Portfields: Tampa

What is Portfields? "Portfields" is a federal interagency effort to address brownfields in port and harbor areas, with emphasis on development of environmentally sound port facilities. Brownfields are property where redevelopment is complicated by the presence or potential presence of contamination. Maritime trade is expected to double by 2020, exerting further pressure on already highly developed coastal areas. Redeveloping brownfields in port areas can improve marine transportation while providing environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Partnerships in Action

A Brownfields Federal Partnership was created in 1996 and includes more than 20 agencies committed to working together to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Through the Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) committed to lead the Portfields effort. Seven other federal agencies – Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, Economic Development Administration, Maritime Administration, Department of Labor, Department of the Interior, Department of Housing and Urban Development – are committed to working with NOAA on Portfields. Each partner brings its own specialized expertise to the table and contributes to the overall goal of revitalizing port communities.

Portfields Pilot Ports

Tampa, along with the ports of Bellingham, Washington, and New Bedford, Massachusetts, has been selected as a Portfields demonstration pilot. The Portfields federal agencies will work with these pilot ports to redevelop brownfields and revitalize waterfront areas, improve marine transportation and port security, and protect and restore coastal habitats. By establishing national, regional, and local partnerships toward these common goals, Portfields can leverage resources and build on the ports' ongoing efforts to be both engines of commerce and good stewards of the environment. Portfields is also an opportunity to develop innovative practices that complete projects in the pilot ports and provide models and tools for other ports across the nation.

Port of Tampa

The Port of Tampa, located on Florida's Gulf Coast, is the gateway for nearly half of all seaborne commerce in the state. As one of the largest tonnage ports in the nation, the port handles 3,700 vessels, and up to 50 million tons of cargo with an estimated value of $13 billion, annually. The Port of Tampa is also a major cruise port with thousands of passengers arriving and departing each year.

In addition to the Port of Tampa's positive impact on the local economy, it also plays an integral role in restoring and enhancing the environmental health of Tampa Bay. Through the Portfields designation, the Port of Tampa seeks opportunities to work with federal agencies to redevelop waterfront brownfields sites and improve the environmental, economic and social conditions in and around the port.

Tampa Portfields Projects

Priority Brownfields Redevelopment

The Port of Tampa's goals for priority brownfields redevelopment are: (1) to facilitate environmentally responsible redevelopment and revitalization of the port's three State of Florida-designated brownfields sites – Port Ybor, Tampa Scrap Processors, and Tampa Bay Shipbuilding and Repair, and (2) to assess, remediate, and redevelop the Gulf Marine Repair site (within the Port Ybor redevelopment area).

Habitat Protection and Enhancement

The Port of Tampa seeks to implement habitat protection and enhancement projects on several dredge spoil islands adjacent to the main channel, including shoreline stabilization, shorebird habitat protection, and fish and shellfish habitat creation.

Bulkhead and Wharf Improvement

The Port of Tampa's goals for bulkhead and wharf improvement are: (1) to create jobs by dewatering a 68-acre infill site at the south end of Hooker's Point so that it can accommodate expanded container trade, (2) to repair and improve Berth 230 to support existing petroleum transfer operations and expand the port's petroleum business, (3) to improve and expand container facilities, and (4) to clean up a vacant, privately owned power plant, facilitating access to a key deepwater berth.

Innovative Storm Water Treatment

The Port of Tampa seeks to be a national showcase for innovative storm water management. The port would like to design and build a network of drainage ditches, retention ponds, and polishing wetlands that greatly improve storm water management at the port.

Aquatic Nuisance Species in Ballast Water

The Port of Tampa seeks to improve understanding of the ecological and economic risks associated with aquatic nuisance species transported in ballast water into Tampa Bay.

Community Development

The Port of Tampa hopes to work with local community colleges and maritime industries to develop a technical training program to prepare workers for positions in traditional industries, such as ship repair, environmentally sound land maintenance and seaport construction. The port would also like to relocate the Tampa Marine Institute, which offers rehabilitation for at-risk youth.

Portfields Website
http://www.brownfields.noaa

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