTS) enhancements
- Public Access
- Brownfields cleanup/reuse
- Habitat restoration
- Waterfront planning



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New Bedford Portfields Projects

- Navigation and cleanup dredging dredging
- Intermodal transportation site site
- Palmers Cove and Reliable Truss Truss cleanup, habitat restoration, restoration, and public access
- Planning for Hicks-Logan redevelopment area
- Public access, Boat ramp, storage, repair, marina facilities facilities



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New Bedford Portfields Successes

- Navigation and cleanup dredging will be streamlined by linking Superfund cleanup and navigational dredging (separate permits not required)
- Reliable Truss cleanup funded by EPA grant; restoration of filled tidelands will be pursued with New Bedford Harbor Natural Resource Damage Assessment Settlement funds
- Hicks-Logan redevelopment area—NOAA provided funds to support a revitalization plan to include open space and public access to waterfront



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Navigational Dredging:

- Permit Streamlining;
- Portfields helped leverage \$5 million from MA & \$200,000 from the private sector for dredging;
- In 2004, dredging of New Bedford harbor occurred for first time in 30 years.



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Brownfields Clean up:

- Hicks-Logan redevelopment area (brownfields key to community revitalization);
- EPA providing \$200K for clean up;
- NOAA providing funds to support a revitalization plan to include open space and public access to waterfront



Introduction to Bellingham, WA

- Population 67,000
- 3,800 port-related jobs
- On Puget Sound, close to int'l border, interstate and rail connections
- 30, 26, and 18 foot navigation channels
- Break-bulk, marinas, ship repair, ferry, frozen foods, wood products industry
- State-led contaminated sediment cleanup program ongoing



Bellingham Portfields Issues

- Waterfront planning
- Link to ongoing waste-site cleanup
- Brownfields property re-use
- Habitat improvement
- Maintaining economic viability of waterfront industry
- Homeland security
- Education, R&D



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Bellingham Portfields Projects

- Central Waterfront planning and redevelopment, habitat cleanup and improvement, public access, environmentally friendly marina
- Squalicum Creek Restoration, habitat, upland, and navigation channel improvement
- Coast Guard Base expansion, homeland security and border patrols
- Sustainability Center for research and education



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Bellingham Portfields Successes

- Port acquired 137 acres of waterfront property under unique agreement with Georgia Pacific (clean up responsibility transferred to Port) (Jan 2005).
- Squalicum Creek Restoration conceptual design funded by NOAA, state, and local industry partners
- Sustainability Center: NOAA funded feasibility analysis to develop vision in cooperation with local and state partners



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Central Waterfront Redevelopment:

- 137 acres of Georgia Pacific property acquired by City;
- Innovative clean up/transfer agreement between City and G.P.;
- Redevelopment proposals include for mixed use development with environmentally friendly marina and habitat restoration.



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Introduction to Tampa, FL

- Population 300,000
- 20,000 port-related jobs
- In Tampa Bay, off Gulf of Mexico, rail and interstate connections
- 43 and 34 foot navigation channels
- General cargo, bulk cargo, cruise ships, ship repair, phosphate/chemical industrial use
- Port major landowner (brownfields)



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Tampa Portfields Projects

- Brownfields site assessment, clean-up, and redevelopment
- Innovative storm water treatment—including filtration wetlands
- Habitat protection and creation—improving dredge spoil islands for shorebirds and fish
- Bulkhead & wharf improvements
- Homeland Security



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Tampa Portfields Successes

- 100 acres currently under assessment or clean up
- Innovative stormwater treatment improvements
- Habitat creation on dredge spoil islands (oyster reefs, upland)



Tampa Stormwater Management:

- ID stormwater and habitat improvements
- NOAA funded \$25K for GIS work;
- Over \$100K leveraged for implementation;
- Partners include Water Management District & Tampa Bay Estuary Program



Portfields Lessons Learned to Date

- More than simply brownfields clean up and reuse
- Think broadly and creatively about economic & environmental programs
- Community/locally driven solutions
- Synergy of partnerships/face to face interaction
- Seed money can leverage additional funding & resources



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Next Steps

- Continue implementation of priority pilot projects;
- Portfields Year Two Report/DVD (unveiled at Brownfields 2005);
- Brownfields 2005 Peer to Peer Forum;
- Regional Peer to Peer Exchanges (pilot in New Orleans in Fall 2005)



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Contact Information:

Kenneth Walker
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

301-563-1157

Kenneth.Walker@noaa.gov

www.brownfields.noaa.gov

