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## **ADEQ Officials Announce \$51,500 Grant to Cottonwood for Assessment of a Brownfields Site in Old Town**

PHOENIX (Sept. 7, 2011) –Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$51,500 Brownfields grant has been awarded to the City of Cottonwood in Yavapai County to complete an environmental evaluation of a former recycling collection site at 1032 N. First St., where the city wants to build a parking lot, park and picnic area.

The city purchased the property known as the Gardner’s Recycling site, which consists of five small parcels, in October 2010. An environmental site assessment was begun, but not completed, before the purchase of the land. Soil samples indicated that contamination from heavy metals could exist in the soil under large junk piles that remained on the property.

As part of the sales agreement with the city, the former property owner agreed to remove all debris from the recycling business so sampling could be completed and conclude the environmental site assessment.

The property is located in Old Town Cottonwood adjacent to the Verde River flood plain and Arizona State Parks land. The city plans to revitalize the historic neighborhood and use the parking lot as a trailhead for the “jail trail” owned by Arizona State Parks.

“This is an excellent example of how our Brownfields program helps communities like Cottonwood identify environmental problems and put properties back into productive use for the community,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. “Completing this project is important for tourism in downtown Cottonwood and we’re happy to be part of making this happen.”

“We’re pleased about ADEQ’s assistance in this environmental remediation for a project that is very important in attracting tourists to our historic Old Town area,” said Cottonwood Mayor Diane Joens.

A Brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination.

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