Site Highlight: Winona Lake and Grace College Partner for Successful Reuse of Former Gatke Dump

A four-acre former dump site in the city of Winona Lake is being successfully redeveloped into part of a $9.1 million community center on the campus of Grace College. The 60,000-square foot Orthopaedic Capital Center will host college and community events of up to 2,800 people. In addition to a $1 million low-interest loan provided by the Indiana Brownfields Program in 2005, donations from area businesses, including Biomet Orthopedics, DePuy Orthopaedics, and Zimmer Holdings made the project possible. Construction of the building began in April and is expected to be complete by May 2007.

The Indiana Brownfields Program additionally awarded the city of Winona Lake approximately $75,000 in grants in 2001 and 2002 for the assessment of the former Gatke dump site, which was contaminated primarily by lead and asbestos associated with industrial activities at the former Gatke facility. The U.S. EPA also provided assistance in the form of additional site assessment activities. The site was successfully incorporated into the Orthopaedic Capital Center building project by consolidating the dump materials into one area and covering it with an engineered cap and a parking lot for the new facility. An environmental restrictive covenant is in place at the site to ensure maintenance of the cap.

This successful project serves as a prime example of how resources from multiple sources can be brought together with strong partnerships and perseverance to transform an environmental liability into a community asset. For more information about this project, please contact Kevin Davis at (317) 422-5579 or kDavis@ifa.IN.gov.