



Zatarain-McCormicks—Gretna, LA

20 years of tenacity and partnerships helped the small community of Gretna, Louisiana turn an eyesore into a hot property

BEFORE



AFTER



Zatarain-McCormick now sits on a 5.1 acre site that was years in the making. It is located in Jefferson Parish, in Gretna, Louisiana...population—18,500.

The site was the former home of Malter International which was involved in the production, packaging and shipping of various household and industrial chemical compounds, including pesticides, herbicides and cleaning solvents. Malter International reincorporated under new ownership as New Malter, Inc. in 1987. Operations were shut down and the facility was abandoned in 1989.

The road to redevelopment and reuse was long. It began when U.S. EPA completed a CERCLA removal action, at a cost of \$1.8 million, during 1991 through 1994, in response to complaints about chemical smells coming from the site. After fires, vandalism and neglect, the City of Gretna took on the gargantuan task, working through environmental regulatory and voluntary programs, to assess, cleanup and successfully sell the property.

In 1997, the City of Gretna won a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot Grant of \$200,000. The grant enabled the City to assess the Malter site, as well as completing a

brownfields inventory and environmental site assessments on other brownfields properties.

The City of Gretna also used a \$500,000 loan from its U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grant and \$90,000 from the City's general revenue to pay for cleanup of the site. Cleanup activities included air sparging, ground water extraction, steam-activated persulfate oxidation, soil excavation, confirmatory sampling of both soils and ground water. The contaminants addressed on the property included methylene chloride, chlorinated volatile organic compounds, pesticides – aldrin and dieldrin, and xylene.

The City was then able to take advantage of expedited adjudication (foreclosure) on the property for unpaid property taxes owed in 2006. In 2008, the City of Gretna received a Certificate of Completion under the Louisiana Voluntary Remediation Program from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Almost 20 years after the New Malter operations closed down, the City of Gretna completed environmental clean sold the property to Zatarain-McCormick company for \$660,000 in September 2009.