

Former Lupton City Mill, Chattanooga, Tennessee

The former Lupton City Mill property in Chattanooga, Tennessee was previously a textile mill constructed ca. 1923 and continued operating until ca. 2009 manufacturing cotton hosiery. After the mill closed, a purchaser bought the site for the purpose of salvaging materials from the industrial buildings. The demolition and salvage operations began in 2012, stripping the site of any valuable materials and leaving an ugly debris field and environmental hazards, including asbestos, throughout the 12-acre property. The nearby residents faced a reality of residual contamination and a huge community eyesore.

In 2017, the City entered the site in the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Remediation Voluntary Oversight and Assistance Program (VOAP) in 2015. The VOAP allowed the City of Chattanooga and the state to work cooperatively to ensure the minimization of risk to human health and the environment on the property. The City also received liability protections through VOAP because they did not cause the contamination and did not own the property when the contamination occurred. There were legal complexities and environmental challenges that had to be addressed before cleanup work could begin on the property. Through a tax sale in 2019, the City of Chattanooga acquired the property to protect the community from the hazards and the blight on that area. The City went on to hire specialized contractors to address the various problems on the property by removing the hazardous materials and grading and covering the demolition debris in place. The entire site will be covered by geotextile fabric plus at least two to three feet of clean fill (soil). The end use of the site will be as a green space for the local community and be a benefit, not an eyesore, for the Lupton City neighborhood.



Before the former Lupton City Mill site was cleaned up, hazardous debris, including asbestos, was spread across the 12-acre property.



During cleanup of the former Lupton City Mill site hazardous materials were removed and the property was graded and covered.