

## Old Santa Fe Railyard Back on Track to Revitalization Santa Fe, New Mexico



The first train pulled into Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1880 on the 15-mile spur from the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad's main rail line running between Chicago and San Francisco, leading to a boom in tourism and economic and social opportunities for local residents. The Railyard was an active center for the community by the 1940's, a site for ice skating in winter and the circus traveling through town. A number of businesses thrived then, but for the past few decades the Railyard had been essentially vacant.



**Then**

In the 1980's, as another economic upturn progressed in Santa Fe, the City declared the Railyard a blighted area and engaged its citizenry in planning for its renewal. The public responded with a strong desire to keep the railroad running to the historic depot, create a large park, enhance local business opportunities, and form an arts and cultural district within the Railyard. The City purchased the site.

**Old Santa Fe Railyard**  
Before the revitalization process could move forward, site contamination, a legacy from the historic industrial uses of the Railyard, needed to be addressed. The City of Santa Fe was one of the first recipients of an assessment grant under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's pilot brownfields program. The \$200,000 grant included funding to study cleanup alternatives, organize neighborhood partnerships, conduct community outreach, and remove barriers to redevelopment. In 2001 an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment was provided to characterize the contaminants in the soil and groundwater which were identified as lead and other metals, and petroleum and petroleum products. The City entered the site in the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Voluntary Cleanup Program through which additional environmental assessment was completed. NMED issued a Certificate of Completion in 2006.



**Now**

**Santa Fe Railyard Today**

Today the 50-acre Railyard is a successful blending of live-in artist studios, galleries, museums, farmers' market, retail shops, office space, and over thirteen acres of open space with a park, plaza and pedestrian promenade. Funding from public and private sources totaled \$125 million. The City contracted with the non-profit Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation to manage sustainable revitalization in keeping with the community's vision. The Trust for Public Land was engaged to ensure permanent care for the park. The Railyard grand opening was held in September 2008. For more information, contact Janet E. Brooks at NMED, 505-827-2242, janete.brooks@state.nm.us.