

Jacksonville, FL: Florida Department of Health-Duval County Inventories Land Reuse

Sites in Health Zone 1

Grazyna Pawlowicz, MS., June 2018

When you think of Jacksonville, FL, you may immediately think of Jacksonville Beach. But that's not all there is to the city. Jacksonville was once a bustling business center with a vibrant economy, like most large cities across the United States. But many businesses and industries inside city limits have shut down or relocated, leaving behind land reuse sites such as brownfields. Vacant contaminated sites damage the environment and public health.

In Jacksonville, the effects of land reuse sites and vacant sites are most severe in Health Zone 1, one of six Health Zones that the Florida Department of Health in Duval County (DOH—Duval) has created to describe community health. Health Zone 1 has more distressed properties and vacant lots than other Health Zones in Duval County—along with high rates of poor health (Florida Health - Duval County, 2016).

And that's where the Site Screening Tool came to the rescue. DOH-Duval used the tool to inventory all 138 known land reuse sites in the county, 76% of which are in Health Zone 1. In fact, Health Zone 1 sites include (United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2018):

- 33 Superfund sites,
- two Hazardous Waste sites,
- 58 waste clean-up sites,
- two dump sites, and
- 10 dry cleaner sites.

Contaminants at these sites include arsenic, lead and other metals, cyanide, pesticides, petroleum products, and chlorinated solvents, among others.

Pawlowicz used the Site Screening Tool to collect detailed information about these sites, including

- locations,
- sizes,
- past and current usages,
- ownership, and

completed environmental site assessments and results.

Once data points were in the Site Screening Tool, Pawlowicz used them to map the sites in the Geographical Information System (GIS) and overlaid the sites with other local environmental and community data. The GIS data and maps provided Florida Department of Health Duval County stakeholders and potential developers with a clearer understanding of environmental conditions and helped to identify potential priority issues to address.

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Figure 1: Land Reuse Sites in Health Zone 1.
Source: Florida Health - Duval County Health Department, 2016



References

Florida Health - Duval County. (2016). *Health Zone 1 Needs Assessment, Jacksonville, Florida*. Jacksonville: Florida Health.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (2018, April 23). *Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) Sites - by State*. Retrieved from United States Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www.epa.gov/fl/list-superfund-sites-florida>



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