



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

JULY 2006

LAND REVITALIZATION *Brownfields – Westside Library, Kansas City, Missouri*

SITE HISTORY

Former Neighborhood Garage . . .



Before Redevelopment

The Westside Library, formerly a neighborhood garage, is located in an environmental justice community. Servicing the traditional Mexican American community, the site is located at 2017 West Pennway Terrace in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided Brownfields Phase I Assessment grant funds to conduct an environmental assessment on December 10, 1998. The assessment revealed no recognized environmental conditions; therefore, no Phase 2 sampling was recommended or conducted at the site.

A search into past uses of the site includes taxidermy office, machine shop and store. There was no indication of storage tanks, chemical use or disposals.

SITE UPDATE

. . . becomes Westside Library



Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de las Americas

September 15, 2001 reopened at 2017 West Pennway in honor of Irene Ruiz, a former librarian.



After Redevelopment

On September 15, 2001, the former auto body shop reopened at 2017 West Pennway as a library in honor of Irene H. Ruiz, a former librarian. The West Library began functioning as a school and public library during the 1920s. It was located at the West Junior High School until the late 1980s when the public library separated from the school system. Then library service was offered to the community through storefronts located on the

Boulevard. The tradition of service continues in the 4,000 square foot facility at the corner of 20th Street and West Pennway Terrace.

At the turn of the century, Mexicans who came to Kansas City to work in the packing houses and the railroads, settled on the West Side and gave the neighborhoods an ethnic flavor. This area continues to represent the psychological heart of the Latino population in Kansas City.

The designated service area is bound on the west by State Line Road, Broadway, on the east, on the north by 13th and 14th streets and on the south by 31st street. As a neighborhood branch, Ruiz contains a collection of over 20,000 items composed of popular print and audiovisual materials for children and adults. A unique aspect of the collection includes materials on the Latino culture in English and Spanish. Because of its Spanish language resources, the branch draws users from across the city and across the state lines. The Branch has an extensive video and DVD collection of films produced in Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries. The Library also has an excellent collection of contemporary Latino music on CD.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact:

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Westside Library

